

Safe, Clean Water Program

Scoring Committee



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, April 6, 2021
9:00am – 12:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Matt Stone (Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency)
Jill Sourial (The Nature Conservancy)
Bruce Reznik (LA Waterkeeper)

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

Committee Members Not Present:

J.R. De Shazo (UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation)

1) Welcome and Introductions

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

Bruce Reznik announced that J.R. De Shazo plans to resign from the Scoring Committee due to conflicts with schedule.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 2, 2021

The District provided copies of the meeting minutes for February 2, 2021. Bruce Reznik asked the committee members for comments or revisions.

TJ Moon made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Jill Sourial seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from February 2, 2021 (Approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Committee Member and District Updates

Kirk Allen (District) provided the District updates noting: Fund Transfer Agreements (TAs) are being executed for the Municipal and Regional programs. 60 out of 83 Cities have received their local return with approximately \$80M have been disbursed. Cities that have not returned their TAs were urged to do so as soon as possible. Second Annual Plans were due April 1, 2021 with next funding disbursements planned for August 2021. The Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) tool and Partial Funding Guidelines are now available. WASCs were encouraged to finalize their SIP by early May and submit to the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) to provide recommendations to the WASC or recommend for approval to the Board of Supervisors.

Regarding Watershed Coordinators (WC), 4 out of 12 WCs have executed agreements to begin work. There is 1 fully executed contract with an approved work plan, the remaining 11 still have pending work plans to submit for approval. Mike Antos, Regional WC is working on the coordination efforts and onboarding of WCs.

14 of 16 Technical Resource Program (TRP) Projects have been approved with 13 projects receiving Notices to Proceed. The deadline for Round 3 of Call for Projects is July 31, 2021. Applicants were reminded that the LACFCD and local sewer/sanitation agency conceptual plan approval is required where appropriate. Preferably 2 months in advance of project deadlines.

Safe, Clean Water Program

Scoring Committee



Tax relief applications are due May 1, 2021. Low-Income Senior-Owned (LISO) properties and General Income-Based Tax Reductions (GIBTR) are available for individuals meeting the minimum income and/or age thresholds.

Regarding additional guidance, the ROC met in January and February to discuss programming guidance for projects in the SIP Clean Water Program. The four main topics discussed were Water Supply, Nature-based Solutions, Community Engagement and Disadvantaged Communities. The ROC provided feedback at which time District staff will be drafting additional guidance later this month or early May 2021 to assist with project application submissions for Round 3.

Finally, the District noted that 2 out of 3 Scientific Studies proposed in Round 2 have been approved and one has withdrawn

Bruce Reznik informed the WASC that he is a part of Accelerate Resilience LA (ARLA), which is a small cross-sector working group, and that ARLA would be reaching out to Scoring Committee members for feedback.

4) Public Comment Period for Non-Agenda Items

No Public comments received.

5) Discussion Items:

a) Ex Parte Communications Disclosure

Bruce Reznik has had general discussions about the Safe Clean Water Program with Our Water LA Coalition, ARLA, LA County and City of LA staff.

TJ Moon had a discussion with Mike Antos the rejected Agoura Hills Project application.

Matt Stone, Jill Sourial, and TJ Moon had interviews with ARLA.

b) Schedule of Round 3 - FY22-23 Call for Projects & Scoring Committee Workplan

i) Pre-Round 3 Submissions

ii) Post-Round 3 Submissions

Bruce Reznik noted that the Round 3 scoring process will not begin until October and wanted feedback from the SC on what their focus should be prior to scoring and if they were willing to increase meetings once scoring begins. He believes there is value in the SC documenting lessons learned from the scoring process by meeting 2-3 times before scoring begins. The District also reminded the SC that reviewing appeals is one of their duties.

David Sorem suggested the SC use the sliding scale TJ Moon created to distinguish between dry and wet weather projects. Additionally, he would like a technical expert to review the project before the SC reviews the projects. The District noted that any change to the scoring criteria would require a 30-day public review period and would not take effect for Round 3 scoring.

