

CENTRAL COAST LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NETWORK (CCLEAN)

Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 23rd, 2024

2:00 pm- 3:30 pm

Via Teleconference Zoom Webinar

The meeting was called to order on October 23rd, 2024, at 2:00 pm by Patrick Treanor. Roll call was taken of the voting committee members signed on to Zoom.

Participants:

Present:

Carla James, Laboratory Supervisor: CAWD

Patrick Treanor, District Engineer: CAWD

Bryan Condry, Laboratory Manager: City of Watsonville

Olivia Woolery, Interim Laboratory Supervisor: Monterey One Water (M1W)

Akin Babatola, Laboratory/Environmental Compliance Manager (Chair): City of Santa Cruz

Jennie Munster, Quality Assurance/Quality Control Chemist| City of Santa Cruz

Kati King, Wastewater Lab/Compliance Manager: City of Scotts Valley

Barbara Buikema, General Manager: Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD)

Absent:

Sarah Stevens, Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Supervisor: Monterey One Water

Vistra Zero Landing Energy Storage Facility (Moss Landing Power Plant) Power Plant

Representative: Unknown At This Time

Jose Guzman, Operations Manager: Monterey One Water

A quorum was present.

Participants – Non-Voting Members: Present

Aroon Melwani, Senior Scientist, Central Coast Managing Principal Partner: Applied Marine Sciences (AMS)

Dane Hardin, Senior Marine Scientist, Principal: Applied Marine Sciences

Sarah Bragg-Flavan, Water Resource Control Engineer: Central Coast Water Board

Participants – Non-Voting Members: Absent

Mary Hamilton, Environmental Program Manager| Central Coast Water Board

Cameron Kostigen Mumper, Associate Manager | Pure Water Soquel

Virtual Public Attendees: None

1. ***Appearances/Public Comments:*** *No Public Appearances / Public Comment*

2. **Agenda Changes:**

None.

3. **Agenda Items:**

A. Introductions:

Attendees were noted.

B. Chair's Report by Akin Babatola

Akin Babatola reported briefly on a continuation of his comments in the last two meetings about how CCLEAN website was responding to the EPA and water quality control board in terms of synthesis of information for things like climate change, CEC, and pathogens.

Akin also brought up that the cost share for CCLEAN is based on flow and that the discharge flows will be changing because of pure water projects such as Soquel and M1W. Jennie clarified that the budget won't shrink it will just be reportioned at different proportions. Akin claimed that the budget might shrink because the scope will shrink if there is significantly less outflow by CCLEAN agencies on aggregate.

Dane discussed the history of the website to clarify some previous comments that it was previously hosted by redshift, but redshift was not helping with any of the content creation. Aroon confirmed that in order for the water board to see the new website and comment on the suitability of the information presentation that it needs to go live in the beta phase.

C. Review of September 25th Meeting Minutes

Discussion:

Akin commented that buoy was spelled wrong.

Decision:

Meeting minutes were approved with correction to spelling of buoy.

Action Item:

Fix spelling of buoy.

D. Lead Agency Remarks

Discussion:

None.

Decision:

None.

Action Item:

None

E. CCLEAN Topics or Questions for Water Board Staff

Patrick Treanor asked Sarah Bragg-Flavan about the recent changes in the water board staff. Sarah stated that Arwen Wyatt-Mair is the supervisor for the NPDES unit, Sarah Crable is the NPDES staff that works on the CAWD permit, Sarah Bragg-Flavan has the CCLEAN permit and most the other permits in Monterey and Santa Cruz. Staffing limitations are holding up reissuance of permits.

Akin asked if Sarah received Santa Cruz's recent quarterly report and commented that CIWQS doesn't have a placeholder to upload certain data under the new permit. Sarah said that she would work to sunset the 2013 permit because of the incomplete reporting issues. The state board has gotten rid of the contractor support for CIWQS so there is slow progress on improving CIWQS.

F. Program Director's Report

Discussion:

Aroon Melwani gave an update on regular CCLEAN activities:

- The dry season sampling complete and samples have been shipped for 2024.
- He received a response from water board staff that the state water board's review of the CCLEAN QAPP was completed and AMS would be addressing the comments which were minor. AMS is waiting on Mary to go through the compliance assessment which will take 2 to 3 more weeks.
- AMS have reviewed and submitted to CEDEN all data files received to date which includes partial data for dry and wet season 2024. Whatever they have is there.
- Aroon sent a backend wordpress link to the new website out and got comments back from Jennie, Carla, and Bryan. The only really significant comments were the comments shared by Akin and Jennie highlighting a program section to the website. Aroon said he would work on that. He is waiting to hear back from Barbara about website privacy provisions and Barbara is waiting to hear back from legal. There was also a comment linking the new website to the CAWD meeting landing page.
- Lastly Aroon asked about scoping for next program year and that we start coordinating on that.

Bryan asked about the Ad-Hoc subcommittee and that they need to get started with that for next year's scoping plan. Bryan asked who wanted to be on that subcommittee. Jennie, Bryan, Olivia and Carla stated that they wanted to be part of that committee.

Patrick commented that an ad-hoc committee can't constitute a quorum of members. It was discussed what a quorum would be for CCLEAN and that would need to be confirmed before moving forward.

Patrick asked if Soquel Creek was going to be a member of CCLEAN at some point. There wasn't a clear understanding of whether they would be part of CCLEAN and that would depend on the water board. Akin commented that Soquel Creek just started discharging from their new plant this past week. The Soquel Creek flow would be counted in the Santa Cruz flows for purposes of CCLEAN billing because their discharge is conveyed through Santa Cruz's outfall.

Decision:

None.

Action Item:

Patrick to check on quorum requirements. After the meeting it was determined that 4 members constitute a quorum for CCLEAN.

G. Water Board's Report

Discussion:

Sarah Bragg-Flavan commented that the water board will be slower in issuing permit renewals. She reported that she went to a pretreatment training recently, and EPA said there was ample funding for pretreatment looking at PFAS.

Akin brought up a new technology that he heard of from a local firm that uses biomass in activated sludge to remove PFAS, so he would be interested in EPA grant funding. More testing is required to verify effectiveness. Dane commented on the reported buildup of PFAS in some agricultural lands that have been treated with biowaste.

Decision:

None.

Action Item:

None.

H. Financial Report

Discussion:

Barbara went over the financial report from September and net receipts are still in the black through the first quarter of the FY. Everything is in good shape.

Decision:

Bryan motioned for approval of financial reports and Akin seconded. There was a roll call vote to approve the financial reports:

AYES: CAWD, City of Watsonville, City of Scotts Valley, Monterey One Water, City of Santa Cruz

NOES: None

ABSENT: Vistra Zero Landing

ABSTAIN: None

After a roll call vote the Financial Reports were accepted

Action Item:

None.

I. General Announcements

Barbara asked if there was a discussion about the website because she came late. Akin gave a summary of what was discussed.

November the 27th at 2:00 PM was the next meeting day for the steering committee stated on the agenda.

4. ADJOURNMENT: *Patrick Treanor adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.*