

Safe, Clean Water Program

North Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, June 10, 2021
1:00pm - 3:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Ramy Gindi* (LACFCD)	Joe Bellomo* (Hidden Hills)
Dave Rydman* (LAC Waterworks District)	Sophie Freeman* (LAC Supervisor District 3)
Chad Christensen (MRCA)	Bruce Hamamoto (LA County Public Works)
David Pedersen (LVMWD)	Mark Johnson (Malibu)
Dave Roberts* (LVMWD)	Roxanne Hughes (Westlake Village)
Madelyn Glickfeld (UCLA)	Melina Watts (Melina S. Watts Consulting, LLC)
Tevin Schmitt (WCFCV)	
Kirsten James (Community Stakeholder)	
Kelly Fisher* (Agoura Hills)	

Committee Members Not Present:

Doug Marian (CPMCA)
Patricia Torres Bruno (LA Area Chamber of Commerce)
Alex Farassati (Calabasas)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees.

1. Welcome and Introductions

David Pedersen, Chair of the North Santa Monica Bay WASC, welcomed the WASC members and called the meeting to order. All WASC members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

Kirk Allen (District) discussed WebEx features and facilitated the roll call. All committee members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 12, 2021

The District provided a copy of the minutes from the previous meeting. David Pedersen asked the Committee members for comments or revisions.

Mark Johnson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Chad Christensen seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes.

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Kirk Allen (District) provided the District updates, noting: Two Call for Projects info sessions were held and the recordings have been posted on the website. All disbursements have been made out to municipalities. Year One disbursements are being sent out and Second Annual plans are being reviewed to get those dollars received and earmarked for disbursement in either late July or early August. Call for Projects deadline for Round 3 is July 31st. The next Regional Oversight Committee meeting is scheduled for June 29th.

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4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Melina Watts of Melina Sempill Watts Consulting (MSWC), via a slide presentation, shared with the Committee what she learned at the Funding Fair 2021 event held in Sacramento. Of note were the California Grants Portal and the “California Financing Coordinating Committee: Funding Fair Handbook 2021” document. She also noted that the *iBank* and *Economic Development Administration Investment Opportunities* are doing massive lending. Lastly, she advised the Committee to focus on the seven potential strategies for the Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan and welcomed input for the Vision and Evaluation section.

Madelyn Glickfeld thanked Melina Watts for the work she has done and urged Committee members and alternates to view the Plan Melina is working on.

Tevin Schmitt asked Melina Watts for access to the documents she mentioned in her slide presentation.

5. Public Comment Period

No public comments received.

6. Discussion

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Joe Bellomo disclosed that the Malibu Creek Watershed Event Group gets together on a regular basis to discuss the development of the update to their plan, which includes projects that were in the application phase or being proposed.

b) Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)

Melina Watts gave a slide presentation.

Mark Johnson commented that Tik Tok videos are an excellent opportunity to engage a wide variety of people. He also added that the City of Malibu has a media team and graphics artists that might be available to assist with any work.

Kirsten James and Roxanne Hughes expressed appreciation for Melina Watts’ presentation.

c) Funding Opportunities

Kirk Allen commented that this item was tied with what Melina Watts provided in the Watershed Coordinator Updates period and is essentially a duplicate.

David Pedersen commented on Senator Henry Stern’s expressed interest to support increases in funding for watershed purposes in the North Santa Monica Bay and is also receptive to ensuring it is included in the State Budget Proposal.

David Pedersen asked if the SOEP can be adaptable to changes as new ideas emerge. Kirk Allen answered that since this is the formation year of the program, they might be overly ambitious with some items. Consequently, there will be opportunities to go back and change things as they go along. Melina Watts asked if they could treat the SOEP as a living document which can then be adaptable to change. Kirk Allen answered that it may be treated as a living document given that there will be quarterly updates.

Safe, Clean Water Program

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Melina Watts asked for dates the public can participate in as the Committee discusses updates to the SOEP. Kirk Allen answered that it is up to the WASC to decide on which proposed dates they would like to commit to. Melina Watts suggested September 1st as a tentative date. David Pedersen suggested to Melina Watts that she propose a schedule. He also suggested that WASC members be encouraged to attend.

Melina Watts suggested that they form a subcommittee that can support and coordinate with participating members and cities – for instance, in the production of Tik Tok videos – so that everything matches. She suggested that the Committee meet every quarter to discuss developments. Kirk Allen suggested that Melina Watts reach out to cities to coordinate. Melina Watts commented that she will reach out to everyone after the SOEP is approved and see who wants to do what, how, and when.

Roxanne Hughes suggested to Melina Watts that the quarterly late evening community engagement established meetings be held on the third Thursday of the month and the quarter meetings on the second Thursday of the month. Roxanne also expressed interest to be on the subcommittee that Melina Watts wants to set up.

