

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

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

Meeting: October 2, 2008, HBMWWD's Eureka Office

Attendees: See attached list

Topics Discussed:

1) **Minutes**

The minutes of the September 3, 2008 committee meeting were approved (M/S: Barbara Hecathorn/Lorin Fleming; unanimous)

2) **General Discussion**

Breck McAlexander (who participated via conference call) provided a report regarding the recent discovery of New Zealand Mud Snails in Big Lagoon. He added that it has also been discovered in Mendocino County and in the Russian River near Hopland. He reported that the State is working on its policy regarding the Mud Snails, and that the final policy will likely be different than their policy on the invasive mussels. Aldaron Laird asked whether they are known to exist in the lower Mad River. Breck responded that there have not been any reports that they are present there. He indicated though that DFG is looking into the Mad River Hatchery operations and will be considering whether changes are necessary to enhance protection.

Aldaron Laird reported that AB 2065 passed the Assembly and Senate and had just been signed by the Governor. This legislation requires that agencies which own or manage a reservoir with recreational activities must assess the vulnerability of the reservoir for the introduction of the nonnative mussels, and must develop and implement a program designed to prevent their introduction. Breck McAlexander stated that DFG is in the process of developing their response to AB 2065.

Several committee members expressed frustration about the new requirement absent funding support. Wendy Reiss questioned why the State is not emphasizing prevention or containment at reservoirs with known infestations. It was noted that AB 2065 does *not* apply to reservoirs in which the mussels have been detected. Carol Rische suggested perhaps a letter, with a copy to ACWA, could be drafted.

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3) Planning Work

a) Education/Outreach

- Carol Rische and Dennis Bermers acknowledged the discussion at the September 9th Leaseholders Association Board meeting.
- Lorin Fleming reported that the discussion with the Trinity County Fish and Game Commission regarding quagga and zebra mussels is now scheduled for November 12th at 7:00 p.m. (in the library). Breck McAlexander will be attending and making a presentation. Carol asked if Lorin would like someone from the water district there, or alternatively, available telephonically, and he said no.
- Dave Saunderson reported that he added an informational posting regarding the mussels to the north coast bass fishing website to help get the word out within that community.

b) Monitoring Program

Breck McAlexander indicated there is nothing new to report here, and that he will be looking at all monitoring structures soon.

c) Prevention Plan

Barbara Hecathorn reported that she visited Anderson Reservoir (one of Santa Clara Valley Water District's) to see their boat inspection and banding program first-hand. She shared pictures and described what she observed. She reported that most of the inspection staff did not seem to know too much about the mussels, and they were just looking for water. However, there were other more experienced staff overseeing the process and making decisions. She said each inspection took about 15 to 20 minutes to complete.

At the September 2 meeting, the committee asked Tom Felt and Carol Rische to draft a Prevention Plan and bring it back to the full committee at this meeting. Carol Rische and Tom Felt met to discuss how to approach this. Tom prepared a plan focusing on important details related to the inspection criteria for watercraft owners/operators. Carol prepared a more comprehensive plan which included watercraft details, but also the desired outcomes, the water quality assessment work, and monitoring. This approach was taken to

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describe the overall prevention program, and also to better position the District to comply with the requirements of AB2065.

The draft Prevention Plans were discussed.

- Wendy Reiss stated she appreciated the “Desired Outcomes” section, particularly that it acknowledged the economic interests in Trinity County. She expressed concern though that it may change. She also clarified that this committee’s recommendations will go before both Boards, and Aldaron Laird responded that they would.
- Provisions of the plan related to watercraft were discussed. The Plan proposes to segment watercraft into different categories with varying requirements for each category. Carol proposed two categories, and Tom proposed four. Category 1 is common to both proposals for “resident” watercraft. The area around Ruth Lake for resident status was discussed. Two options were shared – one with fairly broad boundaries and a second with more narrowly defined boundaries. Lorin Fleming suggested a third option – using the boundaries of the school district. No decision was made by the committee as to the proposed boundaries for Category 1 eligibility.
- Tom Felt indicated he favored the four segments. Lorin Fleming said several times that he would like to see “Category 1b” (which Tom proposed), in which watercraft from Humboldt and Trinity Counties that only use Ruth Lake be allowed to sign a form attesting to the fact that they only use Ruth Lake, and if they do so, no inspection would be required. Aldaron Laird indicated he does not support that. He indicated that boats from Trinity and Humboldt Counties should be subject to inspection (unless they meet the “resident” status in proposed Category 1). Aldaron also mentioned he favors only two categories. A decision was not made regarding the number of categories, with HBMWD representatives favoring two, and the Ruth Lake CSD representatives generally favoring more.
- Means to limit access, especially gates, were briefly discussed. Carol Rische inquired about hours of operation at the Ruth Rec Campground and the Marina, and noted the trade-off between

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hours and labor costs. She indicated feedback is needed from the CSD so costs can be estimated. Lorin Fleming expressed concerns about limiting the hours of operation and suggested that a “spike system” be installed that would allow watercraft to exit, but not enter from the Marina after a certain hour of the day. Carol responded that could be considered, and requested that Lorin develop a proposal and cost estimate for the committee to consider.

- Carol Rische handed out a sheet listing areas in which cost estimates are needed to provide a complete picture of the Prevention Program implementation costs. Preliminary cost estimates were shown for some of the one-time activities (e.g. installing gates). Ongoing costs for the proposed boating registration, inspection and banding program, as well as enforcement are not yet available.
- Aldaron Laird requested that the Prevention Plan be finalized, and implementation costs be developed. He also asked the CSD to consider how it would fund the Plan, either partially or in total, given that HBMWD may have limitations on its ability to pay for this. He requested that this work be done before the next committee meeting which was scheduled for October 29th.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 29th at 10:00 a.m. at the Ruth Community Hall

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