

MINUTES OF THE
BIG BEAR LAKE TMDL TASK FORCE MEETING

January 9, 2009

Agency

Regional Water Quality Control Board
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Big Bear Municipal Water District
California Department of Transportation
California Department of Transportation
City of Big Bear Lake
San Bernardino County Flood Control District
Bear Mountain
Risk Sciences
San Bernardino National Forest
San Bernardino County
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Participant

Hope Smythe
Michael Perez
Scott Heule
Cathy Jochai
Gian Villareal (RBF)
David Lawrence
Janet Dietzman
Brent Tregaskis
Tim Moore
Robert Taylor
Dan Ilkay
Mark Norton
Rick Whetsel
Regina Patterson

Call to Order & Introductions

Big Bear Lake TMDL Task Force meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. at San Bernardino County Public Works' office, 825 East Third Street, San Bernardino, California.

Approval of December 9, 2008 Minutes

The December 9, 2008, Big Bear Lake TMDL Task Force meeting minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no comments, the meeting minutes were received and filed.

Upon motion by Scott Heule, seconded by Cathy Jochai, the motion unanimously carried:

BBLTMDL 09/01-01

MOVED, Approve the December 9, 2008 Big Bear Lake TMDL Task Force Meeting Minutes as presented.

Update: Task Force Administration - Agreement Approval, TMDL Schedule of Deliverables and Budget Review

Agreement Approval – Mark Norton reported the Agreement has been formally approved by the SAWPA Commission, Big Bear Mountain Resorts Board, Caltrans and BBMWD. Janet Dietzman reported the Agreement was to go before the SBCFCD Board on January 7th, however she did not know if the Board had approved the agreement. Robert Taylor reported the Agreement is with the Forest Supervisor who returns on Monday, but he could not say when it would be signed. Scott Heule reported that Big Bear Lake may be signing on Monday.

TMDL Schedule of Deliverables – Mr. Norton presented the Big Bear Lake Nutrient TMDL Implementation Plan/Schedule Report Due Dates and invited comments or revisions. Tim Moore said 6C (Big Bear Lake Aquatic Plant management Plan) was part of a previous grant that was turned in, but no status has been received on whether it has been accepted or if revisions are needed. Task 4.2, Big Bear Lake Nutrient Monitoring Plan is primarily contractually assigned to the district while Task 4.1, Watershed-wide Nutrient Monitoring Plan is assigned to the named parties. Hope Smythe stated the in-lake monitoring still needs a QA/QC plan. Mr. Moore said that a QAPP was thought to be completed as part of the previous grant work, with the intention of continuing to use that same document. Ms. Smythe said she will check on the status of the existing QAPP and report back. Next, Mr. Norton asked about Task 2, which has a compliance date of

February 28th for the Regional Board. Ms. Smythe noted that Task 2 has a contingency in it that depends on this Task Force requesting a general permit to implement specific lake restoration activities. It was noted by Tim Moore, that this task was anticipated to not have to be done until this week when the Supreme Court passed legislation requiring a Clean Water Act Permit for the application of pesticides. This may challenge how pesticide remediation is done in the lake. Discussion ensued regarding the need for a general permit to address Task 2.

The Task Force will do Task 6A, models for both the lake and the watershed this year. Task 6B has many subtasks, which are described in the Draft Big Bear Lake Management Plan.

Budget Review – Mr. Norton reviewed Exhibit B, Estimates and Projections of Future Year Costs. Janet Dietzman stated the Flood Control District's San Bernardino County Stormwater Management Program is currently undergoing budget discussions. They have stated that they have an approved 2008-09 budget per the Task Force agreement, but permittees are insisting on stormwater program budget reductions for such projects as the Big Bear Lake TMDL. At present the County has tentative approval for \$160,000 for FY 2009-10 of the proposed estimated costs of \$280,000. Dan Ilkay added that the fiscal sub-committee that makes budgetary decision for the San Bernardino County Stormwater Program has been under pressure to reduce budget costs by 20 percent. Better answers may come after the January meeting. All Stormwater Program managers have been instructed by management to make reductions. This is a sign of the economic conditions we are in. After discussion by the Task Force a sub-committee meeting was scheduled to evaluate a number of alternatives to address the budget issue. This meeting will take place on January 22nd.

Mr. Moore stated this is a delicate political balance so it is important to cut the budget or defer some items to keep voluntary interests paying. Mr. Moore said that his future invoices and budget would reflect a 20 percent reduction. Additional tasks and models can be deferred until the 2010/11 budget year.

Status Update: Watershed Monitoring Program

This items was deferred due to the absence of Nancy Gardiner/Brown and Caldwell.

Status Update: Lake Management Plan

Mr. Moore presented a table with the historic lake levels including drawdown (1934-1979) by Big Bear MWD. This figure showed the lake to be at its lowest in the 1950s, and how lake management activities by the district have preserved lake levels. A basin volume table including images of selected stages in Big Bear Lake, prepared by ReMetrix, was also presented. Mr. Moore noted, that these images originally started off as just a tool to show beneficial use zones, now will used as a primary tool for making compliance attainment assessment decisions. Mr. Norton asked if this would be shown to the Regional Board as part of the Lake Management Plan presentation? Mr. Moore said yes. Hope Smythe said the expectations of where and how this model is to be used is not clear in the plan. Mr. Moore said he did not link it to a site specific objective.

Mr. Moore went on to further state that this documents states that we do not have a way to reduce nutrients in the lake's sediment directly. A number of methods have been discussed in the past, but those alternatives have been downplayed in this plan. This plan lays out the concept that we are going to work on fixing the impairments or to create an offset.

To do this, we need to determine how to improve, for example, dissolve oxygen by a certain amount that is equivalent to having reduced the nitrogen and phosphorous by an amount that is equivalent to a prescribed load reduction. This will allow us to translate water quality improvements between other projects and equate it to a load reduction. Ms. Smythe suggesting making the statement clear that the in-lake nutrient concentrations are not likely to be reduced by any known mechanism that can be feasibly implemented.

Ms. Smythe said at some point a final Lake Management Plan will be developed and the Regional Board would want to see an effort to reassess the data. Any previously completed studies should be carefully

evaluated to help support the efforts of the Task Force. Mr. Moore said he will record it properly and include a table of the studies that were done.

Ms. Smythe said that additional comments are expected from the Regional Board. These and any additional comments received by Mr. Moore on the plan will be circulated to the Task Force for review. A draft of the plan will be distributed in March 2009.

Discussion: Mercury TMDL

Tim Moore reported he will deliver a written version of the scoping comments to the Regional Board by early next week. Mark Norton asked what time schedule the Regional Board is working under? Hope Smythe said a draft report would be completed early in February with the intent to send out for peer review in February or March. A workshop with the Regional Board is planned to be scheduled for April. She suggested keeping an open mind when reviewing the implementation plan, to help with its structure by providing concerns and comments about monitoring costs.

Ms. Smythe reported the 303d lists are coming out today.

Michael Perez said comments are still needed by January 15th regarding Tetrattech's report posted on the Regional Board's web site.

Schedule Next Meeting

A Sub-Committee meeting was scheduled for January 22, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at SAWPA's office.

The next Big Bear Lake TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4, at 9:30 a.m. at the San Bernardino County Public Works' office.

Adjournment

There being no further business for review, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.