Dave Rydman asked if there are components of the SOEP that can be implemented within Melina Watts' existing budget or if all proposed elements are contingent on additional funding. Melina Watts answered that the conferences would require more money because they are quite expensive. For the films, they might not require additional funding, except for any background music that the Committee may want to add. For the water supply event, if it is films and the cities want to participate in the filmmaking, they can be done with the budget as is. Conferences for the water supply portion would incur additional costs though. Additional funding would also be necessary for the Clean Sweet Film Competition.

Dave Rydman asked if the SOEP can be organized in a way to differentiate between components requiring additional funding and those that can be done with the current budget. Melina Watts answered that that would be a great idea.

Madelyn Glickfeld suggested that the Committee try to get the SOEP ready for the next agenda in July. She also agreed with Dave Rydman that the components should be categorized by those requiring additional funding and those that can be done with the current budget. Madelyn Glickfeld asked attending members to let Melina Watts know whether a specific Thursday evening of the month is not convenient for them.

Bruce Hamamoto asked Melina Watts if the envisioned Thursday evening meetings will be hybrid or in-person. Melina Watts answered that it would be optimal for them to be hybrid. Bruce Hamamoto commented that it would help LA County if they were hybrid.

Tori Klug (Stantec) commented that it might be wise to set a deadline for Committee feedback so that Melina Watts has time to revise and get it over to the District to post on the website in advance of the July meeting. Melina Watts then asked for a two-week turnaround. David Pedersen suggested June 24th as the due date for Committee feedback.

d) RWQCB Conditional Waiver for Trash

Madelyn Glickfeld introduced Alexander Prescott and Jun Zhu from the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board. Alexander Prescott, Lead Environmental Scientist, gave a slide presentation titled, *Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Trash from Nonpoint Sources*

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in Waterbodies Subject to Total Maximum Daily Loads.

Chad Christensen commented that they are pursuing funding as best that they can.

Bruce Hamamoto asked why *Parks and Recreation* is highlighted in blue. Alexander Prescott answered that the blue highlights indicate that they have not submitted TMRPs before, at all.

Danielle LeFer, Senior Environmental Scientist, commented that she can report back regarding this program and follow up on the TMRPs with Alexander Prescott.

David Pedersen asked what the best strategy in the parklands would be to comply with the permits. Jun Zhu answered that it would mainly be trash collection and monitoring.

Madelyn Glickfeld requested for Alexander Prescott and Jun Zhu to set up a meeting with the agencies so that they understand what is expected of them, as well as the timing.

7. Voting Items:

None

8. Items for next agenda

a) Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

9. Adjournment

David Pedersen thanked the Committee members for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

NORTH SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - June 10, 2021

		Quorum Present			Voting Items	
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	05/12 Meeting Minutes
Agency	LACFCD	Cung Nguyen		Ramy Gindi	x	Y
Agency	LAC Waterworks District	Russ Bryden		Dave Rydman	x	A
Agency	MRCA	Chad Christensen	x	Sarah Rascon		Y
Agency	LVMWD	<u>David Pedersen</u>	x	Dave Roberts		Y
Agency	LVMWD	<u>David Pedersen</u>		Dave Roberts	x	Y
Community Stakeholder	UCLA	<u>Madelyn Glickfeld</u>	x	Richard Ambrose		A
Community Stakeholder	CPMCA	Doug Marian				
Community Stakeholder	LA Area Chamber of Commerce	Patricia Torres Bruno				
Community Stakeholder	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Tevin Schmitt	x			Y
Community Stakeholder	Community Stakeholder	Kirsten James	x	Fran Diamond		A
Municipal Members	Agoura Hills	Jessica Forte		Kelly Fisher	x	A
Municipal Members	Calabasas	Alex Farassati		Alba Lemus		
Municipal Members	Hidden Hills	Kerry Kallman		Joe Bellomo	x	Y
Municipal Members	LAC Supervisor District 3	Katy Yaroslavsky		Sophie Freeman	x	Y
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		Y
Municipal Members	Malibu	Mark Johnson	x	Christine Shen		Y
Municipal Members	Westlake Village	Roxanne Hughes	x	Phillipe Eskandar		Y
Watershed Coordinator	Melina S. Watts Consulting, LLC	Melina Watts	x			N/A
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	10
Total Voting Members Present		14			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	4
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	14
Municipal Members		6				Approved

Other Attendees
Alexander Prescott
Allen Ma
Alysha Chan
Danielle LeFer
Erin Pang
Fabian Garcia
Jun Zhu
Maritsa DRA Inc
Mayra Martinez
Rich Ambrose
Stacy Luell
Tasia Kieffer
Michael Omary
Laureen Abustan
Dennis Washburn



North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Co-Coordination Updates