Committee discussed draft recommendations and creating bright line tests to give clearer guidance. They suggested having applicants present certain parts of the application in a clearer fashion, so the SC does less investigative work. It was suggested that a separate document be used to document the Committee's comments, the applicant's response, and highlighted changes. The District suggested an indexing requirement to assist with looking for information within the application. There was a discussion about being more strict on applicants putting a summaries and attachments in the correct sections.

Safe, Clean Water Program

Scoring Committee



Bruce Reznik asked the District if pre-submittal Workshops were scheduled and they could be made mandatory. He also expressed that it would be important for Watershed Coordinators to attend the pre-submittal workshops. The District replied that the webinars could be uploaded and made recommended viewing and that the workshops should begin late May. The SC can include their recommendations and bright line tests in the pre-submittal presentation slides. Bruce Reznik suggested that the SC have a 3 hour meeting in May to discuss things that should be included in the workshops. TJ Moon expressed concern over having enough time to update the SCW Program website and criteria for the applications that are due in July. The District replied that there are 2 tool tips that are being updated and urged the Committee to send over any other tool tips that can be included to guide applicants. If it is just additional narrative, it is possible it can be included in the website update.

Matt Stone asked the SC if they should be aiming for Round 4 changes because of the timing of the Round 3 submittal. He noted that there is big difference between submitting a planning project and a designed construction project that is not addressed in the framework. He suggested elevating the issue so that changes can be made by Round 4. The SC discussed the difference in scoring criteria needs for design, build, and O&M projects and agreed there should be specific applications. The SC discussed refining the scoring process, its current leniency, gaming of the system, and approving the best projects.

c) Assessment of Round 2 Project Submissions

- i) Round 1 Recommendations (draft recommendations)
- ii) Round 2 Assessment

TJ Moon commented that the Consultants were familiar with most applications and that the quality of applications should be approved in time. He commented that the applications from LAUSD were new for the consultants and they did not attend the pre-submittal workshops. Jill Sourial agreed that applications have improved and gave suggestions on specific recommendations that would assist applicants. There was a discussion on the application sections such as community benefit being more of an interpretative area of scoring and how ARLA could assist with guidance.

Bruce Reznik commented that he was encouraged by the new applications from LAUSD and NGOs. He pointed out that there were more exemplar multi-benefit projects in Round 1. There was a discussion about the project proponents pointing out unintended consequences and ways to improve the quality of the applications. TJ Moon agreed to work with the District to improve the application portal. Bruce Reznik suggested providing the applicants with exemplar applications project proponents they could use for guidance. The District commented on the decoupling of design and construction funds, potential costs overruns, and the importance of the WASC getting projects in the ground.

There was a discussion about the SC providing valuable insight to the Regional Oversight Committee. The District mentioned that the SC could provide a 2-minute update to the ROC during public comment but that the ROC is responsible for high-level goals.

6) Public Comment Period for Agenda Items

No public comments received.

7) Voting items:

None.

Safe, Clean Water Program Scoring Committee



8) Items for Next Agenda

- a) Areas for SCWP/Scoring Improvements (Scoring Criteria, Application Process/Project Module)
- b) Useful Data for Scoring Committee

9) Adjournment

Bruce Reznik reminded Committee members that the next meeting will be held on May 4, 2021 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and adjourned the meeting.

SCORING COMMITTEE MEETING - April 6, 2021

Member Type	Quorum Present		Voting Item
	Member	Voting?	Meeting Minutes 02/02/21
Water Supply	Matt Stone	x	Y
Water Supply / Water Quality	J.R. De Shazo		
Nature-Based Solutions / Community Investments Benefits	Jill Sourial	x	Y
Nature-Based Solutions / Water Quality	<u>Bruce Reznik</u>	x	Y
Water Quality	Dave Sorem	x	Y
Water Quality	TJ Moon	x	Y
Total Non-Vacant Seats	6	Yay (Y)	5
Total Voting Members Present	5	Nay (N)	0
		Abstain (A)	0
		Total	5
			Approved

Other Attendees	
Brenda Ponton	Paul Glenn
Brett Perry	Simon Fowell
Christine McLeod	Wendy Dinh
Conor Mossavi	Jason Casanova
I EC	Katie Harrel
James Cramsie	Jun Wang
Joe Venzon	
Johanna Chang	
Lorena Matos	
Maritsa DRA Inc.	
Melanie Rivera	