

Meeting Minutes

CCLEAN Steering Committee

March 4, 2008

10:00 – 12:00

Watsonville Wastewater Treatment Plant

Participants:

Barbara Pierson: City of Watsonville, (831) 768-3179

Dane Hardin: Applied Marine Sciences, (831) 426-6326

Ray von Dohren: Carmel Area Wastewater District, (831) 624-1248

Akin Babatola: City of Santa Cruz, (831) 420-6045

Garrett Haertel: Monterey Region Water Pollution Control Agency, (831) 883-6176

Greg Antosz: Monterey Region Water Pollution Control Agency, (831) 883-1118

Barry Lajole: Dynegy Moss Landing LLC, (831) 633-6738

Jim Crowley: City of Watsonville, (831) 768-3173

Mike Higgins: Central Coast Water Board. (805) 542-4649

Karen Worcester: Central Coast Water Board. (805) 549-3333 (Speaker Phone)

Matt Keeling: Central Coast Water Board, (805) 549-3685 (Speaker Phone)

Agenda Items:

1) **Review of last meeting minutes:** The minutes from the 01-18-08 meeting were approved. They will be posted on the website. The financial summary will also be posted on the website.

2) **Financial Update:** In the fiscal year 07/08 the City of Watsonville has collected \$211,241 from the member agencies and has spent \$142,337

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| The breakdown is: | Applied Marine Science | \$53,389 |
| | Weston Solutions | \$15,960 |
| | Kinnetic Laboratories (KLI) | \$63,096 |
| | Monterey Bay Analytical | \$ 100 |
| | City of Watsonville | \$ 480 |
| | Administration Fee (7%) | \$ 9,312 |

All the CCLEAN agencies are current on their payments and additional invoices are coming in.

3) **Additional Discussion of ASBS dischargers' participation in CCLEAN:** Dane met with the ASBS folks on Thursday, February 14. He presented them with a “straw man” monitoring program. Dane will send the Steering Committee members a copy of the monitoring program via e-mail. The agencies that are dealing with storm water runoff into “Areas of Special Biological Significance”, ASBS, are the cities of Monterey, Pacific Grove, and Carmel as well as the Aquarium, Hopkin Marine Station, and Pebble Beach

Company. They have expressed interest to Dane in participating in CCLEAN and seem to like the ideas expressed in Dane's plan. Their main concern is negotiating a program that satisfies the Water Boards. Dane has sent the ASBS agencies copies of the 2001 CCLEAN MOA. Garrett would also like to see a copy of the MOA. Dane will send it to him. An important issue is deciding how the cost of a larger CCLEAN program (including ASBS agencies) would be divided up. There was a discussion among the ASBS dischargers of using the amount of impervious surfaces to divide the cost of the storm water portion of the program.

4) **Comments on MRWPA's and Carmel's draft permits and Watsonville's and Santa Cruz's revised permits:**

Discussion on the MRPs was introduced by Barbara who expressed the following concerns:

a. The requirements for Integrative High Volume Water (IHVW) sampling outlined in the Monitoring and Reporting Programs, lacks specificity. There is the possibility that a specific IHVW may be preferred for all, but that option is not spelt out in the various MRPs. The ensuing discussion resolved that the work product to compare the two methods of IHVW sampling methods will inform that decision, and that is required for review On July 1, 2008, at which point the question might be answerable. The requirement for that work product is in the CCLEAN portion of the MRPs..

b. The MRPs indicate that the dischargers will monitor for reproductive endocrine disruptive effects in their effluents through flow- through bioassays. However, test organisms and cost allocations have not been discussed. Our discussion recalled that the EPA published the method pioneered for this process, the test organisms utilized in the EPA-sponsored protocol is the adult male Fathead, and Dane at the behest of CCLEAN steering committee, has approached the principal investigators for more specific details to determine the appropriate costs.

c. Since these changes are common to all the participants, and are done under the CCLEAN portions of our programs, Barbara wonders why they are specified as portions of the individual MRPs and not solely identified within the monitoring language of the CCLEAN program. She asked whether all the program components of the other two regional monitoring programs (for example, those administered by SCCWRP in Southern California and SFEI in the San Francisco Bay Area) in California are delineated in the Dischargers MRP's. Akin thinks that programs that are administered by SFEI are included in the Dischargers MRP, because municipalities and wastewater districts recognize the value of retaining the information within their permit because it affords them the deserved public credit for implementing the programs, as well as documenting the primacy that they hold on the direction of the efforts. Mike assured everyone that the Board would be reasonable about the requirements and we, as dischargers, are being given the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. The only real deadline is July 1, 2008 when a Technical Document, produced by CCLEAN, is due, that will decide what HVW sampling method will be used and a recommendation for the flow-through bioassay procedure. An update of the CCLEAN QAPP is also due on July 1st. Mike mentioned that Roger Briggs wants the permits for all the dischargers in the Monterey Bay area to be consistent and wants all dischargers to use the same HVW sampling method.

