

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ZONE 9 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Approved Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Meeting materials and video recordings can be viewed at: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone9>

Members Attending:

Wayne Peterson, County At-Large (Chair)
Brian Nelson, City Staff (Vice Chair)
Christine Mulholland, City At-Large
Michelle Shoresman, City Council
Jonathan Hall, County At-Large

Non-Voting Members and Guests Attending:

Janet Andrews, County At-Large
Shelsie Moore, City Staff
Freddy Otte, City of San Luis Obispo
Brendan Clark, County of San Luis Obispo (Secretary)
Josh Porter, County of San Luis Obispo
May Thiri Kyaw, County of San Luis Obispo
Lucia Pohlman, City of San Luis Obispo
Troy Barnhart, County of San Luis Obispo
Joey Steil, County of San Luis Obispo
Jenny Williamson, County of San Luis Obispo
Kathy Borland, Resident

1. Introductions and roll call

The Committee Chair calls the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and a quorum is established. Members and attendees introduce themselves.

2. Approval of April 12, 2023 meeting minutes

Item start time ~ [00:02:45](#)

W. Peterson introduces the item and asks for questions or comments from the Committee.

J. Hall notes a typo in section 5c of the ongoing updates report and suggests changing the word “up” to “update”.

C. Mulholland suggests changing the word “motions” to “moves” to capture the action more accurately throughout the minutes.

C. Mulholland moves to approve the April 12, 2023 meeting minutes, as corrected.

M. Shoresman seconds the motion.

The Committee approves the April 12, 2023 meeting minutes, as corrected (5-0-0).

3. Discussion on the Purpose and History of Zone 9 and the Advisory Committee

Item start time ~ [00:04:32](#)

W. Peterson introduces the item and provides an overview of the purpose and history of Zone 9 and the Advisory Committee.

C. Mulholland supports W. Peterson's suggestion to provide an Annual Zone 9 Report to the County Board of Supervisors, adding that this is a current practice of the Water Resources Advisory Committee. W. Peterson responds.

C. Mulholland asks if there are any Zone 9 coordination efforts on Cal Poly's land. W. Peterson and B. Clark respond.

F. Otte comments that Zone 9 Member S. Wald is working with Creek Lands Conservation on a SLO Creek watershed resiliency plan that identifies different areas for conservation and restoration actions, some of which are on private property. The plan should be completed next year; perhaps this could help inform the update of the Waterway Management Plan and the Zone 9 Advisory Committee can receive an update on these efforts.

W. Peterson, F. Otte, and C. Mulholland discuss the current projects and permitting strategy within the Waterway Management Plan.

C. Mulholland asks if Cal Poly has shown interest in working on any suggested projects or becoming Members of the Zone 9 Advisory Committee. F. Otte responds.

W. Peterson asks if the Committee wants to make changes to the purpose or membership makeup of the Committee. C. Mulholland, M. Shoresman, B. Clark, and W. Peterson discuss. No changes are recommended at this time.

4. Discussion on a Waterway Management Plan Update

Item start time ~ [00:37:13](#)

W. Peterson introduces the item and B. Clark presents on the Water Management Plan update and asks for questions or comments from the Committee.

M. Shoresman comments in favor of updating the project strategy and scope, revising, and prioritizing the project list, and including a timeline in the plan. B. Clark responds.

W. Peterson comments on the need for engagement programs to inform the community on how to properly use flood gates and sandbags for flood protection.

M. Shoresman concurs, adding that the City of San Luis Obispo's Economic Development Strategic Plan includes a preparedness component which could be a nexus for community education efforts.

F. Otte comments on the benefits of prewinter flood gate training and utilizing available forecasting tools/alerts to notify businesses and residents of pending flood events.

J. Hall, B. Nelson, and W. Peterson discuss the benefits of providing preparedness education to the public.

C. Mulholland comments on the process of reevaluating the flood management plan projects and the need to be flexible when prioritizing them.

5. Discussion on a State of the Watershed Event

Item start time ~ [01:03:48](#)

W. Peterson introduces the item and B. Clark discusses the intention of holding a *State of the Watershed Event* and asks for questions or comments from the Committee.

F. Otte comments on the value of an expanded presentation to the public that outlines current projects and future work efforts.

C. Mulholland asks who the intended audience would be for this event and how effective we would be at reaching community members who are unaware of the management efforts throughout the watershed.

K. Borland comments on the varying levels of engagement from local residents and asks if the Committee will continue receiving updates on the work being performed in the East Fork area. B. Clark and F. Otte respond.

The Committee discusses options for the event, including:

- Community engagement strategies
- The intended audience
- Expected attendance
- Preferred meeting and content formats
- The possible need for 2 separate meetings – one having a planning/technical focus and the other having a broader public focus
- Preferred times/dates for holding the event(s)
- Whether a more technical presentation could be held as a Zone 9 meeting
- If having a flood preparedness event in the Fall should be prioritized

6. Ongoing Updates

Item start time ~ [01:29:37](#)

a. Mid-Higuera Bypass Project

S. Moore provides a verbal update on the Mid-Higuera Bypass Project.

b. Creek Maintenance

F. Otte provides a verbal update on creek maintenance activities.

c. Arundo Removal

J. Hall provides a verbal update on Arundo removal activities.

d. Avila Study

B. Clark provides a verbal update on the Avila Beach drainage study.

7. Public comment

None

8. Future agenda items

None

W. Peterson notes that the next Zone 9 Advisory Committee meeting will take place on October 11th at 1:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:11 PM