

Tomales Bay Watershed Council – Meeting Notes

Meeting – April 9, 2019 3:00-5:00pm

Red Barn Classroom, Point Reyes NS

Welcome

Council Chair, Rob Carson, called the meeting to order at 3:04pm

Introductions & Council Member Roll Call

See sign-in sheet (attached) for attendance. A quorum of Council members was not present.

Summary of the recent norovirus outbreak in Tomales Bay

Sam Rankin – CA Dept. of Public Health provided a presentation (slides attached) covering the CDPH response to a norovirus outbreak around New Years 2019 implicating oysters grown in Tomales Bay. 75 total cases of norovirus reported, 6 confirmed. Multiple leases in outer and inner bay implicated, multiple growers. Pollution investigation uncovered to reported issues or spills from growers, septics, RWQCB or permitted wastewater treatment facilities. Recreational boaters or shoreline recreators other possible sources. Bay reopened after 21-day closure after no continued source of pollution determined.

Council members recommended outreach to boaters, shoreline recreational interests to emphasize importance and reason for strict prohibition. Possibility of port-a-pottys at various locations in the watershed discussed.

Short discussion of DPH sampling locations, changes to flow patterns and DPH acknowledged periodic need to re-evaluate testing sites and closure areas.

New Initiatives

- Agriculture and the Tomales Bay Watershed Stewardship Plan (Richard Plant)

The chair brought forward a proposal from Richard Plant for the Council to update the agriculture section of the 2003 Tomales Bay Stewardship Plan to make the discussion more inclusive and equitable given the large area of the watershed used for agriculture. The Council chair recommended an agriculture committee be formed and asked if Richard Plant would serve as chair to the committee, and Richard indicated he would. Marin Agricultural Land Trust representative, Eric Rubenstahl, indicated his organization would also participate. No other agriculture interests represented at the meeting.

Ed Nute made a motion to form the committee, unanimous, but informal support in the room. Because no quorum present, the Council's Executive Committee will hold vote on formation of the committee and appointment of Richard as chairperson at its' next meeting.

Richard to follow up with Council members affiliated with ag to solicit their participation in the committee and verify their continued interest in participating/being members of the Council. Gordon recommended that the RWQCB also be encouraged to participate in the committee.

Committee Reports:

- **Executive Committee** - Has met to approve invoices and discuss agenda formation. Will establish regular public meetings in coordination with the Council Foundation.
- **Water Quality** (Rob Carson) - Committee has not met. Sampling continues through the Council and its' partners (NPS, IPUD, Hog Island and Tomales Bay Oyster Companies and RWQCB). Still looking for a field sampling technician to assist with east shore sampling sites. Will re-send job description to the Council and partners.
- **Science** (Ben Becker) - the Committee has an RFP out soliciting proposals for the \$4500 grant from the Marin Community Foundation to the Council in support of scientific research on issues affecting Tomales Bay. The proposals are due May 6th. The committee will review proposals and recommend recipient to the Council or Executive Committee. Ben also reported on a sea-level rise/living shorelines meeting – The Marin C-SMART group is interested in working on a package of pilot projects in Tomales Bay around public infrastructure. Rob to ask Jack Leibster if he would like to present on the topic at a future Council meeting.
- **Chicken Ranch Beach** (Ed Nute) – indicated the Foundation was working with Greg Kamman of Kamman Hydrology on 30% designs for the Chicken Ranch Beach project. County and the TBWCF are entering into an MOA to allow for additional studies, planning and design work to continue. Sampling results are inconclusive as to the source, fate and transport of bacterial contamination. Winter storm event impacts resulting in the (temporary) creek avulsion toward the historic channel B alignment need to be considered in project design.
- **Education and Outreach** (Victoria Hanson) – Met on March 4th. Resources not ready to put on State of the Bay conference this year. Aim to participate in 3-4 events during year and host one larger event as the Council. The TBWC will be represented at the Food and Wine festival at Marconi Conference Center on April 13th 10-4, come by and help table! Also a discussion of a possible research symposium at Bodega Marin Lab in 2020 was initiated.
- **Governance** (Gordon Bennett) – has been working with TBWCF accountant on financial reporting formats and the executive committee on resolving the quorum issues. A short discussion of alternative membership mechanisms (e.g. non-active member status) to resolve the quorum issue ensued. Outreach to 4 inactive members may resolve by engaging participation or suspending active membership.
- **Other Council representation:**
 - Council Representation on Gulf of Farallones Native Oyster Advisory Working Group (Richard James) – Working group met in mid-March, another is planned in mid May and will make recommendations to the Sanctuary Advisory Committee in August 2019.

Future Council Meeting Dates (*Proposed*)

- Friday, October 11th - Chair will doodle council members for best date in October.

Adjourn – 5:02pm

TBWC Mtg. April 9, 2019 3-5p

SIGN IN

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Gordon Bennett	Save Our Seabirds	gbbennet@soa.com
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