

Tomales Bay Watershed Council Annual Meeting
Annual Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 11, 2019
Red Barn Classroom, Point Reyes National Seashore

The 2019 Annual Meeting of the Tomales Bay Watershed Council was called to order by Chair Rob Carson on Friday, October 11, 2019 at 3:00 PM.

In attendance were:

Ben Becker – National Park Service*
Gordon Bennett – Save Our Seashore*
Brad Damitz – Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary*
Erik Young, Golden Gate Trout Unlimited
Dylan Voeller – Point Reyes National Seashore*
Gregory Arena – Point Reyes National Seashore Association
Dominique Richard – Tomales Bay Watershed Council Executive Committee
George Clyde – Eastshore Planning Group*
Sally Gale – Marin Resource Conservation District*
Richard Plant – Tomales Bay Watershed Council Foundation
Francine Allen – Inverness Association/Inverness Foundation*
Anne Lauth – Point Reyes Light
Jess Taylor – Environmental Action Committee*
Barbara Gaman – Community member
Ed Nute – Inverness Yacht Club*/Tomales Bay Watershed Council Foundation
Tom Gaman – Tomales Bay Watershed Council Foundation
Melinda Bell – Tomales Bay Watershed Council Foundation Finance
Rob Carson – MCSTOPPP*/Tomales Bay Watershed Council Executive Committee Executive
Brendan Moriarty – Trust for Public Land
Eric Rubenstahl – Marin Agricultural Land Trust*
Craig Richardson – Marin County Parks*
Tom Gardali – Point Blue Conservation Science*
Leslie Ferguson – Regional Water Quality Control Board*
Woody Elliott – Community Member
Sara Azat – NOAA Fisheries
Mike Giammona – Millerton Creek Ranch
Richard James – Coastodian

*TBWC members

Melinda Bell distributed copies of the Tomales Bay Watershed Council Foundation for the period 7/1/19 to 9/30/19.

Rob Carson noted the passing of Michael Mery, first chair of the TBWC and a leader of the local community.

Self-introductions were made.

Brad Damitz reported on efforts of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary to monitor and remove abandoned or unapproved moorings on Tomales Bay.

Dylan Voeller , PRNS Range Program Manager/Ecologist made a presentation, “Water Quality Analysis in Olema Creek – Olema Creek Water Quality Analysis and Conditions Assessment”. The PowerPoint presentation included a review of management practices and a 19-year analysis of water quality in Olema Creek. The trend over that time period has been one of improving water quality.

Rob Carson then noted the difficulty in the past of the Tomales Bay Watershed Council to achieve a quorum in its meetings. He also noted that some of the existing TBWC members have not attended meetings for years; and that several community groups have been attending and participating but are not members. To address these issues, he proposed that the following members be considered inactive and ineligible to vote as part of the TBWC. They would free to attend, participate, and reinstate their membership by attending meetings in the future. An effort was made to notify these groups of this proposed change.

League of Women Voters
Bolin Community Public Utility District
Marin County Farm Bureau
Sonoma-Marine Cattlemen’s Association
Tomales Bay Agricultural Group

As part of this proposal, the following organizations were proposed for membership

Golden Gate Trout Unlimited, represented by Erik Young
Millerton Creek Ranch, represented by Mike Giammona
Coastodian, represented by Richard James
Blue Waters Kayak, represented by Dallas Smith
Bodega Bay Marine Laboratories, represented by John Largier

The above changes were submitted to a vote by the membership, and were approved unanimously.

Next, Rob Carson proposed that the following slate of candidates for the TBWC Executive Committee and Committee Chairs be approved by the membership.

Tomales Bay Watershed Council Leadership:

Chair – Rob Carson

Co-Vice Chairs – Gordon Bennett and Erik Young

Tomales Bay Watershed Council Executive Committee

Rob Carson

Ben Becker (National Park Service, Council Science Committee Chair)

Erik Young (former Foundation Board member, member of Science Committee)

Dominique Richard (Gulf of the Farallones Advisory Committee Chair, TBWC Water Committee)

Gordon Bennett (former Foundation Board member, TBWC Governance Committee Chair)

Tomales Bay Watershed Council Committee Chairs:

Science Committee: Ben Becker, NPS rep to the TBWC

Chicken Ranch Committee – Tom Gaman, current Committee Chair

Water Committee – Rob Carson, current Committee Chair

Outreach Committee – Victoria Hanson, current Committee Chair

Governance Committee – Gordon Bennett, current Committee Chair

Agriculture Committee – Richard Plant, current Committee Chair

Clean-up Committee – Richard James

A lengthy discussion followed concerning Tomales Bay Watershed Council and Tomales Bay Watershed Council Foundation governance, the Tomales Bay Watershed Council Operating Procedures, and the Tomales Bay Watershed Council Foundation By-laws. A need for reconciliation was noted.