By Melina Sempill Watts

June 10, 2021

Photo and Logo, Los Angeles County

Funding Fair 2021

- ▶ **California Grants Portal**, <https://www.grants.ca.gov/>
- ▶ California Financing Coordinating Committee: **Funding Fair Handbook 2021**
<https://cfcc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021-CFCC-Funding-Fairs-Handbook-Final.pdf>
- ▶ **iBank**, lending + loans
 - ▶ California Infrastructure and Development Bank
 - ▶ Climate Catalyst Revolving Fund
- ▶ **FEMA, administered by CALOES**
 - ▶ Hazard mitigation, flood, drainage, dam retrofit, structural retrofit disaster, fuels, defensible space
 - ▶ Notice of interest on ongoing basis, or asap if Presidential declaration of disaster
- ▶ **Department of Water Resources**, 6 funding opportunities
- ▶ **CA Water Boards**; 16 funding opportunities
 - ▶ **Alex Huang hilariously observes**, ““FAAST system doesn’t really live up to its name.”
- ▶ [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov/), portal to search federal grants
- ▶ **Economic Development Administration Investment Opportunities**
Malinda Matson lead; the person in Southern California is Wilford Marshall
Funding for Facilities and equipment; **ARPA has 3 billion to spend**
Concerned about outcome (Jobs) rather than project
 - ▶ **Suitable for Pure Water Project at Ladyface?**



Photo, Watts' Collection

California Watershed Network

- **Suggestion: subscribe to Watershed Network newsletter to be kept apprised of potential California watershed legislation**
- Contact: Michael Wellborn, wellborn.michael@gmail.com
- From Sacramento: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>



Social Media Outreach

- ▶ Twitter: [@NSMBWatershed](https://twitter.com/NSMBWatershed)
<https://twitter.com/NSMBWatershed>
- ▶ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NSMBWatershed/>
- ▶ Instagram: NorthSantaMonicaBay Watershed
- ▶ Youtube: North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UColzVFY4jZyhyFYM4kseSCA>
- ▶ Linked In: North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community, <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9059904/>
- ▶ And I've started a new email account: nsmbwatershedcoordinator@gmail.com



NorthSantaMonicaBayWatershed
@NSMBWatershed



The Do-It-Yourself Rain Garden
[nytimes.com/2021/06/02/rea...](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/02/rea...)

By the way, if you care about thoughtful gardening, [@margaretroach](#) is always a gem read.



The Do-It-Yourself Rain Garden

So you spent the holiday weekend indoors, watching rainwater pool in your yard — or worse still, in the basement? Here's how to fix that.

[nytimes.com](#)

10:37 AM · Jun 4, 2021



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Copy link to Tweet

Photo, Watts' Collection

In the News

- ▶ Interviewed for conversation about watersheds, conservation and writing in documentary film by filmmaker John D. Lieu
- ▶ Watershed coordinator announcement run at *Valley News Group*



VPRO is a Dutch public broadcast service. [Wikipedia](#)

Regreening the desert with John D. Liu | VPRO Documentary | 2012

Valley News Group, May 27, Page 3

People in the News

COMMUNITY

The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed, a region that includes Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Hidden Hills, a sliver of Los Angeles city, Malibu, Los Angeles County and Westlake Village, just brought in **Melina Sempill Watts**, right, as a new Watershed Coordinator. Thanks to funding from Measure W, "This is an exciting time to work with our community on cleaning up local water and focusing on new water supply opportunities as city and agency leaders are committed to working together. Thanks to Measure W, there are funds to start to make substantive progress," Watts observed. Watts served as a Watershed Coordinator from 2003 - 2014, focusing on public outreach that would help community members make choices that would improve water quality, working on *www.livinglightlyguide.org* and *The Safe Clean Water Act and Our Backyards* starring Wendie Malick. Watts collaborated with city staff at Agoura Hills on an IRWM grant that funded the Medea Creek Restoration at Chumash Park. Since then, Watts has worked to support soil health in Glenn County in the agricultural heartland of California. As a conservation consultant, clients included New Consensus, which was working to support policy development for New Green Deal legislation, the



An advertisement for Cowe.com. It features a city skyline at night with light trails from traffic. The text reads: "YOU HAVE 50 MILLISECONDS TO MAKE AN IMPRESSIVE FIRST IMPRESSION" and "WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT". The Cowe.com logo is prominently displayed, along with the phone number 1-800-527-3646 and the address 20969 VENTURA BLVD, SUITE 216A, WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91364.

Reaching Out



- Thanks to suggestion by Vice Chair Madelyn Glickfeld, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board presenting on Trash Conditional Waiver today
- Invited for today: staff from NPS, State Parks and MRCA; offices of Congressman Lieu, Senator Stern, Assemblymember Bloom
- Connecting with Funders, starting with Wildlife Conservation Board
- Connecting with Watershed Coordinators



And...that DRAFT Strategic Outreach Education Plan

1. Pick a name for Quarterly community events + dates
2. Focus on Strategies 1 -7, which is our outreach plan
3. For one-on-ones: Sections 8 - 30 are organization's own goals
4. Focus on strategies 31 - 39, which are exploratory projects
5. Questions about TAT
6. Vision and Evaluation: I'd love your input here
7. Section 5: Identify collaborative efforts