

Willowbank County Service Area Advisory Committee
Minutes
Meeting of Thursday, February 26, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.
Multipurpose Room, Marguerite Montgomery Elementary School
1441 Danbury Street, Davis, CA

Committee Chair John Cooluris called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Upon request of the Chair, Marcia Kreith agreed to take minutes.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kent Calfee, John Cooluris, Marcia Kreith, Dick McCapes and Olin Woods.

OTHERS PRESENT: Supervisor Jim Provenza and Regina Espinoza (Yolo County); Sara Ringen (WB), Ron Ringen (WB), Brian Morrissey, Jonathan Clay (M), Joanne Roy (O), Bill Corliss (W), Katie Flaherty (O), Don Gueffroy (M), Eileen Gueffroy (M), John Lutch (Almond, M), Hodge Kawakami (O), Gary Matteson (O), Terry Miller (W), Susie Miller (W).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2014 MEETING. Kreith requested the following changes be made to the minutes of November 19, 2014: add meeting location at top of minutes; change “a.m.” to “p.m.” with regard to the arrival time of McCapes; insert “are” before “specified” in third sentence of page one paragraph on member comments; remove the two hyphens erroneously inserted in the name of “Wood Rogers” on page 3. Woods/McCapes moved and seconded approval of the minutes as amended by Kreith. Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None raised.

MEMBER COMMENT: None raised.

WILLOWBANK’S IRRIGATION WATER OPTIONS: Regina Espinoza reported that although the Wood Rodgers proposal to undertake a feasibility study was approved by the County Board of Supervisors at it December 2, 2014 meeting, the contract was not finalized until this week. Wood Rodgers will commence work next week. Depending how long it takes to gather data, the study should be completed in one or two months, perhaps mid to end of April.

Clay and Corliss inquired if there had been changes in the scope of work of the February 24, 2014 proposal as recommended in July by this committee. Espinoza stated that changes in the scope of work pertain to obtaining information about the aquifer and its reliability. She has sent Cooluris a copy of the final contract. She will post it on the WCSA website or Cooluris can email a copy to those who request it.

COUNTY REPORT: SELECTION PROTOCOL FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Introducing the topic, Cooluris stated that he and several members from the former water companies remember a document in which the Board of Supervisors specified there would be a seven-member WCSA Advisory Committee composed of two members each from parcels in the former water companies (Oakside, Willowbank and Meadowbrook) and one member from the

Montgomery Avenue parcels that were not served by any water company. The document cannot be found although Cooluris had it in his files until he moved law office about 14 months ago. In any case, the BOS has authority over who is appointed to the Committee and Supervisor Provenza is the fourth supervisor to interact with the Advisory Committee.

Supervisor Provenza opened by mentioning that Kreith located a December 10, 1996 document from Roy Pederson, CAO written to Tom Stallard, Chair of the Board of Supervisors, in which he wrote “The Yolo County LAFCO suggested, and the Board of Supervisors agreed, that the Advisory Committee for Willowbank CSA include seven members. This will allow two members from each of the existing water companies and one from the area outside the current agencies. This number should help during the transition period.” Also on December 10, 1996, the Board of Supervisors appointed the first seven member Citizen Advisory Committee following the formula with which Roy Pederson said they had agreed (Minute Order 96-483).

Provenza stated there are now four applications for two vacant positions. The BOS makes appointments to the Committee at his recommendation. The BOS usually accepts the recommendations of the Supervisor in deference to the neighborhood in his or her district. Provenza is asking for our thoughts on whether or not it is important to continue the existing approach for selecting appointees. He said he has heard from about 10 people. About half favor retaining the approach that has been used since inception. Options suggested by others include: (1) there should be one from each of the neighborhoods and three at-large appointments, which he stated is probably within current authority; (2) keep the current representation and add two at-large members, expanding the committee to 9 members; and (3) include a representative of the Greater Willowbank Improvement Association on the WCSA Advisory Committee.

Cooluris reported that 35 persons—a 42.5% response rate—responded to the straw vote ballot (one vote per household). There was some overlap among those who responded directly to the Supervisor). 74% of those voting (26 owners) preferred the existing protocol for selecting members of the Willowbank CSA Advisory Committee. 20% of those responding (7 owners) favored a new approach where a member’s neighborhood is not relevant as long as it is within the Willowbank CSA boundary. 6% (2 owners) made other suggestions. The straw vote ballot and agenda for tonight’s meeting went to all 80 on our email list. In 1996 when forming the assessment district, there were 116 parcels.

The question arose about whether there should continue to be a requirement for representation from Montgomery Avenue homeowners outside the former water companies. Cooluris joked that he was appointed to be a tie breaker and that perhaps the Montgomery representative should be an at-large representative. Woods thought there was an argument for leaving the representation the way it is as each of the four neighborhoods has unique issues.

Clay asked why the three non water company parcels that each have their own wells are even in the CSA and expressed the view that WCSA does not need representation by districts, since Davis, which is much more populous, does not have districts. Cooluris noted the scope of WCSA is much greater than water supply. Kreith explained that the boundary of the WCSA is greater than the WCSA Assessment District, which consists of those who paid upfront, or are still paying for the bond that funded our improved unified distribution system, which connects to

the City of Davis water system. The three properties on the north side of Montgomery Avenue are part of the assessment district although they have not yet hooked up to the city and its meters; properties on Drummond are not part of WSA Assessment District, but those on the east side are within the WCSA boundary. She also noted that side or front lines of 19 parcels lie along Montgomery Avenue, only three of these parcels are not within the boundaries of the three former water companies.

