



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**June 15, 2011**

**David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street.**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bullock called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Committee members present: Chair Paul Bullock, Danielle De Smeth, LeeAnne French, Lee Moldaver, Betsy Weber, Annie Marroquin, Natasha Lohmus

Committee members absent: none

Liaison members present: Parks and Recreation Commissioner Chris Casebeer

Liaison members absent: Planning Commissioner Michael Jordan, Council Member Michael Self

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks Administrative Specialist Jen Hollywood, Code Enforcement Officer Jim Rumbley, Water Resources Specialist Autumn Malanca

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion:

Committee Members Moldaver/Weber to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 18, 2011.

Vote:

Voice vote 4/0.

**AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

Mr. Benson introduced Annie Marroquin as the new Creeks Advisory Committee Youth Intern.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one wished to speak.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**8. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**a. Water Quality Research and Monitoring Program Update and Fiscal Year 2012 Research Plan**

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation and discuss the Water Quality Research and Monitoring Program Update and Fiscal Year 2012 Research Plan.

Documents:

Staff Report – June 2011  
Power Point Presentation – June 2011

Speakers:

Jill Murray, Water Quality Research Coordinator

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding rain season dates; surprises encountered in this years testing; whether fathead minnows were always used for toxicity testing; what the measuring guides for toxicity levels are; whether fire retardents are included in water quality testing in Santa Barbara; if coal based sealants have been found locally; whether wood curing/preserving chemicals such as arsenic have been found; if testing has been done and what were the results in Mission Lagoon; and, if alternatives to animal testing exist.

Ms. Murray responded that September 1<sup>st</sup> is considered the start of the new rain season for SB County; that the concentration of pesticides was unexpected and there are questions of whether there was contamination in the samples; that only fathead minnows were used until this year when other organisms were added; that a variety of sources are used for determining toxicity tests including ones from the Regional Board, CA Toxic Rules, and EPA tables and are always selected based on whether they are relevant to the questions; that the Creeks Division is not currently testing for fire retardants, although retardants include ammonia which has led to fish kills and the Forest Service is going through a re-evaluation of the retardents used; that Public Works projects are all asphalt based but the Creeks Division is looking into testing for coal based sealents on private properties; that high amounts of copper are generally found and the City's sediments and waters commonly contain high amounts of naturally occurring arsenic; that most testing in Mission Lagoon is for human indicator bacteria and some DNA based source tracking, although Mission Lagoon was included in a series of quarterly testing for metals, hydrocarbons, pesticides and toxicity; and, that water quality testing is done on a 3 Tiered system where chemical measurement is level 1, toxicity testing is level 2 where organisms are exposed and do perish, and bioassessment is level 3 where animals are observed in the field to assess whether the organisms present are tolerant to the pollution or not. No

alternatives to animal testing have been researched for the toxicity testing as it gives the most accurate results and testing is discontinued once questions have been answered.

Motion:

Committee Members Moldaver/Lohmus to approve recommendation.

Vote:

Voice vote 4/0.

Public Comment: no one wished to speak

**b. Education and Outreach Program Update**

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation and discuss the Creeks Division Education and Outreach Program.

Documents:

Staff Report – June 2011

Power Point Presentation – June 2011

Speakers:

Liz Smith, Creeks Outreach Coordinator

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding how this program works to help improve water quality; whether the Creeks Division has interest in working with UCSB students in Environmental Media classes to create videos; how the schools get involved with Art from Scrap programs; whether the high schools are involved in the outreach; if the beaches involved in clean ups are also being cleaned weekly by Creeks Division contractors; whether movie theater advertising has been considered; how often a public opinion survey is taken; and, whether the focus in 2008 was on children.

Ms. Smith responded that the Education and Outreach Program helps to educate youth and citizens about storm drains, urban runoff, and how their behaviors directly affect the water quality in Santa Barbara; that the Creeks Division worked with UCSB Environmental Media students on a video about Steelhead this year; that flyers are given to the schools and then teachers will contact Art from Scrap to get involved in programs and field trips; that field trips are available up to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, but outreach is not currently directed at the high schools; that there is some overlap in the clean ups by contractors, but most of the time contractors are asked to not go out before a clean up is scheduled; that in the past the movie theaters

did not offer free nonprofit advertising but the Creeks Division is always looking to reach new audiences; and, that the survey is based on a Public Education Program that was created in 2002 and is done over the phone in English and Spanish.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion:

Committee members Moldaver/DeSmeth to adjourn.

Ms. Weber adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Benson', written in a cursive style.

Cameron Benson  
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager