

Meeting Minutes
CENTRAL COAST LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
NETWORK (CCLEAN) Steering Committee
May 22, 2024
2:00 pm- 3:30 pm
Zoom

Participants:

Akin Babatola: City of Santa Cruz, (831) 420-6045
Jennie Munster: City of Santa Cruz, (831) 420-6040
Dane Hardin: Applied Marine Sciences, (831) 419-6075
Aroon Melwani: Applied Marine Sciences, (831) 917-9243
Sarah Bragg-Flavan: Central Coast Water Board, (805) 852-4636
Mary Hamilton: Central Coast Water Board, (805) 542-4768
Barbara Buikema: Carmel Area Wastewater District (831) 624-1248
Carla James: Carmel Area Wastewater District, (831) 624-1249 ext. 234
Sara Stevens: Monterey One Water (831) 883-1118
Bryan Condy: City of Watsonville, (831) 768-3179
Ray De Ocampo: Carmel Area Wastewater District, (831) 624-1249 ext. 249
Kati King: City of Scotts Valley, (831) 438-0732

Absent:

Cameron Kostigen Mumper | Pure Water Soquel,
Jose Guzman | Monterey One Water

Left Early:

Sarah Stevens left the meeting

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions:

The meeting was called to order on May 22, 2024, at 2:03 pm by Akin Babatola via the Zoom online meeting platform. Akin asked if any member of the public wished to address the Committee. Barbara confirmed that no members of the public were present; only steering committee members were on the platform, and she would let the Akin know if any members of the public joined later in the call. Akin asked if there were any requests to move an agenda item forward. There were no requests to do so. Roll call of Committee members followed. Cameron Kostigen Mumper of Pure Water Soquel and Jose Guzman of Monterey One Water were not in attendance.

2. Review of Last Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from April 24, 2024, were presented to the CCLEAN participants. Corrections to April minutes were phone number corrections for Mary Hamilton and Sara Bragg-Flavan. Bryan Condy asked for the budget year in Section 7 to be changed from next budget year to the year following the next budget year. Barbara Buikema clarified that budget year as 2025-2026.

Akin asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes as amended. Bryan Condy made a motion and Barbara Buikema seconded. All participants voted aye. None opposed or abstained.

3. Chair's Report Remarks:

Akin Babatola welcomed new Water Board members and asked if Arwen Wyatt-Mair would be joining. Sarah Bragg-Flavan said her understanding was that Arwen would not be. Akin disclosed that he and Dane Hardin had a brief meeting offline with Arwen, Sarah Bragg-Flavan, and Mary to brief them on the relationship of the Water Board and CCLEAN, history, expectations, and deliverables. The focus was how the Water Board can assist CCLEAN going forward in the same trend. He and Dane also learned of the Water Board's meeting with Aroon Melwani on the elements of a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).

At the offline meeting, Akin said he also mentioned the usefulness of CCLEAN in its history and how it helps manage our costs and our vision. Akin also brought to the Water Board's attention the coordinated effort between CCLEAN and the Water Board in early 2000s regarding monitoring for specific lists of Compounds of Emerging Concerns (CECs) when CCLEAN argued successfully that the real issue was whether the effects of the CECs were demonstrable in the wastewater plant effluents. Akin asked if Dane knows where the record of the 21 days tests in each of the plant effluents are now located since Akin would like the Water Board to have access to the data. Akin also mentioned at the offline meeting that CCLEAN worked with the Water Board earlier to see if coliform monitoring was meaningful as indicator bacteria in lieu of the real pathogens in wastewater. That study was well constructed and has been cited by United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL). Akin would also like that study to be available to the Water Board, and for the Water Board to know that they can still question CCLEAN members that participated in those studies, and how similar concerns can be addressed in the future. CCLEAN was also used to help gather polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), Nutrients, and Microplastics data. Akin says those studies need to be identified as products and property of CCLEAN and be made clear so that scientists at the Water Board may help us further.

4. Lead Agency Report/Remarks Barbara Buikema:

Barbara got a call from the CAWD attorney about the Brown Act. CCLEAN agendas need to be posted at each CCLEAN participant location, wherever public notices are normally posted. CCLEAN agendas need to be specific. Discussing subject matter can only be done when a quorum is NOT present. Any side meeting discussions should be reported back to the group, as Akin just did. The CAWD attorney also said to be careful with serial emails, as those are the same as talking to multiple people. The committee cannot do a voice roll call after a motion; an actual roll call is required so that the public can determine who is saying yes and who is saying no. Items can be added to the agenda with majority vote.

