

CV-SALTS Executive Committee
Thursday, January 21, 2010; 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Attendees: See [Committee Roster](#) for attendance.

Executive Committee Chair Mona Schulman called the meeting at 1:38 followed by introductions of all present in-house and on teleconference.

1. Welcome, Introductions, Circulate Roster

Chair welcomed the group and telephone attendees and invited self introductions. The Chair indicated that a roster was being circulated.

- a. **Review/Approve Executive Committee Meeting notes from December 16th** - Motion to approve by Member Longley and seconded by Member Willett. The motion was approved.
- b. **Appreciation [Letter PEOC Co-Chair Lau-Staggs](#)**
The committee approved the letter thanking the Co-chair of the PEOC for her service.
- c. Motion by Member Longley and seconded by Member Willett. The motion was approved.
- d. **Circulate [Membership Roster](#)** - done

2. Issue #2 of the [Policy Issues List](#)

- a. **Policy Issue 2, Policy Background on Anti-Degradation and Development of Whitepaper for February/March**

A member of Joe DiGiorgio's firm gave a presentation in the Technical Committee meeting about how they use calculations of excess salts to assess capacity. The committee is handling these items in order and this was one item that the committee felt needed a whitepaper approach. Bobbi Larsen will be putting together a concentrated view on issue 2 for the next meeting. The committee is looking at beneficial uses of anti-degradation relating to salt first.

Suggestion was made that the focus be on the general background of the policy. The current implementation guide is directed at surface waters. Suggestion was made that this whitepaper should designate beneficial uses or re-designate beneficial uses and whether to adopt or change water-quality objectives and how does anti-degradation fit into the entire planning process.

The technical committee was looking at salt concentration and the effect on the water quality objectives. There are different uses for different water sources. The change in water quality is tied into the project's use. Source water changes outcomes, but there is always some degradation.

The State Board in its recycled water policy is weighing in by stating that their purpose and intent is that all elements of this recycled water policy be interpreted in a manner that fully implements state and federal water quality policies and regulations in order to enhance the environment and put the waters of the state to the full use of which they are capable.

Daniel summarized the comments by saying that the committee needs to understand and implement the state's water quality policies in the anti-degradation plan. The committee may wish to strive to determine what the maximum benefit is to the Central Valley and take account of all the uses of water in the Central Valley and incorporate that into the maximum benefit demonstration to be included in new basin plans.

3. Goals/Progress Criteria 2010 (Rudy)

They have not been approved at management board.

4. Committee [Draft Work Plan/Budget](#) and [Agenda Planning Calendar](#)

There minor changes from the last meeting that Daniel added to the draft work plan and budget. Any additional comments that come up after the meeting to be sent to Daniel.

The updated plan added the triennial review program and the irrigated lands program. The time line may need to be adjusted according to the presentation in the Technical committee meeting from the morning.

5. Introduction of Coordination Programs for future approval/policy

a. New Programs presented at the Technical Committee Irrigated Lands

Overview of the Irrigated Lands project – what it is, what changes are being made – given in the Technical Committee meeting held that morning. Interest in how salt is going to affect the basin plan. The Irrigated Lands policy is really the implementation phase of the Basin Plan. They are aware of CV-SALTS and they are coordinating with us.

b. Policy Salt/Nitrate Best Management Practice [Questions](#), [Winery Ops](#), [Land Application](#) joint with Technical Committee

The Technical Committee when through a thorough presentation on the process that the wineries have put together to use salt and nitrate management. The Technical Committee will work to put together a recommendation workshop on a group, on a conference call. There were several questions that the Technical Committee wanted the Executive Committee to consider.

(Chris presenting) The Technical Committee would like the Executive Committee to provide feedback about how to limit introduction of salt into the system and better manage nitrate production. Is this the sort of thing that the Technical Committee should be looking at? The regional board is going to continue to provide permits and look into enforcing rules and we're supposed to define some of these.

Daniel asked can some of these Best Management Practice policies be implemented or can the Executive Committee determine whether these actions are consistent with CV-SALTS. There is currently no protocol for evaluating these policies and these are the kinds of things we would like to see addressed.

