
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Margie Namba
Mark White
Robert Bailey
Dana Curran, Vice Chair
George "Buzz" Link, Chair
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi
Eric Rivero- Montes
Mark Barry
Richard Hunn

A JOINT COMMISSION APPOINTED BY:
County of Sacramento
City of Sacramento
City of Isleton
City of Folsom
City of Galt
City of Elk Grove

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2015 6:30 P.M.
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS
700 H STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95614

1 Call to Order- Chair Link

The meeting of the Sacramento Environmental Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2 Roll Call- Staff Secretary

Commissioners present: Dana Curran, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Mark Barry, Mark White, George "Buzz Link", Robert Bailey, and Eric Rivero-Montes.

3 Introduction of Commissioners-Chair Link

The Commissioners each took a turn introducing themselves.

4 Public Comment- Chair Link

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

5 Consent Items- Chair Link

A motion to approve the March 2015 minutes was made by Robert Bailey and seconded by Anthony DeRiggi.

Ayes: Mark White, Robert Bailey, Dana Curran, George "Buzz" Link, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Mark Barry, Eric Rivero-Montes

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

6 Mosquito Control Update- Gary Goodman, Executive Director Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District

Mr. Goodman reports that this drought year has seen a high number of confirmed West Nile Virus cases. Birds carrying the disease follow the limited water sources which are concentrated in areas such as Yolo County Agricultural areas and urban pools. Mosquitos bite the birds carrying disease and then have up to 5-6 blood meals from humans, transmitting the disease at this time. They breed in standing water, green pools, wetlands, creeks and tributaries. Mosquito Control was formerly meant to enhance the quality of life for residents but it has now assumed the role of disease control as confirmed cases of mosquito transmitted diseases are relatively high.

Only the female mosquito bites humans. Mosquito activity peaks in the warm spring weather and there is usually a spike in virus activity from May through October. Since the female can lay 100 to 120 eggs at a time, the best time to attack the mosquito population is at the egg raft stage. Green pools are a large mosquito problem in urban areas and it requires public participation for the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District to locate these pools and introduce chemicals or mosquito fish to the water. Once mosquito fish are introduced, chlorine must not be added to the water or the fish will die.

Water management is key to controlling mosquito reproduction. Eliminate water running off lawns, recycle green waste, and empty toys and tires that might catch water in the yard, are actions individuals can manage. Mosquito management includes public outreach, surveying and trapping, spraying and mosquito fish planting. The Sacramento region has the largest mosquito fish program in the world and over 4000 lbs. of fish are planted in the Sacramento area each year. The district supplies packets of repellent at no cost to large groups holding outdoor events. The public is encouraged to report dead birds using the CDPH hotline or the website so they can be tested for West Nile Virus.

Diseases that mosquitos carry include West Nile Virus, which is still the most prevalent, and debilitating, Chikungunya, Dengue Fever, Malaria and Dog Heartworm. Fifty percent of horses that contract West Nile Virus die so it is imperative that horses get vaccinated against the disease. Approximately 20 % of humans contract West Nile Virus after being bitten, which exhibits symptoms similar to the flu but last for an extended time and are more severe in nature, including fever, fatigue, body aches swollen lymph nodes and rash. Symptoms can last up to 3 weeks and lead to meningitis and encephalitis. There were 801 confirmed cases of West Nile Virus in California in 2014, 70 % of which were neuro-invasive. Dengue Fever and Chikungunya, which produce flu like symptoms and intense joint pain are becoming more of a threat.

7 Community Gardening- Bill Maynard, City of Sacramento, Master Gardener

The City of Sacramento Parks and Recreation community gardening program includes 13 community gardens run by the city although there are approximately 50 community gardens in the County of Sacramento. Community gardens occur in city parks, church lots, medians and urban lots.

It's important to research local ordinances, water accessibility and soil content before embarking on a community garden project. There is often a waiting list for community gardens plots, such as Fremont Gardens which has a wait list of up to five years. Most community gardens use organic practices and try to compost green waste. They plant flowers as well as vegetables to act as pollinators and to reduce bugs.

The City of Sacramento incorporates art from local artists into their community gardens using art grants they receive. The art can be functional as well as beautiful as in Southside Gardens where a tall, metal flower petal stand collects water and transfers it to a 45 gallon rain barrel that is stored underneath a metal lady bug. The city gardens are also Americans with Disabilities Act compliant so that they are accessible to everyone.

Community gardens require utilizing water saving techniques, such as inserting pipes near the roots of plants so they receive the water where it's most needed and using mulch to prevent evaporation.

Bill Maynard, Master Gardener, encourages the local community to call him with their questions so he can assist them with the necessary information and steps to creating a successful community garden...his motto is "don't reinvent the wheel."

8 Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report- Val Siebal

9 Environmental News Review- Vice Chair Curran

10 Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner White commented that he would like to invite water agency representatives to speak at the next televised meeting to report back on water conservation efforts.

Commissioner Bailey asked about the letter that was to be drafted inviting the surrounding cities to join the SEC. **Action:** Commissioner Link advised that he would complete that task by week ending 4/24/15.

Action: Commissioner Link volunteered to draft a letter to the Governor's office regarding medians that contain grass to be repurposed for public uses that are more drought conscious.

Commissioner Bailey requested confirmation that the 2015 SEC awards designations would be on May's agenda and the secretary affirmed this.

Eric Rivero-Montes volunteered to be the 3rd member of the webpage committee.

- 11 **Adjournment-** Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m. The next meeting will be held on May 18th at EMD, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather, California 95655.