As part of the discussion, Gordon Bennett provides a Governance Committee report.

He recommended:

- The continuation of the current Committee Chairs
- A need to reform and streamline the current TBWC Operating Procedures
- A need to reform the process by which projects are brought before the TBWC are proposed.

As a result of this discussion, the proposal regarding TBWC leadership was tabled, with the agreement that the current TBWC governance structure and leadership would continue in place in the interim.

Committee reports followed.

- 1) Richard James, co-chair of the Clean-Up Committee, provided a report on the activities of the Clean-Up Committee, which focused on an alleged illegal anchor-out in the Bay,

and the need to address problems caused by trash, refuse, and human waste. Gordon Bennett, co-chair of the Clean-Up Committee, provided updates on a number of Tomales Bay issues, including:

- a. The Eastshore - additional bathroom facilities are needed, but Enviro Health is opposed to porta-potties due to (low?) likelihood of spills into the bay during transport...which results in visitors defecating in or near to the Bay...and pressure on private businesses to accommodate non-customers.
- b. Sheriff's inability to use overnight parking limit on roadside campers
- c. Meeting with new County health officer
- d. County adding capacity in Point Reyes
- e. ACR cooperating on their properties
- f. Proposal to PRNS re signs/rocks/volunteers (vs GMPA adding boat ins); Brannon (Oct 4 call): Rocks to be replaced at Hamlet asap; NPS Law Enforcement notified.
- g. Proposal re three existing facilities: A request was made of the Council for more functional signage. Currently none of the signs references (with either text or graphics) bathroom availability. None of the signs are readable from both directions. Council support was requested asking State Parks if they would agree to install new or open existing public bathrooms at the Marconi Center with an easily readable sign alerting vehicle passers-by of the facility.

Rob Carson provided a report on the activities of the Water Quality Committee. The Regional Water Quality Control Board has resumed its funding of water quality efforts, and thanked the Marin Agricultural Land Trust and the Environmental Action Committee for their support and funding of the water quality testing for a critical period earlier this year. He also mentioned the need to hire someone to conduct water testing on the current schedule (once a month plus 3 additional samples in the summer and 3 additional samples in the winter for a total of 18 samples per year.

Ben Becker provided a report on the activities of the Science Committee. The scholarship funding made possible by a grant from the Marin Community Foundation was awarded to a student from UC Santa Cruz for their study of eelgrass in Tomales Bay. Another grant from Marin Community Foundation is expected again this year, and a similar process to that used in this round will be followed to make the award. He also mentioned that the project to track coho smolts in Tomales Bay is progressing, with the assistance of Sara Azat of NOAA Fisheries.

Tom Gaman provided a report on the activities of the Chicken Ranch Beach Committee. A Memorandum of Agreement with Marin County has been approved, and the committee will consult with permitting agencies about the project to scope what is needed for designs and permit approval.

Tom Gaman also reported on the activities of the Outreach Committee. Ben Rubinoff, a PhD candidate at Bodega Bay Marine Labs, made a public presentation about his work. He talked

about possibly soliciting contributions for student support, which could be used to supplement the current TBWC scholarship program. He also mentioned an intent to hold a TBWC State of Tomales Bay conference in the future.

Richard Plant reported on the activities of the Agricultural Committee. He introduced Sally Gale, who made a presentation about the Marin Conservation League Agriculture Policy Statement, how it came about, and its purpose. Copies were distributed.

Next, Rob Carson proposed to the membership that the following slate be elected by the membership to serve on the Board of the Tomales Bay Watershed Council Foundation:

Tom Gaman
Terry Sawyer
Ed Nute
Victoria Hanson
Richard Plant
Dallas Smith

The proposal was submitted to a vote of the TBWC membership, and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Erik Young