



Wyandotte Creek Advisory Committee (WAC)

May 2, 2023, 9:00am-11:00am

In-Person Meeting Location:

Butte County Public Health, Klamath Room
202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA 95965

WAC MEETING SUMMARY

1. ROLL CALL

Present in person: Colleen Duncan, Joe Gleason, Ethan Schmeltzer, and Kristen McKillop.

Member Agency Staff Present: Chris Heindell, Thermalito Water and Sewer District and Dillon Raney, Becky Fairbanks, Christina Buck, Kamie Loeser, and Kelly Peterson, Butte County

2. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None

3. Approval of Meeting Summary for the 10/5/23 WAC Meeting

The meeting summary was approved by consensus.

4. Introduction of new WAC members, GSA Program Manager, and management committee member. (Kamie Loeser, Butte County)

Since the 10/5/23 WAC meeting, three new members have joined the Wyandotte Creek GSA Advisory Committee: two domestic well users and one businesses representative. Butte County's Water & Resource Conservation team has also expanded with three new additions for GSA-related work: a GSA Program Manager, a Project Coordinator, and an Administrative Analyst III. The meeting began with introductions from both the staff and WAC members.

5. Charter Review and Launching the New Phase of the Advisory Committee (Dillon Raney, Butte County)

Staff provided a summary of the WAC charter and reviewed the staggered term setup. The WAC prioritizes consensus-building over formal voting procedures. In instances where consensus cannot be reached, differing opinions are communicated to the board. Presently, there are no designated chair or vice-chair positions, nor is there an official voting mechanism, though these may be established in the future by group consensus. Additionally, the Committee retains the authority to propose amendments to the charter if necessary.

6. User Classification Change Request and Appeal Policy Update (Dillon Raney, Butte County)

Staff provided an update on the User Classification Change Request and Appeal Policy, offering background information on its necessity and the approval and revisions of the policy since the last WAC meeting.

Advisory members raised questions regarding the policy's impact, significance, and the data utilized by staff. Staff addressed these inquiries, emphasizing the policy's importance and its aim for greater equity among users. Additionally, staff stressed the urgency of outreach efforts to promptly inform users about the policy, allowing them to address any discrepancies on their current tax bills. Currently, data management is handled internally by staff, but future consideration may involve hiring a consultant for this purpose.

7. 2023 Annual Report Presentation (Kelly Peterson)

Staff presented the 2023 Annual Report, eliciting inquiries from attendees. Questions arose regarding the basis for the MO basis on historical lows, prompting clarification. Regarding RMS well selection, staff outlined criteria based on accessibility, extensive data history, and strategic spacing.

Concerns regarding water quality were also addressed. Staff highlighted the hope to utilize potential grant funds for further investigation, particularly in areas with historically high salinity. The discussion emphasized the multifactorial nature of Electric Conductivity (EC) readings and the need for thorough investigation. Suggestions included engaging drillers and agricultural groundwater users for insights, as well as collaborating with Environmental Health.

Members suggested exploring alternate and/or additional monitoring to include additional wells. Overall, the dialogue emphasized the importance of public education and clear communication to mitigate concerns and foster understanding.

8. SGMA Grant Projects Update (Becky Fairbanks)

Staff provided an update on all SGMA projects, detailing their current status.

During the discussion, advisory members inquired about grant opportunities for farmers regarding the regional conjunctive use project. Staff acknowledged the availability of limited grant funds, emphasizing the project's pilot status and the aim to gather data for optimized future funding allocation. Additionally, concerns were raised regarding PG&E incentives for inefficient water usage in crop irrigation.

The conversation shifted to outreach strategies, with an emphasis on public engagement. Suggestions included gathering insights from neighboring basins and streamlining education and outreach efforts to minimize the need for people to attend extensive meetings. Plans were discussed to create shorter informational videos for easy access to relevant information, thereby enhancing public accessibility and engagement.

Discussion also included the potential to monitor different and/or additional wells.

Wyandotte Creek

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY

9. **Committee Members Wishing to Address Items not Listed on the Agenda**
None

10. **Adjournment**

The Committee will adjourn to their next meeting, anticipated in 2024.