

Water Resources Committee
June 12, 2013
Meeting Summary

Directors Present: J. Greci, S. Palmer, B. Stevens

Staff Present: J. Chahal, J. Duerig, A. Flores, C. Mahoney, C. Winey

Director Palmer called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

1. Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda

There were no public comments.

2. Chain of Lakes Planning Update and Coordination with East Pleasanton Specific Plan

a. East Pleasanton Specific Plan Update

Ms. Winey presented an update on the activities of the East Pleasanton Specific Plan (EPSP) Task Force and the Chain of Lakes (COLs) planning efforts, specifically the preliminary lake use evaluation for Lakes H, I, and Cope Lake.

The City of Pleasanton has brought four land use alternatives to various commissions, committees, and other interested parties. While none of the alternatives include Zone 7's properties or any trail proposals, both the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Trails Committee have requested public access on Zone 7 Property, including trails that wrap around the lakes. Zone 7 staff have been informing the Task Force about potential safety and liability concerns related to public access; these concerns were echoed by members of the public present at the meeting as well as by the Directors. Of particular concern are the steepness of the slopes around the lakes and riprap and other former mining debris left in the lakes.

Director Palmer pointed out the need to balance safety concerns with the importance of trails for community recreation, and the potential for some kind of compromise. Director Greci noted that other water agencies, such as SFPUC, would not allow access to for water quality reasons; furthermore, allowing access to the lakes would potentially require very costly security measures. In response to a question from Director Stevens, General Manager Duerig stated that all of Zone 7's agreements with recreation agencies (e.g., East Bay Regional Parks District) require those agencies to cover liability, and if recreation were allowed on the COLs, she would expect a similar arrangement. Director Stevens pointed out the need for the City of Pleasanton, or another recreation agency that wants recreation on the COLs, to start considering the significant cost implications; he also suggested that the staff put together a color-coded slide showing the slope gradients along the perimeters of the lakes for the Board presentation.

Ms. Janice Stern, Planning Manager for the City of Pleasanton, commended Ms. Winey's involvement in the EPSP Task Force and noted that there has been a helpful working relationship between Zone 7 staff and the City. The City understands Zone 7's concerns regarding trails and will continue to work with Zone 7 on developing more acceptable options, possibly extending trails into the streets where necessary.

b. Chain of Lakes Planning Update

Staff presented preliminary recommendations on the uses of Lakes H, I, and Cope. Cope Lake is preliminarily recommended for stormwater storage and was the only lake to receive a positive score for active recreation. Lake I is recommended to remain a groundwater recharge facility and is preliminarily recommended as suitable for education/passive recreation. A habitat corridor is preliminarily recommended along the eastern sides of Cope Lake and Lake H near the Arroyo Mocho. Lakes H, I, and Cope Lake will be further evaluated for the remaining lake uses as staff continues evaluating all of the lakes in the Chain of Lakes.

Director Stevens underlined the importance of flood protection for the Valley. Director Palmer wanted to confirm that stormwater storage is compatible with habitat conservation, and Ms. Mahoney responded that, in fact, coupling of stormwater management with certain types of habitat conservation can be compatible and is one of the recommended approaches by resource agencies. A member of the public expressed concern about the potential impacts of stormwater on recreation facilities, and the potential incompatibility of those two uses.

3. Pleasanton's Efforts to Implement Recycled Water

Mr. Daniel Smith, Director of Operations Services at the City of Pleasanton, gave a presentation on the City's recently completed recycled water feasibility study and next steps. He commended the collaborative efforts between the retailers and Zone 7 on efforts to expand recycled water use in the Valley. The City plans to begin implementation of recycled water use for irrigation as early as this summer, providing recycled water to Val Vista Park and Staples Ranch under DSRSD's and City of Livermore's permits, respectively. The City will then proceed on obtaining their own permit, complete the requisite environmental studies, and build a recycled water distribution network to serve Hacienda Business Park. In response to a question from the public, Mr. Smith confirmed that the proposed recycled water program recommended in the feasibility study will be for irrigation and not potable reuse.

The retailers will be working with Zone 7 on the potential development of an incentive program for recycled water implementation.

4. Verbal Comments

There were no verbal comments.

5. Adjournment

Director Palmer adjourned the meeting at 5:14 p.m.