

Safe, Clean Water Program

Scoring Committee



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, August 3, 2021
9:00am – 12:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Matt Stone (Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency)
David Diaz (Active SGV)
Bruce Reznik (LA Waterkeeper)

Dave Sorem (Mike Bubalo Construction Co., Inc)
TJ Moon (LA County Public Works)
Kirsten Schwarz (UCLA)

Committee Members Not Present:

1) Welcome and Introductions

Bruce Reznik, Chair of the Scoring Committee (SC), welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order. All committee members in attendance made self-introductions, and quorum was established.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 6, 2021 and May 4, 2021

Bruce Reznik asked for the meeting minutes to be approved simultaneously. He asked for comments and/or revisions.

Bruce Reznik made a motion to approve the April 6, 2021 and May 5, 2021 meeting minutes. Matt Stone seconded the motion.

The SC voted to approve the April 6, 2021 and May 5, 2021 meeting minutes. (Approved, see Vote Tracker sheet)

3) Committee Member and District Updates

Kirk Allen (District) provided the District updates noting: Regional Round 3 Call for Projects deadline was July 31, 2021. The District hosted two informational sessions to assist applicants submit complete project submissions. FY 2021-22 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIP) were approved and submitted to the Board of Supervisors for a tentative approval meeting on September 15, 2021. For the Regional Program, the first quarterly reports were due May 15, 2021, and the second quarterly reports are due on August 15, 2021. The District noted that the quarterly reports would be reviewed by the WASCs to evaluate if the projects are within their scope, budget, and schedule.

Regarding the Watershed Coordinator (WC) selection process, all 12 contracts have been fully executed. The current objectives for the WCs are to develop their Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plans (SOEP). The SOEPs are intended to assist with strategies for deployment in their Watershed Areas for outreach and engagement to communities about the Safe, Clean Water Program as well as incorporate community ideas into the program.

Municipal Program: Second Annual Plans were due on April 1, 2021, with the anticipated second annual disbursement scheduled for late August 2021 after final accounting occurs.

The tax roll for Year 3 has been prepared and submitted to the County Tax Auditor-Controller with total funds of approximately \$282M from 2.1 million parcels taxed. Tax collections will begin with the first tax bill due in December 2021 and the second tax bill is due in April 2022.

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4) Public Comment Period for Non-Agenda Items

Mike Scaduto (LA Sanitation and Environment) commented that they would like an update on the Round 1 project funding and if there were any lessons learned that can help streamline the process. He also noted that O&M projects do not fit the current scoring criteria and hopes that it is addressed by Round 4. The District responded that Round 1 projects are currently being funded and that they will provide more update at the next meeting. The District noted that the application was formulated to make sure that projects are truly regional and that the entire project should be scored not just for O&M.

5) Discussion Items:

a) Ex Parte Communications Disclosure

TJ Moon noted to have had communication regarding the SCW website portal. He also noted that he works for LA County and is aware of the LA County project applications submitted to the SCW Program for Round 3. He indicated to have attended various watershed management groups, therefore is aware of many projects being submitted for Round 3.

Bruce Reznik noted to have had regular meetings with the District and various supervisory offices. He also noted that he is a member of OurWaterLA Coalition and Accelerate Resilience LA (ARLA). He indicated to have had conversations with California Greenworks and a new SC member, Kirsten Schwarz.

b) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

TJ Moon nominated Bruce Reznik to remain as Chair of the SC and that he would be open to the Vice-Chair position. Kirsten Schwarz expressed that she is not interested in either of the roles as she is new to the SC and region.

c) Summary of Year 2 Stormwater Investment Plans

The District provided a brief overview of Year 2 SIPs.

Dave Sorem asked for additional details on the sources of matching funds. The District responded that the sources of matching project funds are project specific and that they will work on a breakdown. Dave Sorem asked about the matching funds that went to Unincorporated LA County areas. TJ Moon responded that there were various new sources of funds, taxes, and fees. David Sorem noted that he has been partnering with organizations to find more funding sources for disadvantaged communities. Bruce Reznik commented on the state budget surplus and that there is a push for more state funding for stormwater capture projects.

d) Status of Year 3 applications to the Infrastructure Program

The District displayed a summary of the 60 project applications submitted by the call for projects deadline of July 31, 2021. The District noted that Infrastructure Program Project applications are going through a completeness review.

Dave Sorem asked if the projects had been reviewed by WC. The District indicated that the applications have not been available long enough for the WC to review, however; that the WCs have been integrated into the concepts that are being developed in the Feasibility Studies. The District noted that the WCs will work most with the Technical Resource Program applicants that lack technical resources.

e) Work Plan for Year 3 Scoring of Feasibility Studies and Projects

Bruce Reznik outlined a general schedule for the SC noting: The District would be going through a completeness review of applications during August up to early September. The WASCs meet in September

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to send projects to the SC for scoring. The SC could begin scoring projects in October and end by December before applicants begin presenting their projects to the WASCs in January. The District confirmed that this schedule is reasonable. The District mentioned that it would be ideal for the WASCs to confirm their SIPs by April so they can reach the ROC by May and the Board of Supervisors by July. Bruce Reznik suggested moving forward with 2 meetings per month.

Matt Stone suggested dividing the 40 infrastructure projects into increments of 10 or 8 on a first come basis. He suggested having shorter than 3-hour meetings to focus on a reasonable number of applications.