Barbara proposed to add to the current agenda Aroon's Program Year 2024 Monitoring Plan.

Roll call votes: YES votes (Akin Babatola; Barbara Buikema; Carla James; Jennie Munster; Bryan Condy; Katie King; Aroon Melwani; Dane Hardin; Sarah Stevens; Sarah Bragg-Flavan; Mary Hamilton); NO votes (none)

Mary Hamilton suggested someone provide a template for agenda items that contain fields for necessary elements.

Barbara would like to consolidate the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and is still awaiting signatures from member agencies. So far only Santa Cruz, Watsonville, and Moss Landing have submitted their approval signatures.

Barbara clarified that Moss Landing (power plant) will follow Brown Act when they attend CCLEAN meetings, but they are not a public agency.

Jennie Munster noted that she is listed as an alternative and Santa Cruz has one vote. A discussion followed regarding members versus participants, and who is primary versus who is alternate. The list will be modified before the next meeting.

Mary Hamilton requested that Barbara send to both her and Sarah Bragg-Flavan any information that CAWD attorneys sent when they directed that the CCLEAN meetings be conducted under the Brown Act.

5. Director's Program Report, Applied Marine Sciences (AMS), Aroon Melwani – Senior Scientist – Central Coast Managing Principal & Dane Hardin – Senior Scientist – Principal:

- a) **Sampling Update and Coordination- Kinnetic Environment, Inc. (KEI)** completed the wet season sampling and contract labs now have all the samples. FedEx shipping fees are 40-75% lower due to a negotiated contract between AMS and FedEx. Most recent shipment costs were 60% lower, so paid \$400 instead of \$1000 to send to SGS internationally.
- b) **Data Management Update-** AMS Program year dry season 2022 and wet season 2023 has been completed for the annual report and has been submitted to Moss Landing for upload into California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN). Data will be available in CEDEN soon. Aroon had a phone call with Mary Hamilton the CCLEAN QA Officer (Paul Salep) last month to discuss the QAPP. The upcoming timeline and revised format of the QAPP was the topic. The Monitoring Plan is currently not up-to-date and will be removed from the QAPP to become an attachment to the QAPP instead. The QAPP has been modified to remove the year-to-year changes. The QAPP focuses on the data management side and the analytical methods. Jennie Munster asked if the QAPP is completed. Aroon stated that the draft QAPP has been shared to the group and Aroon checked with the group to see how much more time is needed for review. Most members need more time for review. The Monitoring Plan and QAPP go together, but the Monitoring Plan should be priority for review. Akin commented that the Plan and the QAPP should be separate and should always be separate. Aroon mentioned that the QAPP has specific components that reference monitoring sites, and Mary confirmed that it would be helpful to have the Monitoring Plan and QAPP side-by-side. Akin stressed that the two documents are separate entities. Bryan asked about revisions by guest contributors on the shared review. Akin would like the collaborative document to show who signed in instead of having everyone be a guest contributor. Dane shared that he understood that Mary needed to see the Monitoring Plan first, before reviewing the details in the QAPP, and asked for clarification. Akin said that if the QAPP is almost done, we could provide the QAPP to Mary ahead of the Monitoring Plan. Dane stressed that the Monitoring Plan scope of work is going to be the same from this year (2024) to the next (July 2025). Akin asked if the City of Watsonville Influent sample is lumped into the CCLEAN budget. Aroon clarified that the cost is not shared with the other participants but paid solely by the City of Watsonville. Akin would like CCLEAN projects to be separate from AMS projects.

Bryan thinks the current structure was put in place because of some earlier results and would rather not separate out the Influent monitoring as a separate task.

Jennie would like the purpose of the Influent sampling to be clarified to show that the sampling is not part of the CCLEAN mission. Akin says that the boundaries get lost between AMS and CCLEAN, and each should be identified accordingly so that responsibilities of the two entities are separated. Aroon followed up to note that June 14, 2024 would be the deadline for comments to the QAPP.