We decided that each discharger will submit comments on their respective permit and MRP to the Regional Board Staff by the 11th of March, but we will draft together comments about CCLEAN. Akin will send via e-mail his comments about CCLEAN to all the members and we can make changes and add other comments.

Ray wants the comment about CCLEAN to reflect the fact that Carmel is being asked to fund a monitoring program, the same as all the other dischargers, even though Carmel Area Wastewater District discharges 1/10 the volume of the other dischargers.

5) Budgetary Information about the proposed additions to effluent monitoring Dane distributed a spreadsheet with projected budget for the next 5 years of CCLEAN to all Steering Committee members. He added columns of the 06/07 and 07/08 budgets for comparison, as requested at the last meeting. Ray asked that Dane send him a scope of work for each task to present to his board when he requests money for CCLEAN. Dane has not gotten a response back from University of Colorado on the cost of the flow through trailers for the bioassay. He estimates that the cost would be about \$50,000 per trailer and that we would need 2 of them. Akin said he thought that one trailer would be enough to rotate between the 4 treatment plants.

There was a brief discussion on the E-Screen and A-Screen Assay that Patrice brought up last meeting. We decided that this test would not be applicable because it is ultra-sensitive and is only qualitative in its outcomes. It is fairly certain that all the effluents have estrogen mimicking compound, if not estrogen itself.

6) Report from Meetings.

A) California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) Meetings:

Akin has been attending CIWQS Steering Committee monthly meetings, and participating at the CWIQS users meetings. The project was designed to allow dischargers with NPDES permits to enter their water quality monitoring data on line. At the February meeting a letter from Alexis Strauss of the EPA was discussed. EPA is very unhappy with CIWQS. Apparently, CWIQS had corrupted data because of failure of design, and this affected data sent into EPA's national database when they tried to download information from the CIWQS. The letter states "We have reluctantly reached the conclusion that transfer of data from CIWQS into the National NPDES system will not be feasible. "As such, we can no longer provide any Federal grant resources in support of CIWQS-related tasks." EPA has softened its position because of the efforts of the eSMR CIWQS User Group and the Steering Committee to fix CIWQS. They hope to "roll out" the new system in July 08. EPA is currently working on having electronic data transfer available nationally in August 08. The advantage of the electronic transfer includes the reduction in the number of reports generated per reporting cycle and the streamlining of the data quality for all dischargers including storm water dischargers.

B) Dane met with Bridget Hoover and Gary Conley of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to discuss presentation of CCLEAN results at an upcoming

Coast and Ocean Regional Roundtable (CORRT). This is a forum organized by Monica Hunter of the Planning and Conservation League Foundation to promote dialogue between water quality scientists and local resource managers and planners. Monica also is a member of the Regional Board.

6) **Project Update:**

- A) **River Sampling:** This will just be the Pajaro and San Lorenzo Rivers. The cost will be covered by Watsonville and Santa Cruz respectively. The sampling occurred during the same time period as the Effluent sampling.
- B) **Effluent Sampling:** The wet weather sampling occurred in February and March of 2008.
- D) **Sediment Sampling:** Dane was offered sea time for CCLEAN on the Sanctuary's boat, "The Fulmar". A graduate student of Don Weston at UC Berkeley will go out and collect sediment sample to analyze for pyrethroids and benthic organisms. NewFields has almost completed the analysis of the benthos and sediment chemistry of CCLEAN data for the first 5 years of the program.
- E) **Mussel Sampling:** Mussel sampling was done during the wet season.
- F) **Offshore Ambient Monitoring:** The wet weather sampling will be done in February and March of 2008. Akin will do the orthophosphate analysis when the buoys are retrieved.
- G) **Proposition 50 Grant:** We just completed the quarterly sampling at the treatment plants. The stream and river water samples are collected on a monthly basis. Dane distributed data from this program via e-mail. Akin is concerned with the low total and fecal coliform results of the Santa Cruz effluent.

7) **Set Date for the next Meeting:** The next meeting was set for Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at the WWTP in Watsonville. Note: This was changed to Tuesday, April 22, from 10 -12, at the WWTP in Watsonville.