

# **Table Notes from 09.02.09 HBMWD's Water Resource Planning Citizen's Study Group Session #1**

(These were the notes taken at each table of three to four participants. The notes recorded in front of the room are in a separate document entitled "Notes from 09.02.09 HBMWD Water Resource Planning Citizen's Study Group Session # 1.")

## **Table #1**

**First round: What impact would you like the decisions regarding the water resource of HBWD to have on the County?**

- Continue to protect the ecological integrity of the watershed
- Explore local expansion locally based/local water use without, i.e. expand users to Trinity and Rio Dell and consider the potential of local growth
- Innovative uses of water
- Maintain water quality
- Maintain reasonable rates
- Water conservation
- Protect water rights for local control
- Impacts on adjacent water sheds
- Economic impact of area – impacts on rate users
- Maintain control

**Second round: Values and beliefs**

- Self-interest/preservation (Greed?)
- Sense of place
- Humboldt County's time to be self-preservationist
- Innovation—Alternate resource uses
- Sustainable economy
- Healthy communities
- Cost-effective

**Third round: Combine impacts with values to create one or two criteria**

- Maintain/improve quality of life
- Economic benefit to region
- Community health
- Ecological health of watershed
- Recreational use
- Maintain local control of water

## **Feedback on the evening**

### **Likes:**

- Interactive format
- Diversity of group/viewpoints
- Carol's presentation

### **Not Like:**

- Lack of 'real' food
- Hard to hear

## **Table #2**

*(These notes were very hard to read in some instances.)*

### **First round: What impact would you like the decisions regarding the water resource of HBWD to have on the County?**

- Protect or maintain quality of life
- Create economic growth or opportunities
- Establish long—term security for adequate municipal use
- Protect long—term security for watershed
- No adverse impact on aquatic life in Mad River
- Support fisheries in other Humboldt County watershed
- Any decision supports local control
- Any solution must be cost effective
- Explore new industrial customers (creative)
- Explore new municipal customers—adjacent communities

### **Second round: Values and beliefs**

- Local control
- Supporting the environment
- Protection of economic ???/viability
- Creating community cohesiveness

### **Third round: Combine impacts with values to create one or two criteria**

- Any decision must support the long-term self control of the Mad River watershed
- Decision must be economically viable and protect or enhance current ratepayer
- Any decision must support or enhance aquatic life in the watershed
- A decision must attempt to serve the needs other communities where need exists creating county-wide cohesiveness

## **Table #4**

### **First round: What impact would you like the decisions regarding the water resource of HBWD to have on the County?**

- Not negatively impact ability to utilize water rights in the future
- Keep options open in future
- Improves economic conditions
- Status quo
- Costs reasonable to users
- Improve current environmental conditions in Mad River while fish, wildlife, environment in general
- Protect the water rights
- Balance water rights with environment
- Harmony of criteria

### **Second round: Values and beliefs**

- Need for nurturing and caring
- Jobs
- Unique self-reliant character
- Sustainability
- Building on unity of community
- Showcase of process
- Local water control
- Innovative uses
- Value the 7<sup>th</sup> generation idea/concept

### **Third round: Combine impacts with values to create one or two criteria**

- Protect Humboldt County position in global water market
- Self-determination—preserve access to high quality water
- Use in Humboldt County considered first, local benefit
- Maintain/ conserve environment
- Sense of capability
- Self-preservation

### **Feedback on the evening**

#### **Like:**

- Diversity of folks
- Headed towards consensus
- Carol's info
- Mary is effective

**Not Like:**

- By 8pm, tired

**Note:**

Craig wants to help more! Symposium?

**Table #5**

**First round: What impact would you like the decisions regarding the water resource of HBWD to have on the County?**

- Benefits local
- Maintain control
- Positive to plants, animals, and humans of watershed
- Benefits ocean/ fisheries
- Benefit end use economically, affordable cost ratio
- Industry—not degrade the environment, profits local
- Economic benefits from water
- Continues to maintain and protect watershed
- Innovative uses of water
- Maximize non-consumptive uses

**Second round: Values and beliefs**

- Environment has inherent value
- Self-determination/ distrust outsiders
- Environmental and economic interests can be mutually supportive
- Water quality and accessibility is a life right
- Believe we can find innovative solutions
- Long view—proactive

**Third round: Combine impacts with values to create one or two criteria**

- Local economic benefit
- Maximum local control
- Maintain historical water right/ volume
- Legally strong position
- Continue high quality environmental stewardship

**Feedback on the evening**

- Liked Process
  - Consultation, not confrontation
  - Not overly objectionable
- Could be done differently
  - Didn't need to do three rounds

- Less talking to

## **Table #6**

### **Initial buzz**

- Mad is relatively small part of Humboldt County watershed systems
- CDC has said that community delivered water systems with quality drinking water are one of the most important inventions of the last century
- What would the mechanism be for the state to take the water?
- What does it mean to lose ones rights?
- District built for use that no longer exists
- Question about bagging—current status?
- How real is the transfer idea versus quantity relatively low?