Question about whether the committee should take a geographical approach or commodity-based approach? A suggestion was made that the commodity-based approach would yield the most up-front results, rather than the geographically approach.

Karl suggested that at this point, groups be provided an opportunity to develop these practices with the understanding that there is no safe harbor for those who implement BMPs, water quality monitoring results will still be the governing factor.

A suggestion was made that the technology not be itemized in the plan, but kept outside the basin plan so it can be updated easily by the board.

The Technical Committee will establish a sub-committee that will come up with recommendations about moving forward. They will look at if there is any technology that isn't already implemented in the plan that could/should be added.

Suggestion that there be a list of BMPs or things that could be implemented but it doesn't mean that that list is a hierarchy

Comment that one of the things the technical committee should look for and the executive committee should answer when answering the questions is Question about how the technical committee was going to go about evaluating that. Would they look at economics, for example? How much analysis has been done to ensure that an overall beneficial positive impact as opposed to dealing with on particular constituent?

A suggestion was made that the Executive Committee's answers to the questions go back to the technical committee prior to the committee providing the final report. A suggestion was made that the Regional Board also be invited to provide feedback. A suggestion was made that all the components from all contributors follow a certain structure.

Executive Committee should encourage industry groups to develop BMPs with the incentive that if there is no industry input that the report will be based on non-industry feedback and the technical committee should develop some guidelines as to how this information will be evaluated. The Wine Institute report will be the test so the BMPs can be approved by the Technical Committee and then the Executive Committee. Executive Committee will have to have some kind of criteria for approving or rejecting the report.

6. Projects List & Grant Funding/Appoint subcommittee

There is money available for implementation projects. We need a list of projects using the workplan outline, but specific parts of implementation also need to be included (eg: collecting salinity data). Daniel asked for some help on what kind of projects should be implemented, how to implement some of these projects and what kind of funding sources are out there. Daniel suggested that those involved in CV-SALTS and agencies apply for grants through their agencies as a "gift-in-kind" for CV-SALTS.

One that is most time sensitive specialty crop money (\$17 million available) including water quality deadline for pre-proposal is February 1. The Wine Institute will be applying for this funding for lower-salt cleaning solutions. The Technical Committee recommended the project be supported to receive grant funds. Members of the Technical and Executive Committees spoke in favor of the application and the Executive Committee agreed to support the request.

Request to the State Board Recycled Water policy and a pledge by DWR to put \$20 million to help develop the Integrated Water Management Plan, but not much progress made on that.

Recommendation that there be a list of projects first and then we would know where to go for the money.

Daniel will approach various members of the technical committee for their input and action on implementation.

7. Receive reports and recommended actions from Economic and Social Cost, Technical, and Public Education and Outreach Committee

- a. **Co-Chair Nomination from PEOC** – Jim DiGiorgio was appointed as co-chair of the PEOC committee – Upon motion by Dave Melilli, Seconded by Linda Dorn, Motion was approved

- b. **Update on [Salt and Nitrate Pilot Study](#)**

The committee is still responding to comments into the first part of February. The goal is to deliver it by February 10th and then have a presentation of the new final report at the March meeting.

- c. **CAA Funding Contract is Finalized** – It has been signed by both committees and sent off including the draft scope that was approved by the Executive Committee at the last meeting. Meeting Monday or Tuesday of next week.

Daniel indicated the Executive Committee had approved funding as requested authority from the committee for about \$250,000 from the Beneficial Use and Objectives Study (BUOS) allocated toward the pilot work in June or July 2009. We are now ready and are planning to transfer all of Task 2A and 2B (\$264,900) to the State Board Contract. Daniel asked if anyone had questions or concerns. Hearing none, he agreed to bring the item on consent for the March Meeting. They are also hoping to have the RFP finalized in February for the Phase 1 of the BUOS study.

- d. Other issues from Chairs

8. Next Meeting February 10 – Final [2010 Calendar](#) – February meeting is at the Regional Board Offices in Rancho Cordova

9. Adjourned at 3:20 pm