

Meeting Notes

Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force Technical Advisory Committee

May 18, 2011, at 1:30 PM
Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority
11615 Sterling Avenue
Riverside, CA 92503
Prepared by Rick Whetsel

Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Committee Members Present	Hope Smythe, Regional Water Quality Control Board Pat Boldt, San Jacinto River Watershed Council Mark Norton, SAWPA Ron Young, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Absent	Pat Kilroy, City of Lake Elsinore Jim Grimm, City of Canyon Lake Jason Uhley, County of Riverside
Others Present	Robert Vasquez, RCFC&WCD; Steve Pastor, Riv. Co. Farm Bureau; Kent Wegelin, City of Moreno Valley; Rita Thompson, City of Lake Elsinore; Tim Moore, Risk Sciences; Nancy Gardiner, Brown & Caldwell; Rick Whetsel, SAWPA

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mark Norton called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. DISCUSSION: MAY 17TH LESJWA MEETING WITH REGIONAL BOARD STAFF

Tim Moore, Risk Sciences provided an overview of the May 17th meeting with the Regional Board staff to discuss the Task Force structure and budget issues. Tim informed the TAC that the Regional Board staff wants to review a written plan from the Task Force before making a decision on the proposed strategy to implement a remediation project in Canyon Lake. This strategy for Canyon Lake is due to the Regional Board by June 30, 2011, along with a similar plan for Lake Elsinore.

Tim Moore will prepare letters to the Regional Board describing these strategies. This will be followed up by a Comprehensive Nutrient Reduction Plan for the TMDLs, due December 31, 2011, which will include a recommended strategy for implementing BMPs to address the TMDLs for both lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake, as well as, a revised TMDL monitoring strategy.

3. DISCUSSION: LAKE ELSINORE AERATION SYSTEM O&M AGREEMENT

Tim Moore, Risk Sciences informed the TAC that an agreement to extend the Lake Elsinore Aeration System O&M was agreed upon by the existing stakeholders and will be sent out for signature.

Tim also informed the TAC that he will be working with Ronda Sandquist to develop a long term Lake Elsinore Aeration System O&M Agreement, which will be designed to open up participation to any stakeholder interested in funding the project for potential TMDL credits. This agreement is also intended to serve as a template for future pollutant trading opportunities resulting from the implementation of Task Force sponsored TMDL remediation projects.

The Draft of this long term agreement will be presented for review at the May 31st TMDL Task Force meeting.

4. DISCUSSION: CANYON LAKE IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

The TAC reviewed a worksheet showing the estimated costs of various project alternatives for addressing Canyon Lake. These included several variations of a Hypolimnetic Oxygenation System (HOS) prepared by PACE Engineering, as well as, options to treat Canyon Lake using alum or phoslock.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of alum or phoslock as a method of treatment for Canyon Lake. Tim Moore noted that at this time he would not recommend any other application of alum or phoslock than an annual (10% per year) application, due to the possibility of a significant storm event. Questions were then raised regarding toxicity and the effectiveness of either alum or phoslock due to the high pH of Canyon Lake. It was noted that the use of either alum or phoslock would require a permit.

Discussion then revolved back to the question of what the Task Force wants to accomplish, as treatment with either alum or phoslock is viewed as a method of treatment to address short term compliance, whereas the HOS requires a significant capital investment and developed in phases provide less regulatory certainty.

The next steps in the process are to 1) prepare the conceptual project with a schedule of implementation for approval by the Regional Board; 2) identify who are the participants in funding the project; and 3) a method to fund the project. As noted earlier the Regional Board is expecting to see a conceptual plan and a list of the stakeholders who will be participating by June 30th. Tim Moore will prepare a draft recommendation for the TAC to review by June 10, 2011.

5. DISCUSSION: POLLUTANT TRADING PLAN

As stated earlier Tim Moore is working with Ronda Sandquist to develop a long term Lake Elsinore Aeration System O&M Agreement, which will serve as a template for future pollutant trading opportunities resulting from the implementation of Task Force sponsored TMDL remediation projects.

It is important to note that the strategy being proposed does not follow the principles of a classic Pollutant Trading Plan, as there is no assimilative capacity available in Lake Elsinore and therefore no excess capacity to trade. This strategy should be thought of as more of a "compliance plan" for the TMDLs in that it will trade internal lake loads (by reducing them through BMP implementation) with external nutrient loads.

This approach appears to be the most practical and cost effective approach to address in-lake water quality relating to the TMDLs. However, it is a new approach that does not fit the classic pollutant trading model, and it will need to be reviewed by Regional Board legal counsel to see if it can be applied to the TMDLs.

6. DISCUSSION: STAKEHOLDER ALLOCATION SPREADSHEET

Rick Whetsel presented to the TAC a revised spreadsheet breaking down the land use and nutrient loading data from the 2010, San Jacinto Watershed model by Tetra Tech into stakeholder allocations. Discussion focused on the modeling Zones 2-6, which is the watershed below Mystic Lake which drains into Canyon Lake.

Additionally, the TAC reviewed a spreadsheet showing stakeholder funding credits accrued to date. Discussion ensued as how to address funding credits between WRCAC compliant agricultural stakeholders and non-compliant stakeholders.

7. DISCUSSION: LAKE MODELING SCOPE OF WORK FOR DR. MICHAEL ANDERSON

The TAC has deferred discussion of a scope of work to address issues relating to water quality in Canyon Lake by Dr Michael Anderson, until the Task Force makes a decision on the preferred implementation strategy for Canyon Lake.

8. NEXT MEETING

No LE&CL TAC was scheduled.

The next meeting of the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Nutrient TMDL Task Force Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 31, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.

Rick Whetsel adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.