

Monterey Regional Stormwater Management Program

Management Committee

MEETING MINUTES For February 23, 2022

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order / Roll-Call

Chairperson Trapani (County of Monterey) called the meeting to order at 9:32a.m. and performed roll call.

Management Committee (MC) Members:

City of Carmel – Agnes Martelet
City of Del Rey Oaks – Ron Fucci
City of Monterey - Tricia Wotan
City of Pacific Grove – Daniel Gho
City of Sand City – Taylor Fagan, Leon Gomez
County of Monterey – Michael Trapani

Other:

Maris Sidenstecker – PE/PO Coordinator
Amanda Good – Save the Whales
Bridget Hoover – Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Diana Garrett – Caltrans
John Stiver - Contech

MRSWMP Staff:

Program Manager – Jeff Condit

2. Public Comment

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Approve Management Committee Meeting Minutes for 1/26/22

- **Action:** On a motion by Martelet (*City of Carmel*), seconded by Gho (*City of Pacific Grove*), Management Committee approved the Management Committee Meeting Minutes for 1/26/22 (6-0).

- **Ayes:** Martelet, Gho, Fagan, Wotan, Fucci, Trapani
- **Noes:** None
- **Abstain:** None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Update on COVID-19 Situation

A brief discussion ensued regarding impacts the current COVID-19 situation has had on

stormwater programs and local government in general:

- Martelet shared that the City Council of Carmel is hoping to meet in person soon.
- A discussion ensued regarding whether the MRSWMP Management Committee would like to meet in person, continue with virtual meetings, or utilize a hybrid format. Members shared that there have been certain benefits of hosting virtual meetings, including increased accessibility for the public to participate and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Members shared that they would be interested in following M1W's lead on how to run future meetings.

5. **Public Education and Public Outreach Program**

a. Update on the PE/PO Program

Sidenstecker provided an overview of the MRSWMP Public Education and Public Outreach program, including highlights from the 2021/22 PE/PO Annual Report.

Highlights included:

- The PE/PO Program has adjusted to the Covid situation by offering virtual school outreach programs. These virtual programs have been well received by local schools and we have seen an increase in interest in recent months.
- We continue to engage student volunteers to assist with storm drain emblem placement throughout the region. Trapani inquired whether it would be possible to track storm drain emblem placement via GIS.
- Sidenstecker is a certified provider of the Our Water, Our World program. We have worked closely with Home Depot to raise awareness of pesticide alternatives.
- In 2021, the PE/PO Program hosted a Political Relevancy Workshop for members that allowed members to review the regional program and their respective programs through a lens focused on increasing political relevancy.
- MRSWMP continues to utilize television, radio, movie, and social media ads to raise awareness of water quality issues.
- Sidenstecker shared that a number of local events will be re-convening in person in 2022 and we are looking forward to participating.

b. Presentation of the MRSWMP School Outreach Program

Amanda Good of Save the Whales provided a brief overview of the MRSWMP School Outreach programs. We currently offer four separate programs:

- Sea Otters: A Story of Survival
- Sea Turtles and Marine Debris
- Whales: Great Communicators of the Deep
- Blue Whales: Gardeners of the Sea

All programs include discussions of the downstream impacts of pollution and the function of the storm sewer system.

ACTION ITEMS

6. Action Item to Approve License for Our Water Our World Program

The Our Water, Our World (OWOW) program is an award-winning partnership between city- and county-based water pollution prevention programs and garden centers and hardware stores that sell pest control products. Initiated in 1998, the program focuses on

less-toxic, eco-friendly products and techniques as many common pesticides are harmful to sensitive species and ecosystems when they reach local creeks, bays, and the ocean. Condit shared that the Our Water Our World (OWOW) program has been overseen by the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association, which recently disbanded. Starting in January 2022, the initiative will be facilitated by the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA), requiring the purchase of an annual license for continued participation.

- **Action:** On a motion by Wotan (*City of Monterey*), seconded by Gomez (*City of Sand City*), Management Committee approved the purchase of an initial annual license for the Our Water, Our World program from CASQA, funding the initiative through the MRSWMP contingency fund. In the future, this item can be budgeted within the Public Education and Public Outreach annual program budget. (6-0).
 - **Ayes:** Gho, Fucci, Trapani, Wotan, Martelet, Gomez
 - **Noes:** None
 - **Abstain:** None

7. Action Item to Approve Cypress Tree Sampling

The California Marine Sanctuary Foundation has developed a proposal to address MRSWMP's desire for surfactant monitoring from area cypress trees during wet weather events. To achieve this goal, CMSF staff proposed to conduct wet weather monitoring to collect three rainfall runoff samples per site from the trunks of local trees from three sites. An extended discussion ensued.

- **Action:** On a motion by Wotan (*City of Monterey*), seconded by Martelet (*City of Carmel*), Management Committee voted to table the Cypress Tree Sampling and revisit the issue during upcoming budget discussions for FY2022/23 (6-0).
 - **Ayes:** Gho, Fucci, Trapani, Wotan, Martelet, Gomez
 - **Noes:** None
 - **Abstain:** None

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

8. **Public Employee Performance Evaluation:** Program Manager

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CLOSED SESSION

9. Announcements from Closed Session

Trapani shared that the Management Committee conducted their Public Employee Performance Evaluation of the Program Manager. The Chair and Vice-Chair will discuss the evaluation with Condit during an upcoming Chair/Vice-Chair Sub-Committee Meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

10. Management Committee Member and Program Manager Reports

- a. **City of Pacific Grove** – Gho shared that the recently completed ASBS Project was awarded the Best Environmental Project of the year by the APWA. He also shared that Jacob Smith will be joining the City of Pacific Grove as Environmental Regulations Manager and will participate in future MRSWMP meetings.
- b. **County of Monterey** – Trapani has been working on meeting his TMDL requirements.
- c. **Program Manager** – Condit shared that the MRSWMP Program was not awarded a grant from the Whale Tail program.

ADJOURNMENT / SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

11. Schedule Next Meeting

The next Management Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, at 9:30am.

12. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25a.m.

DRAFT