

**Willowbank County Service Area Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
Meeting of Wednesday, September 16, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.  
Multipurpose Room at Pioneer Elementary School  
5215 Hamel Street, Davis CA**

Committee Chair Cooluris called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. Cooluris welcomed Joanne Roy and Bill Corliss, the newly appointed members to the committee.

**PRESENT:** Kent Calfee, John Cooluris, Bill Corliss, Marcia Kreith, Dick McCapes, Joanne Roy, and Olin Woods

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT INCLUDED:** Regina Espinoza, Yolo County, and Maureen Poole, Secretary/Clerk; Linda Clevenger, Mike and Maryann Skeels, Ron Crites, Laura Schmidt, John Klisiewicz, Hodge Kawakami, Michael Dahmus, Albert Muir, Katie Flaherty, Terry and Susie Miller, Ron and Sara Ringen, Lyn Taylor, Mont Hubbard, John Lutch, Brian Morrissey, Gary Matteson, and John Eisele.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF February 26, 2015 MEETING:** The minutes of February 26, 2015 were unanimously approved as amended. MSC: Woods/Calfee.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Kreith inquired about the status of LAFCO's City of Davis and Associated CSA Municipal Service / Sphere of Influence review and asked that this item be included on the November 18, 2015 agenda. Woods indicated that he would follow up with LAFCO. Espinoza responded that a 15-30 minute presentation can be arranged for the committee.

Kreith also commented there had been a great amount of 24-hour plowing and land reconfiguration south of Montgomery Avenue, including creation of a detention channel Southwest of Montgomery/Oakside with a channel running from South to North immediately West of the extension of Oakside Drive. She asked if anyone knows what the landowners' plans are and whether permits had been issued. Hearing none, she went on to describe that the overflow from the detention channel along Montgomery Avenue will enter a small culvert under the extension of Oakside to discharge immediately to the East onto what is now an ag field. She is concerned these new channels could increase the possibility of flooding onto Montgomery Avenue in our area. Discussion ensued regarding the need to monitor the impact of ag drainage and new construction on the neighborhood.

**COUNTY REPORT:** Supervisor Provenza was not able to attend.

**ELECTION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR:**

Introducing the topic, Woods provided a brief history stating that the chair and the vice chair positions have come from different neighborhoods with the informal understanding that upon the completion of the term, the vice chair would become the new chair and we would continue to

rotate representation of neighborhoods in the same manner. The vice chair position has been vacant ever since Mike Dahmus, who resides in Oakside, left the committee. In keeping with tradition (and noting that we could change the tradition), Woods nominated Kreith for the position of Vice Chair. Cooluris acknowledged that Kreith does a lot of the difficult work for the Committee and opened the floor to nominate Kreith. Kreith accepted the nomination.

MSC: Woods/Corliss. Nomination was unanimously approved.

Roy inquired as to the length of the term of the chair's position. Woods said three years and that he thought this issue was last raised 2 years ago with respect to Cooluris as the chair and Mike Dahmus as the vice chair. Cooluris added that he recalls that the Committee agreed to a somewhat different approach and that we should review past meeting minutes on the same.

#### **WILLOWBANK'S IRRIGATION WATER OPTIONS:**

##### **A. Water Subcommittee Report:**

Tasks of the water subcommittee were highlighted by Cooluris. The subcommittee first met in 2013. To date, the subcommittee that consisted of Cooluris, Calfee, and Dahmus, together with Ron Crites advised on development of an RFP, and met with Wood Rodgers staff who the County selected because of their relationship with the County. The Wood Rodgers proposal was approved by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in December 2014 but work did not start until April 2015. The first draft report on Wood Rodgers irrigation water study was available for review and comment by the subcommittee May 22, 2015. That report is not yet final. In addition, Wood Rodgers' first draft of its Ground Water study, *Proposed New Irrigation Supply Well- Review and Assessment of Hydrogeologic Conditions and Recommendations* came out May 28, 2015 for subcommittee review and was subsequently revised and submitted by Wood Rodgers on September 4, 2015. We will be discussing this report later in the evening. Wood Rodgers staff looked into historic data provided by various agencies on groundwater quality and quantity. Noting that the water subcommittee and Wood Rodgers have completed this initial portion of the project, Cooluris stated that the main report that examines Willowbank irrigation options has not been finalized.

##### **B. Present and prospective Functions of the Water Subcommittee; Appointment of New Water Subcommittee Member:**

Cooluris opened the discussion regarding the original composition of the subcommittee. He indicated that Calfee, Dahmus and Cooluris were selected because they had been directly involved in the development of the current water system that links up with the City of Davis system. They were involved in the feasibility study, the construction contracts and construction phase of the system. The subcommittee subsequently added Ron Crites to the subcommittee because of his occupation as a registered civil engineer who frequently deals with water matters. Cooluris added that Crites, who is a Meadowbrook resident and not a member of the WCSA Advisory Committee, has provided the subcommittee with valuable information about our irrigation options. For example, because Meadowbrook and Oakside had cement/asbestos distribution pipes, Crites has suggested using the existing pipes as sleeves by slipping new pipes into the old ones, which should enable significant savings.