- c) **Annual Report-** Aroon communicated via email that the Annual Report was finalized on May 01, 2024 and has now been posted on the CCLEAN website and shared to participants via email.
- d) **Scope and Budget-** Aroon shared that the proposed 2024-2025 budget has been uploaded and reflects the same scope as last year (2023-2024). The only change is in response to the outcomes of the Constituents of Emerging Concern (CEC) analysis that identifies that there are concerns for CECs. The lab that AMS uses for CEC analysis to include mussel tissue analysis, notably the fipronils, pyrethroids, and neonicotinoids, and will add \$2000 for sampling at The Hook. There are some budget increases due to updated rates from labs, and there is an approximate 10% increase that is mostly associated with SGS costs that have gone up 15%. Jennie asked if there is a different lab besides Axis because they are slow and expensive.

Aroon says the flow proportion piece is the critical piece and there is no exchangeable lab. The turnaround times are getting better, but the cost part is still increasing. Akin asked about Physis lab. Dane confirmed that Physis will do the mussel tissue analysis but cannot provide the low detection limits that SGS can provide. Physis's results for dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) at the Elkhorn slough were similar to SGS detection limits for flow-through, but Physis's results for Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were non-detect, which is clearly not the case. Akin asked about differences in their Method Detection Limits (MDLs), and Dane confirmed their chromatograms were different, and Physis had no peaks that they could quantify. Akin suggested looking at Enthalpy to see their level of resolution, but Dane said it would involve two different laboratories because of the processing involved. Akin mentioned that we have one more meeting before the new plan year starts in July 2024, so we can commit to budget review and approval at the June 2024 meeting, including the proposed mussel tissue analysis. Jennie appreciated the task-oriented format of an earlier budget. Aroon noted that he heard EPA is currently developing Effluent limits for PFAS and will encompass additional analytes above the original six from Title 22.

6. Water Board Report- Peter von Langen

Sarah Bragg-Flavan shared that the Water Board is starting work to review Scotts Valley Permit renewal. Akin noted that **California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS)** had not been opened for compliance reporting under the new permit, but that after April 2024, since the database contract was completed, he is now able to upload data into CIWQS under the new permit. Mary asked that CCLEAN lay out any topics or questions in the meeting agendas that the participants would like the Water Board to provide updates on since she and Sarah Bragg-Flavan are new to this group. Akin said that CCLEAN will itemize the agenda topics for clarity. Mary said that she and Sarah Bragg-Flavan will abstain from voting until they hear from Water Board attorneys.

7. Any topic(s) that members would like to be added

Akin asked if this item: “any topics that members would like to be added” is an acceptable bullet point on the agenda. Barbara confirmed that due to the generalness, this item runs afoul of the Brown Act. However, if there was a specific topic, such as if anyone attended a certain conference related to CCLEAN, that would be acceptable. This item was skipped.

8. Set Up Next Meeting:

June 19, 2024 was not chosen because of the Juneteenth Federal Holiday for some participants, and because the Water Board has a conflicting meeting that day. Jennie suggested that we aim for a specific date, such as the third or fourth Wednesday of the month. Mary suggested the first Wednesday of the month so that holidays are avoided. Bryan suggested the third Wednesday of the month. June 26, 2024 was agreed upon by all participants as the date of the next CCLEAN meeting at 2:00 pm., and the committee agreed to revisit future meeting dates as an agenda item.

9. Financial Report:

Barbara presented the financials, as shown through May 21, 2024. CAWD will bill for the first quarter after the budget is approved. Bryan asked about the surplus balance, and Barbara noted that not all invoices have been submitted, and there is a large outstanding invoice. Bryan asked if the lead agency changed, how would the monies be redistributed to the different agencies. Barbara said that when CAWD became the lead agency, the financials were handed over “as-is.” Akin complimented Barbara and CAWD for keeping everyone updated on financials.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the CCLEAN Committee, Bryan motioned and Barbara seconded the motion to adjourn. Roll Call was done by agency instead of participant. All agencies voted aye. None opposed or abstained. Sarah Stevens had left the meeting early, so Monterey One Water was not present for the vote.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: *The Chair, Akin Babatola adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m. The next CCLEAN Committee meeting will occur on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 2 p.m. The teleconference webinar is hosted through Zoom and you may receive access by visiting our website homepage, www.cawd.org, calling the District office at 831-624-1248 or via email at downstream@cawd.org.*

AS REPORTED TO:

Ray DeOcampo, Committee Secretary

APPROVED:

Akin Babatola, Chair of the Committee