

Minutes
Water Conservation Commission

July 11, 2019

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Commission Members Present:

Shawn Storm, P.E. – Chair
Phil Clark – Vice Chair
Audra Walton

Commission Members Absent:

Bill Huynh
Sarah Babcock

Staff Members Present:

Patrick Breen, Water Resources Manager
Paul Lord, Water Conservation Specialist
Paula Riso, Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board

Audience Members:

None.

3. Pledge of Allegiance:

Chair Storm led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Oral Communications:

No comments were made.

5. Consent Calendar:

A. Approve the June 6, 2019 Meeting Minutes:

Vice Chair Clark made a motion to approve the June 6, 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Walton seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Commissioner Walton	-	Yes	Vice Chair Clark	-	Yes
Commissioner Huynh	-	Absent	Chair Storm	-	Yes
Commissioner Babcock	-	Absent			

6. Action Items:

- A. Consider Recommending Forwarding the Central Coast Long-term Environmental Assessment Report to the District’s Community Outreach Committee for Review and Possible Action:

Mr. Breen introduced this item and gave a brief history of the Commission’s discussion.

Chair Storm commented that, while looking for data showing impacts of wastewater, he found this report on the toxins found off the coast as well as near the Salinas River. He stated that people should be aware of what they put down the toilets and drains and how it effects the environment. Chair Storm said there hasn’t been any notification on his water bill or anywhere on the website regarding wastewater and toxic dumping.

Vice Chair Clark commented that although he agrees with Chair Storm regarding the wastewater issues, he doesn’t think it is within the scope of the Commission and the Commission has other goals they are working on.

Mr. Breen stated that the Commission is being asked to consider recommending forwarding this report to the Community Outreach Committee (COC) for them to decide if they want to move forward with action of any kind. Chair Storm said all he was looking for was to have the information available on the website, and maybe a mail insert.

Chair Storm made a motion to forward this item to the Community Outreach Committee, with the proposed message, which is open for modification by the COC, for use on the website and bill inserts. Discussion followed. Chair Storm amended his motion to forward the reference link and the proposed message, which is open for modification by the COC, for use on the website and bill inserts. Commissioner Walton seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Commissioner Walton	-	Yes	Vice Chair Clark	-	Yes
Commissioner Huynh	-	Absent	Chair Storm	-	Yes
Commissioner Babcock	-	Absent			

7. Staff Reports:

- A. Receive a Final Report Summary on the WaterLink Direct Installation Program:

Mr. Lord introduced this item and reviewed the results of the WaterLink program. He stated that the District worked with Ecology Action to reach multifamily and commercial customers that would benefit from this program. Discussion followed.

B. Review the Landscape Incentive Program and Proposed Program Changes:

Mr. Lord introduced this item and gave a brief background of the current program. He then reviewed changes the previous Commission proposed to the program as well as staff's suggested changes. Mr. Lord reviewed the Landscape Project Criteria with the proposed changes. He discussed removing the requirement to use WUCOLS listed plants; established that turf must be in place at time of initial project review; one tree per ten thousand square feet of project area; removing the stipulation that only existing sites, developed before January 1, 2009 are eligible; and removing the incentive payments credited to customer accounts. Mr. Lord also reviewed the Incentive Payments and the proposed increases. He discussed increasing the lawn and sprinkler incentive to \$1 square foot; removing the sprinkler to drip incentive; increasing the maximum rebate for lawn and sprinkler replacement to \$2,000-\$5,000; and adding multi-family to the ET controller rebate. Discussion followed.

Chair Storm questioned the rainwater catchment program and asked if the rainwater could be used for flushing toilets. Mr. Lord stated that it would require permits and could be costly. Discussion followed.

Mr. Breen commented that the final revised program will be brought back for Commission approval to forward to the Board.

8. Commission Member Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Chair Storm reminded staff of his request for discussion on pressure reduced valves; usage distribution statistics to see how to improve conservation; and, the spreadsheet that shows usage statistics and the best rebates for a return on investment. Commissioner Walton asked for an update on the CalAm. Mr. Breen stated that he would meet with her offline to discuss CalAm.

9. Commissioner's Comments:

Chair Storm noted that Soquel Creek Water District is at Stage 3 water shortage with a recommended 25% reduction. Mr. Breen stated that they were experiencing other issues due to their geographical location and it was not necessarily due to drought.

Commissioner Walton commented that there was a Board of Supervisors meeting on July 15th.

Mr. Lord stated that there was a Fort Ord Clean-up scheduled for July 13th and that he and Vice Chair Clark would be manning a water conservation table.

Chair Storm thanked fellow Commissioners, staff, and the public for their time and contributions.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.