TJ Moon recommended scoring 2-3 projects during the September meeting to introduce the 2 new SC members to the process. He commented starting with the WASCs that have the largest number of projects so that they have enough time to confirm their SIP. Bruce Reznik responded that the projects may not be back from the WASC by then so it would be a trial-run and that the WASCs will most likely end up sending all the projects to SC. The District agreed that it would be good for the SC to start with a trial-run of several project types.

Bruce Reznik asked if two meetings in October, two meetings in November, and one with a possible second meeting, if necessary, in December would be a good schedule. Kirsten Schwarz confirmed that the schedule was reasonable. She commented in favor of scoring the projects as soon as possible to ensure only one December meeting instead of two.

TJ Moon commented in favor of scoring 4 projects in September, 9 projects each meeting during October and November, and having one TBD meeting in December for resubmittals.

Bruce Reznik asked if they wanted to continue with analyzing applications in teams. He explained that the technical SC members would focus on the Water Quality and Water Supply components of the application while the others focus on Nature Based Solutions and Community Engagement. Kirsten Schwarz agreed with splitting into teams. TJ Moon agreed that teams can take the lead, but that scoring will still be a group decision.

Bruce Reznik asked if they wanted to spend time during the September meeting to create more stringent grading criteria and defining bright line tests. Dave Sorem asked about sliding point scales being used for Round 3. The District clarified that there will be no changes to the point scheme, however; that with the Districts led effort of metrics and monitoring study which has just begun may help solidify some of the scoring for Round 4; post April 2022.

The District commented on an updated EWMP RAA analysis that may show lower water quality volume to treat and the possibility of overdesigning. TJ Moon responded that there should be flexibility when it comes to design projects because they will be refined but that projects requesting construction funds should be held to a higher standard since they have plans and geotechnical analysis. He added that applicants have been receiving four points for having two letters of community support and that if the SC wants to have a higher standard than it should be made clear to the applicants.

David Diaz asked if the Measure W program could have prescriptive guidelines regarding Community Engagement like the Measure A program. The District indicated that there is upcoming guidance being developed in 2022 and that there are Community Engagement guidelines built into transfer agreements.

Bruce Reznik suggested the SC members go through the criteria and consider what strong community supports means and have a further discussion while evaluating projects in September.

f) Reschedule of September Meeting

Bruce Reznik suggested rescheduling the September 7, 2021, meeting due to Rosh Hashanah to September 14, 2021 9AM-12PM. The SC and the District agreed to reschedule the meeting to September

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14, 2021. The District asked the SC to keep in mind that the Executive Order allowing for virtual meetings may change and that in-person meetings may soon resume.

David Diaz noted that he has a standing conflict on the first and third Tuesday of the month between 10AM and 12PM. Matt Stone noted that he has a standing conflict on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 7:45AM to 11AM and a 4:00PM. Kirsten Schwarz noted that she has a standing conflict at 4:15PM. The SC agreed to meeting on the first and third Tuesday from 1PM to 4PM.

6) Public Comment Period for Agenda Items

Mike Scaduto (LA Sanitation and Environment) commented that LA Sanitation is the lead for the SCW Program in Los Angeles and that the most important letter of support for the City of Los Angeles' projects would come from their department. He indicated that it is important for that letter of support to come from LA Sanitation Environment and that it be included with project proposals for projects in the City of Los Angeles. They are currently planning to document the letters of support for projects and perhaps send that letter of support to the SC so that it is on record.

7) Voting items:

a) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

The SC held a vote for Bruce Reznik to continue as Chair and for TJ Moon as Vice-Chair. (Approved, see Vote Tracker sheet).

8) Items for Next Agenda

a) Review and scoring of four FY22-23 Infrastructure Projects

b) Presentation on the types of criteria changes that can be made by the Scoring Committee

c) Reaffirm schedule of meetings for rest of 2021

9) Adjournment

Bruce Reznik thanked the committee members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

SCORING COMMITTEE MEETING - August 3, 2021

Member Type	Quorum Present		Voting Items	
	Member	Voting?	4/6 & 5/4 Meeting Minutes	Bruce Reznik as Chair & TJ Moon as Vice Chair
Water Supply	Matt Stone	x	Y	Y
Water Quality / Community Investments / Nature-Based Solutions	Kirsten Schwarz	x	A	Y
Community Investments	David Diaz	x	A	Y
Nature-Based Solutions / Water Quality	Bruce Reznik	x	Y	Y
Water Quality	Dave Sorem	x	Y	Y
Water Quality	TJ Moon	x	Y	Y
Total Non-Vacant Seats	6	Yay (Y)	4	6
Total Voting Members Present	6	Nay (N)	0	0
		Abstain (A)	2	0
		Total	6	6
			Approved	Approved

Other Attendees	
Alysha Chan	Jonathan Lee
Amanda Zeidner	Jud Warren
Aydin Pasebani	Melanie Rivera
Brandon Willnecker	Michael Yosef
Brett Perry	Mike
Bryce Lee	Shahram Kharaghani
Clarasophia Gust	Susie Santilena
Conor Mossavi	Thom Epps
Danielle Chupa	Drew Ready
Fiona McHenry-Crutchfield	Gus Orozco
Johanna Chang	Ilene Ramirez
Paul Glenn	Dorothy Wong