

MINUTES OF THE
BIG BEAR LAKE TMDL TASK FORCE MEETING

February 10, 2010

Agency

Regional Water Quality Control Board
Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Bernardino County SW Program
Big Bear Municipal Water District
City of Big Bear Lake
California Department of Transportation (RBF)
US Forest Service
California Department of Transportation
Brown and Caldwell
Brown and Caldwell
Risk Sciences
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Participant

Heather Boyd
Hope Smythe
Matt Yeager
Scott Heule
David Lawrence
Laura Larsen
Robert Taylor
Cathy Jochai
Nancy Gardiner
Khalil Abusaba
Tim Moore
Mark Norton
Rick Whetsel
Regina Patterson

Call to Order & Introductions

Big Bear Lake TMDL Task Force meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. at San Bernardino County Public Works, 825 East Third Street, San Bernardino, California.

Approval of January 6, 2010 Minutes

The January 6, 2010, Big Bear Lake TMDL Task Force meeting minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no comments, the meeting minutes were received and filed as presented.

Discussion: Regional Board Funding for TMDL Activities

Hope Smythe stated she considered allocating some funding to SAWPA to facilitate some of the task force activities for the various TMDLs. This would help offset some of the other projects that can't be directly contracted for. The amount being considered for this Task Force is \$10,000 which may help offset some of the atmospheric deposition work or modeling for the wet season TMDL. This would be TMDL general fund money that would become available next fiscal year if the State budget allows. Mark Norton said this funding could reduce the overall cost to all stakeholders, and thereby they could apply the money saved to any of the studies the Regional Board felt were most important. Ms. Smythe recommended not budgeting for it until the Regional Board knows what they will have available. It would be worthwhile to discuss options about what specific kinds of things need to be done to help the TMDL program. Tim Moore said fixing the problem with the Tetra Tech lake model would be one of those things to add. Ms. Smythe said she will report back once the State budget is approved.

Status Update: Aquatic Plant Management Plan

Mr. Moore referenced the "Aquatic Plant Management Plan" stating the plan was prepared under grant two years ago and has been edited from a grant deliverable to fit the new MS4 Permit and TMDL deliverable. The TMDL deliverable is for a plan for how we will manage the noxious and nuisance aquatic weeds in the lake. He reported he made few changes and edits, and that the discussion about tamarisk has been removed. Final comments are due to Tim Moore by February 19th for submittal to the Regional Board on February 26th. This fulfills the requirement for the MS4 Permit. Comments provided by Heather Boyd have not all been addressed. He discussed the schedule of deliverables.

Scott Heule suggested that the BBMWD (District) would like to manage on the water portion of the every 3-year Stage 1, Stage 2 monitoring for weeds. The District would provide whatever support services needed, GIS and mapping for downloads, initial data processing for the every 3-year event, and then coordinate with the consultant to transmit it to the Task Force. The contract would be with the Task Force through SAWPA. Mr. Moore will make the adjustments to the table. The last survey was in 2006, so the next survey is now due.

Matt Yeager inquired about how the draft plan will be submitted. Mr. Moore said it will be routed through SAWPA and transmitted by letter. Ms. Smythe recommended there be full commitment to do whatever is in the plan submitted.

Status Update: Watershed Model

Mr. Moore distributed a summary of deadlines in the newly adopted MS4 Permit approved on January 29, 2010, and the relevant pages from the new permit. Pages 54-57 are the Big Bear Lake TMDL requirements, and pages 8, 9, and 10 of 25 are the sections related to Big Bear Lake TMDL monitoring from the monitoring and reporting plan associated with this permit. He reviewed the schedule discussing the task, deadline, and responsibility for each task. Discussion ensued and Mr. Moore summarized the six things the modeling update is expected to do.

Mr. Moore said the intention is to write-up the direction next week for what we are asking Tetra Tech to do, and get a cost. The scope will be limited to what has genuine value to this Task Force. If a plan is submitted to the Regional Board in March, and it is approved, we will have to follow the approved schedule. It's assumed that date is February 15, 2011, but the Regional Board has the authority to change the schedule if they wish. He said there is the option to say that we will accept the existing model.

Heather Boyd recommended referencing the comments. She also recommended money be spent on developing nutrient criteria because that is the direction the State is heading.

Status Update: Sediment Nutrient Reduction Plan

Khalil Abusaba presented a "Scope of Work for the Refinement of the Big Bear Lake Management Plan" stating the first step is the need to get the background information together. To move forward, this Task Force needs to agree on the items that are to be reviewed, and then in two weeks, Brown and Caldwell will have what is needed to complete the process in the 60 day period. The schedule can be adjusted for response to the Regional Board. Due to the tight time schedule the subtasks have to proceed in parallel. Discussion ensued on the deliverable, and it was determined that subtask 3.1 would be rewritten as an effective assessment and reference task. Subtask 3.2 language will target the permit language in element G and H.1. through H.5. and Subtask 3.4 would be deferred.

Ms. Boyd will provide a CD of historical reports and deliverables associated with the modeling done under a grant project for Big Bear Lake to SAWPA next week. Mr. Moore will provide a list to Brown and Caldwell of what should be looked at.

Mr. Moore recommended sitting down with the Regional Board staff to fully understand their expectations.

Upon motion by Matt Yeager, seconded by David Lawrence, the motion unanimously carried:

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MOVED, authorize SAWPA to prepare a task order with Brown and Caldwell based on less than the \$50,000 estimate.

Status Update: Watershed-wide Nutrient Monitoring Program

Ms. Gardiner provided a draft of the “Big Bear Lake Nutrient TMDL Annual Water Quality Report” and reported they are making progress on the report. The two components to the report are the in-lake data received from the district, and the tributary monitoring information that’s been collected since summer.

Ms. Boyd indicated the 2009 data and what is proposed for the wasteload allocation are fine, and she will email Ms. Gardiner about the 2004-08 data. The report is to be submitted to the Regional Board on February 16, 2010.

Status Update: Task Force Administration

Draft FY 2010-11 Budget

Mr. Whetsel provided the draft budget reporting there is currently an approximate carryover for 2009-10 of \$100,000 until we know more. A revised budget will be provided when more is known on the monitoring costs and real costs can be determined.

Status Update: 303(d) Listing for Mercury

There was nothing new to discuss.

Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

Future Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16th at 9:00 a.m. at San Bernardino County Public Works, 825 E. Third Street in San Bernardino.

Adjournment

There being no further business for review, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Handout(s) available at www.sawpa.org

1. Aquatic Plant Management Plan – Risk Sciences
2. Summary of MS4 Deadline Schedule – Tim Moore
3. Scope of Work - Refinement of the Big Bear Lake Management Plan – Brown and Caldwell
4. Annual WQ Report draft – Nancy Gardiner
5. Implementation Plan/Schedule
6. Task Force Budget