

REGIONAL INVASIVE MUSSELS TASK FORCE MEETING NOTES

Date: Monday, March 3, 2014 **Time:** 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Location: Clearlake City Hall, 14050 Olympic Drive, Clearlake, CA 95422

Task Force Members present: Gary Hansen (Lake County Watershed Protection District - LCWPD), Chris Lee (Solano County Water Agency - SCWA), Jennifer Reed (Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District – YFCWCDD), Jason Jordan (Bureau of Reclamation- Lake Berryessa) Member absent: Jeff Sharp (Napa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District - NCFWCDD)

Others present: Doug Herren (City of Clearlake), Jeanette Wrynski (Yolo County Resource Conservation District – YCRCD), Heather Nichols (YCRCD), Mark Miller (Lake County Water Resources), Ken Davis (WSPS), Suzanne Lyons (Invasive Species Council), Lolita Adrien-Dunlap (public), Mike Dunlap (public), Victoria Brandon (Sierra Club), Dan Hedem (Clearlake Oaks County Water), Betsy Cawn (The Essential Public Information Center), Chuck Davis (City of Clearlake Department of Public Works), Sarah Ryan (Big Valley Rancheria) , Larry Swift (public)

AGENDA

- 1. Call Meeting to Order and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 10:06am by Gary Hansen.
- 2. Approval of Agenda ACTION:** Approve agenda as submitted. **MOTION:** Hansen; **SECOND:** Lee. **DISCUSSION:** None. **AYES:** Unanimous (Lee, Hansen, Reed, Jordan)
- 3. Public comment:** Request by Mike Dunlap to clarify whether the Task Force is the same as the IRWM Coordinating Committee. Hansen stated that the Task Force is the same as the IRWM Coordinating Committee.
- 4. Overview of current mussel invasion situation and State mussel detection efforts**

Mark Miller reviewed actions in Lake County. Program began in 2008 when the Lake County Board of Supervisors wrote a screening ordinance for boat inspection. Boats are screened (Miller provided the current screening forms and program brochure to the Task Force). The program has 36 screening locations and 21 inspectors. The fee is \$10 per boat. \$7 per screening goes to local businesses that do the screening. \$3 per screening (\$45,000 for 2013) goes to fund program costs. The program is also lucrative to participating businesses that screen, Miller stated, with one business taking \$21,000 in fee proceeds in 2013. In 2013, a total of 14,000 boats were screened, including 183 hands-on inspections and nine decontaminations (150 degree hot water wash with a mobile “decon” unit). Miller noted that a field survey of Clear Lake counted a total of 749 launching locations that included a ramp. These locations are available as GIS data and Miller said he could make this data available.



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Miller stated that there is no central database to get information on other lakes in the State. Boats from lakes in Solano, Sonoma, Mendocino counties are most commonly seen entering Clear Lake and boat cleanliness from these counties is most important to monitor.

Question from Reed: what is DFW's monitoring now? Miller: Substrate structure monitoring is reported to the State twice a year. Veliger tows occur twice a year in spring and late October. There is also a local volunteer-run substrate monitoring program being implemented in spring with the installation of 50 structures.

Comments from Hansen and others – There is a need for 1) a central clearinghouse and database for information on lakes throughout the state, 2) improved inspection methods at California borders, 3) a rapid communication system across parties including the State when there has been detection, 4) communication on what the State (CDFW) activities are/have been, and 5) a plan of action if a contaminated boat has launched.

Lee- lack of jurisdiction for enforcement is an issue. We also need good education with a consistent message.

Reed-we need to address boaters who want to use Indian Valley Reservoir and who come from Colusa, Sacramento and Yolo Counties where there is little interface with Quagga Mussel inspection and education.

Jordan: At Lake Berryessa, which is under federal jurisdiction, there are 5 ramps. One is run by Bureau of Reclamation and four by concessionaires. There is a self inspection program that runs on their website and is used by park rangers and interns at the County's launch site.

There was discussion of the numerous bass tournaments and how to include inspection and public education at these events. There was agreement that counties need to coordinate their efforts.

Ken Davis (for Solano County Water Agency) – Davis reported that they do plankton surveys once a month on dock inspections and visually check banks during low water periods. There is a really active program on Putah South/Berryessa canal.

5. Report on State boat registration fees collected for invasive control

The State is collecting boat registration fees that do not meet requirements of Lake County's ordinance and do not protect vulnerable lakes in our region. Miller estimated that the state so far has collected \$20 million in boat fees.

6. Strategize Task Force first steps

Identify:

- Activities and enforcement issues in each county
- Coordination needs (education, notification, enforcement)



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Describe:

- Proposed clearinghouse and early detection system
- Proposed county ordinance language and jurisdiction changes (ask other areas for copies of their ordinances i.e. Tahoe)
- Proposed outreach/education message for consistency across region

Brainstorm:

- Future funding sources (Investigate “Natural Hazard Mitigation” funds, and grants from the Dept. of Boating and Waterways; Inquire about use of State (CDFW) collected program fees)
- Proposal development strategy for IRWMP Round 3 funding

Outcomes Desired:

- Develop an effective information exchange between CC members, agencies and stakeholders
- Develop an early warning system for quick exchange of detection information
- Develop a region-wide coordination on a uniform message
- Make a regional effort to request that all local and state agencies step up their programs for boat inspections, fee collection and education, including and especially at borders
- Prepare proposal for Prop 84 IRWM Round 3 implementation grants

7. Additional issues

Next month there is an opportunity for a “Public Ask” for use of funds from fees collected to “protect the public trust.” Accelerate engagement with the State on these issues. Consider updating signs on Clear Lake. This new body could communicate better with John Garamendi to seek assistance in working with the State

8. Discuss next meeting date and location

A Doodle Poll will be taken among Task Force members for the best date, time and location for the next meeting.

9. Site visit to Clearlake Bait & Tackle to review Lake County mussel sticker screening program - 14699 Lakeshore Drive. Shop owner reviewed entire boat screening process and shared tips for effective screening procedures.

10. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm by LCWPD representative Gary Hansen.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Heather Nichols, YCRCD. Approved on ___ 2013 by the Westside Sac IRWM Regional Invasive Mussel Task Force.

By: _____
Gary Hansen, Committee Chair



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