

Monterey Regional Stormwater Management Program

Management Committee

MEETING MINUTES For December 13, 2023

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order / Roll-Call

Chairperson Gomez (City of Sand City) called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and performed roll call.

Management Committee Members:

City of Carmel – Mary Bilse
City of Del Rey Oaks – Ron Fucci
City of Monterey – Tricia Wotan
City of Pacific Grove – George Fuerst
City of Sand City – Leon Gomez
City of Seaside –Patrick Grogan
County of Monterey – Michael Trapani

Other:

Lindsay Brown – MBNMS
Jessica Juico – City of Carmel
Maris Sidenstecker – PE/PO Coordinator
Mike McCullough – Monterey One Water
Rachel Gaudoin – Monterey One Water
Leara Sampson – Monterey One Water
Autumn Wycoff – Virtual
Doug D – Virtual

MRSWMP Staff:

None

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approve Management Committee Meeting Minutes for 10/25/23

- **Action:** On a motion by Grogan (*City of Seaside*), seconded by Trapani (*County of Monterey*), Management Committee approved the Management Committee Meeting Minutes for 10/25/23

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. First Flush Update

Lindsay Brown provided updates and presented (virtually) on the First Flush and Dry Run programs, water quality monitoring programs

a. Brief Overview of Program

This year, the First Flush occurred on November 18, 2023 at 5:00 am. Twenty-two volunteers participated and collected samples at 13 different sites. Dry Run samples were previously collected on September 15, 2023 in Carmel and on September 16, 2023 at remaining sites.

Volunteers are mostly retired with some “younger” participants joining the effort this year. Sidenstecker noted it remains challenging to get volunteers as schedule flexibility is required as volunteers are on call 24 hours a day. This tends to be an issue for those who are working or are in school. Committee members agreed that possible outreach drives should take place, in addition to the already standing efforts such as print, digital, and social media advertising. Grogan requested a reminder email in August of following year, to blast on members’ social media pages that the program is looking for volunteers.

Note: Brown noted the Salinas Boronda site was not flowing and the program still needs to get a sample from that output site.

b. Current Year Sampling Efforts

Sampling reports were still pending, but results should be available early next year.

Trapani proposed a question to Brown regarding expanding outfall testing sites countywide. Brown concurred and further discussion was requested.

5. Update on PE/PO Program

Sidenstecker provided the below updates on the PE/PO Program.

a. School Outreach Programs

Outreach activities occurred at Robert Down Elementary School (Pacific Grove), Marshall Elementary (Seaside), and Prunedale Elementary School. Feedback was positive and presentations well received.

b. Program at Monterey Public Library

On November 28, 2023, Sidenstecker hosted an event at the Monterey Public Library, per the Library’s request, on blue whales and climate change.

c. Movie Ads

Each winter (Thanksgiving to New Year) and in the summer months, video ads are placed at a local movie theater during blockbuster movies. Currently movie ads are running before every movie shown in the Del Monte Movie Plex in Monterey, highlighting “Pollinators and Using Alternative Pesticides in your Garden”. Ads are relatively cheap and the best use of funding.

d. TV Ads and Partners

Per Sidenstecker, all new English and Spanish ads have been approved by regional partners. ad budget is within Save the Whales and partners reimburse Save the Whales.

Further discussion on cigarette butt receptacles took place with many entities agreeing they are seeing an influx of cigarette and vape waste, despite there being proper receptacles and some cities being smoke free. Sidenstecker suggests that the committee look to other countries for suggestions on how they manage cigarette and/or vape waste.

Additional outreach conversations occurred around the following:

- Pollution Prevention Coalition. Monterey Bay Aquarium won’t be leading anymore; waiting for a new leader to be assigned. Juico noted a survey will be sent out to

determine what the coalition goals should be, what members get from the group, and interests for moving forward.

- Storage Unit – Sidenstecker noted storage unit costs have gone up \$40/month (new amount is \$325/month); educational gear, records, emblems, glue, are stored here. Access is needed 24 hours a day so despite rising costs, she recommends continued use of the storage unit vs storing a member facility where access is limited.
- Reminder on emblems was provided. In Seaside, upcoming sidewalk/street work is planned and emblems will be needed after. In Monterey, Sidenstecker will coordinate with Wotan.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

6. Management Committee Member

- Monterey – Working with the MPWMD on an awarded IRWMP grant for the Tunnel Diversion Project to help with stormwater capture for reuse. RFP is out for design services for Lake El Estero and Tunnel Urban Diversion Projects and hope to bring before Council in January 2024. Timeframe for the two new urban projects is 3-5 years, depending on staff capacity.
- Seaside – Collaborating with consultant to revamp FOG programs. They will be targeting every waste producer site in Seaside to review all waste traps. The consultant will also be training public works staff on inspections and enhancing enforcement of FOG regulations. Also working on storm drain projects and CMP basin repair/replacement, as needed. A ribbon cutting will occur soon for Del Monte Manor project (infiltration project).
- Carmel-by-the Sea – Adopted a new storm water ordinance in December that is pending approval from their Council; a new Storm Drain Master Plan was also presented to their council and under review. City Earth Day even scheduled for Sat 4/20/23.
- Pacific Grove – Staff have been busy with ASB stormwater inspections. Local contractors have been increasingly compliant. Expressed a thank you to Karen Grimmer for her recent discussion about to their Beautification and Natural Resources Natural Resource Commission on Coastal Marine Mammal Conservation” – it was well received.
- County of Monterey – The County is working with the Regional Board on the new TMDL for the Gavilan Creek Water Shed and Waste Load Allocation Programs.
- Del Rey Oaks – Underground utilities work on Hwy 218 is underway. Cal Am is nearly finished with the water line realignment followed by PG&E then AT& T. Delays should be expected. Once work is complete, will reach out for emblem work.
- Sand City – Working with Cal Am on water realignment.

7. Update from Program Administrator, Monterey One Water

Sampson shared that the Program Manager contract expires December 31, 2023. At that time, M1W will actively recruit for a new Program Manager, with an estimated timeline for onboarding in April 2024. McCullough and Gaudoin will continue to provide interim assistance.

Sampson requested feedback from the Management Committee on how they would like to be involved in the hiring process. Committee agreed they would like to be a part of the process. Sampson noted she would send out the full job description to all committee

members for their input, with any changes due back to the Chair/Vice Chair by January 5, 2024. Once finalized, Sampson will begin the recruiting process to fill the Program Manager position. The Chair and Vice Chair will assist in the resume review process and any interested committee member is welcome to be involved in the interview process.

McCullough requested committee insight on reviewing and updating the MRSWMP agreement as it is more than 10 years old. Committee members agreed this should occur to be more up to date and include more flexible language. McCullough will provide the first draft of proposed edits in January 2024 and send them to committee members for review.

Grogan asked how the Program Manager costs are being charged. Sampson clarified that M1W is absorbing the costs from September 2023 through December 2023 and committee members won't be charged Program Manager salary costs during that time.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT

8. Schedule Next Meeting

The next Management Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 9:30 am.

9. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.