

# **Notes from 06.03.09 HBMWD Water Resource Planning Advisory Committee (Corrected 06.08.09)**

## **Outcomes Achieved**

By the end of the meeting, the Water Resource Planning Advisory Committee had...

- An understanding of and commitment to the Water Resource Planning process and the Advisory Committee Charter
- An understanding of each member' thinking talents and their implications for the Committee's communicating, planning, and decision making
- Agreement on next steps including what additional information Committee needs to understand the District's current situation

## **Lessons from similar processes**

- A team is only as strong as its weakest member
- People will come with best intentions, skills, passion, and lowest, most reprehensible human qualities—the process must include all of it
- This is hard work, respect is needed for divergent views, listening
- Need to come prepared
- Follow-through is a necessity
- Come, put opinions on a shelf, be ready for the right opportunity to come up
- Start from people's values—the best way to understand where people come from and find consensus
- Listen carefully, work hard to understand technical and legal aspects
- Shelve opinions, be open minded
- Best decisions come from these processes
- Always come out learning something new
- More diversity=better outcome
- Open mind needed, ears open
- Listen and hear, then formulate own decisions
- Incredible strength comes from collaborative effort, makes implementation possible
- Broad continuum of people's experiences—mindful of differences in content/process expertise—creates a richness

## **Highest Hope for Water Resource Planning**

- Come to a wise decision the we feel good about and the community appreciates
- Have a breakthrough in public process—transformative
- Educate committee members, stakeholder groups, inform a recommendation that can get the broadest community understanding and support
- Decisions reflect characteristics of the Humboldt County area
- Develop sound public policy on water use
- We can control our own destiny
- Breakthrough—encourage participation, not from adversarial role
- Come to a plan that makes sense, repeat conversations in the community to increase technical understanding

- Facilitate broad understanding and support
- Work to provide best quality of water possible
- Come to a recommendation so we can hold on to our water
- Public education—people know where their water comes from
- Bring feasible, adoptable, workable recommendations to Board for control of our water
- Safeguard water rights, rate payers
- The main thing remains the main thing—avoid the drift off of our goal
- Develop a plan with greatest benefit to resource and community
- Have a path/options that are tangible for our community

### **Thinking Talents**

- Come naturally and easily to you
- Are something you have always done
- Different from skills in that you did not have to be taught to think these ways
- So innate that you can't believe everyone else does not think this way also
- You can do them for a long time without getting tired
- Are things you cannot stop doing
- Generate energy and joy in you

### **Likes—Water Resource Planning Process**

- Well defined and thought out, good organization (2)
- Clear goals, outcomes, not over-ambitious
- Proactive process
- Education component (2)
- Wide-spread representation
- Good model
- Diversity of stakeholder groups represented
- Developed by consensus
- Committee not charged with generating the process, our first job is to engage the public and bring people into the process

### **Concerns/Questions—Water Resource Planning Process**

- 'Promises' made to community—and the ability for HBMWD to follow through with implementation
- Are we going to come up with something that is legally doable?
- Once Board approves the plan—will there be follow through?
- Education—a staff responsibility? (Yes, to support and prepare the WRP Advisory Committee)
- Fiscal component—is a budget behind this that will allow the process to happen?
- Legal viability of the plan? Will we eat up the legal resources as we test viability
- Getting people involved in public process with success
- Managing PR throughout the process
- We shouldn't get bogged down because of our diversity

- Urgency—there is big stuff happening in California, an elephant that can wipe our work off the table. This is a complex issue. A big time commitment to fit into our lives
- Level of public engagement is ambitious. We need to have appropriate expectations, people are busy. People usually get involved when people think we're screwing up
- How do we report out what we do here?
- Identify where the legal threats are and find legal protections? (A lawyer has been retained and will be consulted regularly regarding current changes)
- Do we have a communications strategy?
- Do we need a defense strategy to speed up the process?

### **Types of Advisory Committee Activities/Meetings**

- Educating
- Process planning
- Gathering input from stakeholders and interested members of the public (decision-making criteria and options for additional, beneficial uses of water)
- Understanding/synthesizing input
- Deliberating and developing recommendations (decision-making criteria and options for additional, beneficial uses of water)
- Gathering feedback on recommendations from stakeholders and interested members of the public
- Presenting recommendations to HBMWD Board

### **Commitments Made by the WRP Advisory Committee**

- To achieve the Desired outcomes of the Planning Process in time frame laid out in the WRP Planning Process
- To follow the Process Principles identified in the WRP Planning Process
- To carry out the Charter of the Water Resource Planning Advisory Committee

### **Next Steps**

- Additional information Committee needs to understand the District's current situation (emailed to group, request a hard copy if needed):
  - Legal opinion memo, plus summary
  - Water Rights "101"
  - Update on current situation
  - ACWA general overview letter
  - PB report
- How to effectively and meaningfully engage stakeholders and interested members of the public
- Plan process to achieve outcomes of all phases
- Develop detailed process to achieve outcomes of next two phases: Education and Decision-Making Criteria
- Communications strategy—goes through district for now
- How to disseminate information to Water Task Force members?
- Advisory Committee meeting schedule: Dates/times preferences for regularly scheduled meetings will be sent by Sherrie Sobel to group. Please respond!
- Revisit policy regarding missing meetings; silent participants, video, make this decision at next meeting

**Meeting Evaluation—What Worked**

- Small groups
- Central location
- Facilitation, staying on schedule
- Recording
- Good participation
- Level of dialogue, sharing
- Jokes and humor

**Meeting Evaluation—Changes**

- Setting meeting schedule

**Present at meeting**

Advisory Committee Members: Jacqueline Debets, Verne Frost, Michelle Fuller, Janet Ganion, Rick Littlefield, Dennis Mayo, Dennis Mullins, Pete Nichols, Bruce Rupp, Jim Smith, Kaitlin Sopoci-Belknap, Bill Thorington, Dave Varshock, Mark Wheatley, Sherri Woo

Staff: Carol Rische, Mary Gelinias, Heather Equinoss