

Planning, Building & Environmental Services

Watershed Information and Conservation Council

Presented by Dana Morrison, Supervising Planner - Conservation



Procedural Requirements:

- Staff Report/Presentation
- Public Comments
- Discussion
- Provide direction to staff



Background

- 1990 Napa River impaired by sedimentation due to erosion
- Resolution No. 02-103 (2002) created Watershed Information and Conservation Council (WICC).
- Advisory committee to Board of Supervisors.
- Venue for stakeholders; solutions to watershed issues.
- Politically neutral; not involved in regulatory process.
- Recent main purpose: collect and disseminate best possible information to aid decision-makers.
- Evaluate and discuss: watershed restoration and resource protection activities, coordination of land acquisition, development of long-term watershed resource management plans and programs



WICC Meetings

Public meetings on the 4th Thursday of January, April, July and October at 3:00pm.

17 members with 7 alternates:

- One (1) member and one (1) alternate member from the Napa County Regional Parks and Open Space District Board of Directors;
- One (1) director or associate director from the Napa County Resource Conservation District;
- One (1) representative from the Natural Resources Conservation Service;
- Two (2) members and one (1) alternate member of the Napa County Board of Supervisors;
- One (1) member of the Napa County Planning Commission;
- Five (5) members from each city or town in Napa County (American Canyon, Calistoga, Napa, St. Helena and Yountville); and five (5) alternate City and Town council members; and
- Six (6) Napa County residents from the public at large representing environmental, agricultural, development and community interests.



WICC Oversight

- Difficult to achieve quorum
- Prior to 2025 overseen by Sustainability Division of the Planning, Building and Environmental Services (PBES) Department
- Current oversight: Conservation Division of PBES.
 - Conservation team oversees vineyard conversions and implements the Conservation Element of the General Plan and Conservation Section of the Zoning Code (Chapter 18.108), oversees Wildlife Conservation Commission (WCC), and manages Williamson Act Contracts.
 - WCC is an eight-member commission that advises the BOS on funding proposals that preserve and enhance Napa County wildlife and their habitats, pursuant to [California Fish and Game Code §13103](#).





WICC reimagining continued

- Currently, lacks a clear actionable purpose.
- Met three times in 2024, resulted in four actionable items, three related to general maintenance of the council:
- Met two times in 2023 with no action item and two meetings were canceled.
- Met four times in 2022, most action items related to maintenance of council

Staff Reimagining Recommendations

- Combine with another Council
 - Flood and Water Conservation District
 - Other water related agency/committee/group?
- If remaining a separate body - set clear goal(s) or vision(s)
 - Continue to be forum for disseminating information to public BUT on broader conservation and sustainability topics/programs in County:
 - fuel management,
 - habitat restoration projects,
 - sustainability,
 - enhancement of natural resources (improving pollinator habitat and riparian corridors),
 - wildlife corridors and linkages,
 - all of which contribute to a thriving watershed,
 - in addition to watershed resources



Staff Recommendation Continued...

- Trim size of member body (8-10 members)
- Reduce number of meetings (2-3 per year),
 - option to call special meetings, if needed.
- Add WICC to Legistar and AgendaNet to simplify creation of agendas, and disseminating of packets and minutes, etc.
- New strategic plan and update bylaws

Advisory or Actionable body?

- Simply a forum for disseminating information? Or have an advisory capacity?
- Direct actionable decisions?
- Yearly presentation to the BOS?



Recommendation

- Discuss and provide direction staff to re-envision the role of the WICC and return at a later date with recommendations for discussion and direction, with WICC meetings temporarily paused in the interim



Thank you

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