Turning to the subcommittee vacancy caused by Dahmus' resignation, Woods commented that there had been a tradition that the Vice Chair serve on various subcommittees over the years along with the Chair. Woods then put forward two concepts for committee consideration (1)

that Kreith be nominated to fill the open position, and (2) that Roy serve as a back-up if any subcommittee member could not be present. The question was asked if there was a set number for the subcommittee members. Cooluris indicated there was not. Espinoza added that the subcommittee can only have three members from the Advisory Committee so as not have a quorum of the Advisory Committee; however, community involvement is not restricted. Cooluris noted that McCapes could bring additional expertise to the committee. McCapes has business experience and has been following various water issues such as surface water rights, CA State Water Resources Control Board meetings, Sustainable Ground Water Act, etc. Kreith volunteered that she also is experienced with water related issues, had worked for UC Davis Professor and Cooperative Extension Specialist Robert Hagan on water policy issues, served on the Yolo County Water Advisory Board for many years, and organized many of the Water Education Foundation's early water tours. Roy stated that she also has regulatory and statutory experience and has worked on groundwater legislation at the State Legislature where she works. Discussion continued regarding the skill set and knowledge that would be the best fit for the subcommittee. Other comments pertained to the need for transparency and for neutrality on the subcommittee. There was extended discussion about the function of the subcommittee. Woods stated that it was his perception that some members of the Willowbank community held the belief, rightly or wrongly, that the Advisory Committee members were committed to the project and that it would be useful to include a subcommittee member who was neutral to the project, not in favor and not against. Cooluris replied that the role of the subcommittee has never been to make or propose the Advisory Committee's policy, but simply to perform tasks for the Advisory Committee regarding the feasibility study approved by the Advisory Committee. Calfee volunteered he is not and has not been committed to the project and is trying to understand what the options are. While Dahmus commented he always felt the role of the subcommittee is to collect information and present it to the neighborhood. He never felt the role of the subcommittee was to advocate positions.

After considerable discussion the Chair made the following motion:

MSC: Cooluris/Calfee - The current size and composition of the subcommittee be retained, i.e. two members of the Advisory Committee, Cooluris and Calfee, and Ron Crites, who is not a member of the WCSA Advisory Committee.

Ayes: Calfee, Cooluris, Corliss, and McCapes.

Noes: Kreith, Roy, and Woods.

Motion passed 4 to 3.

### **C. Wood Rodgers Groundwater Assessment:**

Cooluris reported that according to the WR report the shallow aquifer system in general has poor water quality for irrigation. However, the intermediate aquifers, which are 200-600 feet deep, would probably be the best for irrigation but do fluctuate seasonally. The deep aquifer system, 600' and below, can seasonally fluctuate and is currently in overdraft.

Cooluris noted that the WR report recommends performing exploratory drilling to 600' at a site that is determined suitable for the irrigation well prior to the design and construction of the well. This would be the best way to help design a well to meet the water quality and capacity needs of the community. (Note: Cooluris', Clay's and Garritson's wells are each at 300 feet.)

WR report also recommends the proposed well be within the intermediate aquifer range between 200'-600'.

Discussion ensued. Concerns regarding water quality were brought up. McCapes (MB) stated that he didn't think that they had any problems in the past, but Calfee (WB) indicated that they might have had some issue with contamination; however, it was resolved. It was noted that historically each street had its own water company, later they were interconnected for contingencies. The County Service Area and its Advisory Committee were formed as neighborhood water issues became more of a concern. Kreith (OS) noted that Oakside did not have a problem with the quality of their well water. It was pointed out that the WR report does not mention selenium, a major driver for the City's surface water project. Nor is there any discussion of subsidence.

It was also noted that the City of Davis Well 32 is on line now with its magnesium treatment facility. Kreith commented that in the last year or so our City water seems much softer and she has City documentation to that effect. In addition she suspects, but cannot verify, that productivity of vegetables in her garden has been different with the water we have received in the last few years

Brady questioned the accuracy of WR statement that the deep aquifer is in overdraft.

Kreith pointed out an apparent typo in last paragraph on Page one of *Wood Rogers Review and Assessment of Hydrogeologic Conditions and Recommendations*. Based on Fig 1 of WR and DWR Bulletin 118, she believes the second sentence should read:

"The CSA is located within Yolo Groundwater Subbasin (5-21.67) Subbasin) of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin (DWR Bulletin 118). " rather than "The CSA is located within Yolo Goundwater Subbasin (5-21.52) (Subbasin) of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin (WR 118)."

A question was asked regarding the cost projection of the projects, road blocks, and county, city and state regulations. Cooluris stated that these will be addressed at the next meeting when the main report should be available. The second draft of the feasibility study the subcommittee saw was very different than the first draft, and the subcommittee does not know what the final report will look like. The study that we discussed today pertains only to aquifer sustainability and quality. We should know better what our options are at the next meeting. While we do not know what we are going to see in the final report, most likely each neighborhood will have a different set of numbers. For example, Willowbank will need piping down the center of the street, while Meadowbrook and Oakside might be able to slip-line their pipes. Therefore, we expect different costs for the different neighborhoods. Discussions surrounding a well and its cost will occur in future meetings.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Irrigation Water Options  
The Brown Act Update  
LAFCO Municipal Service/ Sphere of Influence Review

**NEXT MEETING:** November 18, 2015

**ADJOURNMENT:** MSC: Cooluris/ Corliss 8:25 p.m. adjournment.

**Minutes Unanimously approved on March 9, 2016**