### **First round: What impact would you like the decisions regarding the water resource of HBWD to have on the County?**

- Humboldt has a unique character / flavor based on geography – water use should sustain that in self-reliance and sustainability
- Retain water rights past 2029
- Ensure a sustainable amount of water for non-industrial users and for species that can't speak for themselves in this decision-making process
- By looking at the water rights through this process we become a showcase – criteria would be used in similar water-use decision-making
- It would be good if the process unite us like it did when the district was created
- Biggest impact = next to no impact
- Concern for nearby communities with less water
- Costs kept proportionate to the outcome
- Maintain low cost of drinking water (separate from industrial use)

### **Second round: Values and beliefs**

- Respect for other species
- Maintain economic stability for district and community
- Self-reliance
- Security
- Water is going to be the next globally limited resource
- Value – good health – quality water is an essential component of that
- Value grassroots community process—broad involvement, NOT top—down decision—making

### **Third round: Combine impacts with values to create one or two criteria Highlights**

- Inspiration to other communities
- Quality of life—broad, but everyone can define it for themselves easily
- Consensus to the level that was reached when the district was created

- No propaganda
- Looking multiple generations ahead
- Preserving industrial water supply to preserve economic opportunity and local capacity
- Thoughtful of natural surroundings

#### **Criteria**

- Maintain local control of the water resource—local needs met first
- Keep water rates economical to end users
- Build consensus on outcomes/criteria and process becomes a model
- Maintain sufficient in—stream flow to protect habitat and species
- Preserve quality of life (low rates—affordable, beauty and natural resources)

#### **Suggestion: Key to process**

- Understanding regulatory criteria e.g. state lands commission how would they define “beneficial use”?
- Working in land—use groups in some manner

#### **Feedback on the evening**

- Liked the initial background presentation
- Impressed with level of education District is bringing
- Impressed with level of commitment—outreach to ‘average’ citizen
- Liked the way the small groups were mixed and re-mixed
- Liked writing on the table
- Shorter next time! More evenings but two hours maximum
- Good food and drink—repeat please because of 5pm start time

#### **Table #7**

##### **First Round – What impact would you like the decisions regarding the water resource of HBWD to have on the County?**

- No negative environmental effect
- Maintain local control of the Mad River
- Rates must not increase
- Water will be available to other local communities such as Trinidad, West Haven, Kneeland, Garberville
- No need to create additional new infrastructure
- Cost be proportionate to outcome

##### **Second round: Values and beliefs**

- Local control
- Economically efficient
- Improve rather than just maintain
- Clean sufficient quantity for people and wildlife

**Third round: Combine impacts with values to create one or two criteria**

- Local control
- Quality of life
- Community support (i.e. 50s)
- Environmental—clean, sufficient quantity for people and wildlife AND improve rather than maintain

**Miscellaneous**

- Improve the environment
- Increase quality of life
- Make rates equal
- Keep control of water resources in Humboldt County
- Supply additional areas in the county with piped—in water

**Table #8**

**First round: What impact would you like the decisions regarding the water resource of HBWD to have on the County?**

- Local control of our water supply—water security, self-reliance
- Rates—reducing increases, fairness, costs exceeding metro—controlling costs
- Not to polarize community—impediment to progress, harder to move toward goals
- Public understanding of the process!
- Cost effective—regardless of ideas
- Availability of industrial water for economic growth—future viability for the next generation
- Non-consumptive uses—recreation, restoration, fishes, etc...in-stream flow
- Quality of life is better with more water in the system

**Second round: Values and beliefs**

(nothing)

**Third round: Combine impacts with values to create one or two criteria**

- Local control
- Additional future supply for domestic and industrial uses
- Support economic growth

**Feedback on evening**

**Like:**

- Changing tables
- Diversity of people

**Could improve:**

- Have less talk about how the process is being facilitated
- More time to all materials presented

## **Table #10**

### **First round: What impact would you like the decisions regarding the water resource of HBWD to have on the County?**

- Lowering the cost of water
- Protect the environmental quality in the Mad River basin or improve
- Maintain local control
- Provide economic benefit consistent with the other impacts
- Has the best chance of maintaining the existing water rights
- Local use First with priority
- Maximizing NON-consumptive use (consistent with a commitment to water conservation)
- Distribute to outlying communities

### **Second round: Values and beliefs**

- Local control
- Public economic improvement
- Environmentally—oriented lifestyle preservation

### **Third round: Combine impacts with values to create one or two criteria**

#### **Values added**

- Self-sufficiency
- Thinking alternatively
- Water safe, secure and healthy
- 7<sup>th</sup> generation concept of sustainability
- Nurturing to the community

## **Table #11**

### **First round: What impact would you like the decisions regarding the water resource of HBWD to have on the County?**

- Water stays in Humboldt County—future growth needs met/uncompromised/protected
- No industry that degrades the environment
- Benefit the economy—jobs and local ownership
- Maintain quality of drinking water
- Improve Mad River fisheries and environment
- Unify / bring together the community
- Protect rates
- Protect rights

**Second round: Values and beliefs**

- Building community support/understanding/trust
- Leadership—set and example—be an inspiration to other communities
- Local Control—self-reliance
- Quality of life—economic, environmental, recreation

**Third round: Combine impacts with values to create one or two criteria**

- Maintains local control, protects our water rights
- Protect the environment—safe and healthy
- Keeping rates as low as possible—affordable
- Water is for Humboldt—we're the priority for OUR community