Kreith and Cooluris then listed some other issues with which the CSA had gotten involved: FEMA mapping errors (FEMA had shown Putah Creek Drainage Canal as flowing between Oakside and Willowbank, which it does not), grading and clean up of the creek channel to minimize flooding, fire or health hazards, speed concerns, and monitoring of several 2x2 meetings.

Joanne Roy asserted that a straw vote from only 20% of the parcels is not meaningful. Cooluris noted the straw votes represented over 40 % of the households who have provided the WCSA with their email address.

Provenza returned the discussion to whether in the long run it might make sense to shift to having four at-large members and three each from the former water companies, or alternatively one each from the four neighborhoods plus three at-large members.

McCapes stated there is a lot of interaction between the Greater Willowbank Improvement Association (GWIA) and WCSA Advisory Committee and he is satisfied with the current WCSA representation by streets. Kreith noted that we could find ourselves in a different situation after the feasibility study results are in, for example, with respect to costs for distribution lines. That could affect how many parcels might want into a new assessment district, etc. and she favored retaining the current proportional character of the advisory board with two each from the former water company neighborhoods. She believes the Committee with its unique representation has not been parochial and has behaved responsibly. Under Cooluris' leadership the WCSA Advisory Committee has convened forums at which opinions can be heard and information shared.

Flaherty observed that people have not been fighting to get onto the advisory committee and concurs with having two representatives from each of the former water company neighborhoods. Clay suggested adding new members so new owners are not disenfranchised. Acknowledging the importance of Clay's sentiment, Calfee stated it is desirable to appoint people to the Committee who want to participate. For that reason, if there were insufficient applicants, he would consider appointing one person from each of the four neighborhoods and 3 members at-large members. A 9-member committee would get complicated, however. Woods observed that Meadowbrook's straw vote was 2:1 "don't fix it if it ain't broke." For that reason he prefers Nancy Erman's suggestion that *only* if there is not a sufficient number of appointees available, should the protocol be changed to one each from the four neighborhoods and three members appointed at-large. Cooluris noted that with four-year appointments it could take three to five years to get your neighborhood represented if we shift to at-large representation. Currently a vacancy exists from Oakside and from Willowbank, applications have been received from Bill Corliss (WB) and from Joanne Roy (O) and Chuck Kraus (O).

Continuing with audience discussion, Matteson reminded there are two alternatives for neighborhood residents to have their views collectively conveyed to elected bodies. (1) The WCSA Advisory Committee, which is appointed by the BOS to provide advice to the BOS; and (2) GWIA, which is a volunteer (nongovernmental) organization whose board is elected by dues paying members. In 1989 the concept of forming a WCSA was first explored with GWIA (and the water companies) by then Yolo County Supervisor Betsy Marchand. With the creation of the WCSA, GWIA became semi-dormant until its resuscitation by Rosie Cushing (O), Don Gueffroy (M), Terry Miller (W) and others in 2005.

Returning to the issue of WCSA Advisory Committee composition, Miller recommended the current neighborhood representation be retained.

Kreith urged those in the audience to continue attending and contributing to discussions at future Advisory Committee meetings even if they are not appointed to the committee.

QUALITY AND RELIABILITY OF INTERNET, TELEPHONE AND CELL PHONE SERVICE: Most in the room have AT&T phone service and some have Comcast for internet. A number have been having problems with slow speed, dropped internet connectivity, and increasing bills. One person urged support of the County for an intranet ring of fiber optics. Woods mentioned his AT&T rate kept going up and he called AT&T and was able to get it knocked down to what it was a year ago. Clay noted that cable speed is dependent on the number of users in the area. Kreith mentioned that after 5 weeks of continually unreliable AT&T internet, and frustrating long holds on the phone with people with meaningless suggestions and dropped conversations, she was given a phone number for customer retention/cancellations. She was also advised to request a case number. The very next day after her complaint to that department, which resulted in a rate adjustment, a field technician came out, quickly diagnosed the problem to a break in the line 2200 feet away (near the Montgomery Avenue bridge junction box), and he promptly repaired the line. But it took a lot of persistence.

COUNTY REPORT II: Supervisor Provenza reported that the BOS is committed to adding resources for contingency and to putting aside for retirement obligations. Still a ways to go, however. Funds for roads are a problem. A task force is looking at various options for road funding sources. In addition have been doing a lot of consolidation/combining services, as recently did for West Sacramento homeless, providing temporary housing together with access to mental health, drug and benefit services.

Regina Espinoza provided a two-page sheet describing LAFCO's current City of Davis and Associated CSAs Service Review (see attached). Policy Consulting Associates, will be the LAFCO MSR consultants. The Municipal Service Review (MSR) and Sphere of Influence Study (SOI) will review the Willowbank County Service Area in addition to the City of Davis, El Macero CSA, and North Davis Meadows CSA. The MSR will include an in-depth financial analysis on the CSAs and their financial relationships with the City of Davis. Input will be sought from the next CSA advisory committee meeting.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS: Matteson urged we keep an eye on claw garbage issues. He attended a City of Davis meeting last night in which they talked of putting garden trimmings in cans. Cooluris advised we are not necessarily tied to the Davis plans; last summer the BOS signed a 5-year contract with DWR for our waste pickup. Clay noted that regulations controlling non-point sources that drain into storm drains might be a driving issue besides bicyclists who don't want the piles.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Willowbank's irrigation water options and internet service.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: May 20, 2015. Note: The meeting scheduled last fall for March 18 is cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT: MSC: Calfee / Woods 8:26 p.m.

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