

Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District Ruth Lake Community Services District

Joint Agency Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting: October 29, 2008, Ruth Community Hall

Attendees: Barbara Hecathorn, Kaitlin Sopoci-Belknap (appointed by President Rupp to fill HBMWD's second director seat temporarily since Director Laird was absent), and Carol Rische from HBMWD. Lorin Fleming, Ric Jeans and Tom Felt from Ruth Lake CSD. Dennis Bermers and Dave Saunderson from the Leaseholders Association. Julie Ranieri and Dan Dill from the US Forest Service. Michelle Gilroy, CA Dept of Fish and Game, offered to stay if needed, but after speaking with Carol Rische left.

Topics Discussed:

1) Background

At the October 2nd meeting, the next committee meeting was scheduled for October 29th. However, in a subsequent discussion between Carol Rische and Tom Felt, Tom indicated he was not sure he would be able to reconcile the differences in the two plans or address the funding issues. Carol inquired about process and asked Tom if a joint Board meeting would make sense (a step that had been proposed for the end of the process). Tom responded he thought it would. He indicated he would talk to his Board about that at their October 9th meeting and Carol indicated she would do the same. The Boards agreed to hold a joint Board meeting on October 29th, instead of the scheduled committee meeting.

At the conclusion of the joint Board meeting, Supervisor Wendy Reiss suggested that the committee reconvene to finalize the plan, and after that the funding issues be addressed. Dennis Bermers agreed and suggested the committee meet right after the joint board meeting since all parties (HBMWD, Ruth Lake CSD, Leaseholder Association, USFS and CA DFG) were present. The Boards of both agencies concurred and asked the committee to reconcile differences and finalize the Plan.

2) Prevention Plan

The committee addressed the areas of the plan which were not completed or agreement had not been reached.

Gates:

Tom Felt stated that he did not agree with installation of gates at the Marina and the Campground. Lorin Fleming agreed and suggested that the need for gates at those locations be decided after the water quality results are

Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District Ruth Lake Community Services District

Joint Agency Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes

obtained and threat assessment completed. Carol Rische responded that gates are a key feature of the Prevention Plan to prevent access absent an inspection (or verification that a band is intact). Following discussion, it was agreed to keep the requirement for gates in the Plan.

Details of the gates at the Marina were then discussed. The Ruth Lake CSD representatives indicated that the gate should be installed near the entrance (as opposed to just across the boat launch), but that boaters or other visitors parked at the Marina needed a way to get out if they exit the lake after-hours. Dennis Bermers suggested an electronic gate with card lock system at the Marina (similar the card systems hotels have). Lorin Fleming suggested that in addition to the gate, a one-way “spike system” be installed that would enable vehicles to exit after-hours, but would puncture the tires of any vehicle that entered after the gate was closed. The committee agreed with the proposed gate and “spike” system at the Marina.

Inspections

The committee discussed and came to agreement on the seasons and hours of operation at the Ruth Rec Campground (May 1 to October 31, 7:00 am to 7:00 pm) and Marina (year-round, 7:00 a.m to 7:00 pm).

Tom Felt indicated Ruth Lake CSD would like to have inspectors available at the Campground too (not just the Marina). He would like to train a number of the CSD staff to conduct inspections and to institute an on-call system if an inspector is not there during the hours of operation. Dennis Bermers added he would like to see initial inspections done in Eureka (or other locations) before the start of the next recreation season. He informed the committee that he and Dave Saunderson discussed the possibilities of doing inspections at Redwood Marine (with Reggie from Redwood Marine). Reggie indicated they would be willing to do this for a fee. Kaitlin Sopoci-Belknap questioned whether this makes sense and whether it creates a conflict. Carol Rische asked Tom Felt if he was comfortable with this, especially the fee going to Redwood Marine instead of the CSD. The committee did not reach agreement on how the inspections would be done.

Number of Categories:

The committee addressed the number of categories (four as proposed in Ruth Lake CSD’s initial plan versus two as proposed in HBMWD’s initial plan). Lorin Fleming would like to see the Category 1B retained, and Tom expressed support for the four category system. Barbara Hecathorn expressed support for the two category system, as did Dennis Bermers who indicated that would be simpler to administer. On motion of Dennis Bermers,

Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District Ruth Lake Community Services District

Joint Agency Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes

seconded by Dave Saunderson, two categories of watercraft are recommended; motion passed (seven ayes and one abstention).

Geographic Area for Watercraft Category 1 (Resident Boats):

Carol Rische provided background on the two ideas initially put forth for the geographic area. Lorin Fleming suggested the boundary of the local school district be used. He said this is the same as the Ruth Lake CSD District boundary. There was general agreement that would be a reasonable boundary. On motion of Dennis Bermers, seconded by Dave Saunderson, the boundary for Category 1 was recommended to be the Ruth Lake CSD/School District boundary; motion passed (unanimous).

Quarantine:

The committee reviewed and concurred with the proposed quarantine times. It was suggested a "red tag" be introduced for boats which fail the inspection and placed on quarantine.

Non-Motorized Watercraft:

The challenges with non-motorized watercraft were acknowledged (especially canoes and kayaks). The USFS representatives indicated that education will be key and that their Recreational Specialist, may be able to help.

Enforcement:

Enforcement challenges were discussed. Carol Rische asked Supervisor Reiss whether Trinity County could provide enforcement if funding was provided. She expressed reservation given the extreme budget situation in Trinity County. Two other options to explore are DFG and/or a Community Services Officer.

Tracking System:

Carol Rische suggested some form of computer system to track and report activity. Dennis Bermers suggested that paper be used initially and a computer system be developed later. Carol asked how quarantine times would be managed and compliance ensured. She also asked what information and reporting needs each agency has. Tom Felt responded that paper forms would suffice. Dan Dill, US Forest Service, said a computer system made sense. To get started, he offered to create an Excel-based system (as opposed to a database system).

Next Meeting: Not decided at this time

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