

**Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District
Ruth Lake Community Services District**

**Joint Agency Aquatic Invasive Species Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: July 16, 2008

Attendees: See attached list

Topics Discussed:

- 1) **Committee Charter** - The proposed Committee Charter was presented and discussed.

Lorin Fleming (Ruth Lake CSD) suggested that the Ruth Lake Leaseholders Association (RLLA) have two members on the committee (as opposed to one) and that one of the RLLA members must be present for a meeting quorum. Aldaron Laird and Carol Rische responded that HBMWD would not mind that so long as one of the RLLA would be available to attend each meeting so business could be conducted.

Lorin Fleming commented that he did not think lake closure should be addressed as part of the Prevention Plan activities. He also suggested that an additional activity of the committee be added related to enforcement.

Karen Kentfield said the USFS supports this effort and would provide a committee member. She questioned though what sort of person would make the most sense (for example management vs. biologist). She indicated she would discuss this with USFS management.

Michelle Gilroy and Breck McAlexander (CA DFG) expressed support for the committee and indicated that DFG would provide a representative.

Lorin Fleming questioned whether Supervisor Wendy Reiss should serve on the committee. Ms. Reiss responded that she is very interested in this issue, and that she and Supervisor Pflueger have the support of their fellow Supervisors. She indicated that she would rather not serve on the committee, but would like to be kept informed and apprised of the activities and outcomes. Lorin Fleming suggested Pete Finnie, Chair of the Trinity County Fish and Game Commission, be apprised of this committee and that he may wish to be kept informed too.

Aldaron Laird from HBMWD was selected as Chair and Lorin Fleming from Ruth Lake CSD, was selected as Vice-Chair.

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- 2) **AGENCY UPDATES** - Agencies provided a brief update as to activities since the joint Board meeting at Ruth Lake in June.

CA DFG – Breck McAlexander introduced himself as the new Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for DFG’s Region 1. He just arrived after having worked on the quagga and zebra mussel issue in the San Diego area for the past year. He provided background information and the State’s current emphasis to address the issue. He indicated that in accordance with recent legislation, the Director of DFG does have the authority to close a reservoir. He reported that the State is preparing monitoring standards, and that DFG would like to see response plans developed by local agencies throughout the State. He noted the San Diego Regional Response and Control Plan (that Carol Rische provided to meeting participants) and indicated that it has a lot of useful information and would be a good starting place. One of his main points is that the State will not be leading the response effort and that local jurisdictions should take the lead. Regarding monitoring, he indicated he could assist with placing monitoring devices in Ruth Lake.

USFS – Karen Kentfield indicated that the primary focus to date has been on trying to eliminate the possible transmission of aquatic invasive species during fire fighting operations. She reported that the USFS has been following established guidelines and questioned whether CalFire has anything in place along those lines. She also mentioned that the USFS can help monitor and coordinate activities more regionally. She emphasized the importance of public information and education.

Trinity County – Supervisor Reiss reported that this is a topic of interest not only at Ruth Lake but regionally too. She indicated that she and Supervisor Pflueger have a meeting later this month with other agencies to discuss Trinity and Lewiston Lakes. She asked if a map showing how waterways are connected is available to help with risk assessment.

HBMWD – Carol Rische reported that immediately following the joint meeting at Ruth Lake on June 20th, the 26 large signs were ordered and had just been received and delivered to Ruth Lake CSD for installation at public access points around the lake. She provided a brief overview of the Water Quality Monitoring Plan and how results from that effort would be used. She also summarized the communication efforts that have occurred to date and reported that a draft Community Education Plan had been prepared for consideration by this committee.

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Ruth Lake CSD – Tom Felt summarized the communication activities that have been put in place. Information regarding the quagga mussel is being mailed with campground reservation confirmations, and is also being passed out at the campground and marina. He indicated that a letter was supposed to go out to all leaseholders with the annual billing statement, but that did not happen. He said an article will be put in the next leaseholders newsletter.

Ruth Lake Leaseholders Association – Dave Saunderson discussed briefly what he has seen elsewhere. He noted that the majority of boat use at Ruth Lake comes from the local community.

3) NEXT STEPS

a. **Communication Plan**

Aldaron Laird suggested that discussion on this item be tabled until the next meeting.

b. **Prevention Plan**

Aldaron Laird opened by commenting, that while a significant decision, the easiest and most conservative thing to do would be to close Ruth Lake to boating activity. He added that this is not the current proposal, but that how to prevent introduction of these invasive mussels must be addressed. A roundtable discussion occurred with the following points made:

- Risk factors – what waterways are connected and where are boats coming from?
- A boat tracking system was recommended for San Diego region but has not been implemented. DFG recommends that a boat tracking system be developed.
- It would be helpful if boat registration licenses issued by the State designate where the boat is from.
- Regarding funding, need to address funding sources for monitoring and inspections. What are local sources? Is a boat surcharge via DMV registration a possibility?
- Does Ruth Lake CSD have a map showing all boat launch sites? A request was made for them to bring such a map to the next committee meeting.

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Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 6th at 10:00 a.m. in Eureka

(Note – it was discussed and generally decided to rotate the meeting location between Ruth Lake area and Eureka/Fortuna area so as to share travel responsibility)