IRWM Countywide Master Watershed Planning Project, Phase 2 Development

Summary of Municipality Interviews

Total Respondents: 12

Question 1

Would you or someone from your organization participate in a working group to guide the WMP development?

No	4	33%
Yes	6	50%
Maybe	2	17%
Responses Tallied	12	100%

Question 2

How do you want to be updated on this WMP Process? Some respondent's asked to participate in more than one way.

Email	12	55%
Workshops	5	22.5%
Review of Draft Documents	5	22.5%
Responses Tallied	22	100%

Question 3

Do you currently use watershed management plans in your organization?

Yes	3	25%
No	9	75%
Not Sure	0	0%
Responses Tallied	12	100%

Question 4

How do you use WMPs in your organization?

I don't	7	58%
I don't understand how WMPs apply to our work	0	0%
I don't have time of staff support to cross reference WMPs in our work	1	8%

Other	4	34%
Responses Tallied	12	100%

Question 5

Have you or your organization ever participated in the creation of a collaborative WMP?

Yes	4	36%
No	6	55%
Not Sure	1	9%
Responses Tallied	11	100%

Question 6

How helpful have current WMPs been for you?

Very useful	1	8%
Medium Usefulness	1	8%
Not Useful	9	76%
Other	1	8%
Responses Tallied	12	100%

Question 7

What would you like to see used for Countywide watershed management planning approach and how? Some respondents selected multiple approach styles when answering this question.

Identification of management strategies by watershed for land use planning	8	25%
Process that streamlines implementation of conservation projects with permitting agencies	7	22%
Prioritization of conservation needs byy watershed and between county watersheds	7	22%
Communal/Collaborative GIS tools	6	19%
Mitigation banks or similar	4	12%
Others	0	0%
Responses Tallied	32	100%

Question 8

Do you have sufficient data with which to manage water conservation locally?

Yes	5	42%
No	4	33%
Unsure	3	25%
Responses Tallied	12	100%

Question 9

Which data sources do you most commonly rely upon in making your conservation management decisions? Some respondent's selected multiple sources when answering this question.

WMPs	3	13%
County Flood Reports	5	23%
Growth management plans	3	13%
Transportation reports	1	5%
Predesignated conservation plans created from agencies outside this region	2	10%
Other	8	36%
Responses Tallied	22	100%

Question 10

Do you use GIS mapping and/or layering in your (conservation) planning work?

Yes	7	58%
No	3	25%
Sometimes	2	17%
Don't Know	0	0%
Responses Tallied	12	100%

Question 11

What is your interest level in utilizing a conservation focused GIS system in collaboration with other regional Cities, Utilities, CSD's, County and Conservation Organizations?

Very interested	7	58%
Medium Interest	3	25%
Low interest	2	17%
Responses Tallied	12	100%

Other Comments Captured:

- Sees some stormwater and water supply connections
- Avila gets all current water from AG Watershed and not locally & has consultant as manager. No sure of water supply connection
- greatly understaffed but see stormwater connection
- One respondent had these comments:
    - 1. Would be interested to look over draft documents periodically. 2. priority is providing water & wastewater services to community - don't initiate new projects or installations often. 3. Watershed

management plans are not relevent to their authority (non-regulatory) 4. Do not have good internal database (not enough on microclimates & irrigation) 5. WMP could be useful in project planning & impacts associated with them, (need a "how to use" guide)

- One respondent had these comments:
  Concerned about regulatory element of watershed management plans. Must be understanding of City autonomity. Provide solutions and suggestions for proactive measures but not policy change focused. Have to get City Council buy-in to move forward. Focus on flexibility of project application with regulatory agencies.
- One respondent had these comments:
  - A watershed plan that is non-regulatory, focused on uniqueness of watershed areas for flexibility of project application with regulatory agencies would be most ideal.
- One respondent had these comments:
  Would peer review plans, Have an EIR they use related to Fiscalini Ranch which includes their portion of Santa Rosa Creek management, use plans only when related to areas they manage, most plans are outside their management area, they have a water conservation specialist to manage a retrofit program, have new demand reports and seasonal use data which is adaptive from historical water use
- One respondent had these comments:
  Future full time stormwater manager would be an ideal participant to be involved in future planning, do not use plans because they don't have one AND current IRWM plan doesn't have adequate or relevant info, participated in creating the Carmel River Watershed plan, would like to see more watershed data on groundwater recharge areas, use GIS frequently

Questionnaire to Help Guide Watershed Issue Prioritization for Phase 2: Survey Results

Water Resource Advisory Committee Meeting- December 4, 2013

Total Attendees: Roughly 50

Survey Participants: 15, representing roughly 30% of total attendees

Question 1

Which of the following grouping classifications could lead to improvements on local watershed management and or stewardship?

	Number of votes per category	Percentage of total votes per category
Group watersheds by improve, mitigate/prevent and maintain	3	20.1%
Group watersheds by Develop, Restore and Protect	4	26.3%
Group Watersheds By: (survey respondents choice)	4	26.3%
Do not classify watersheds	4	26.3%
Total Respondent's	15	100%

Comments: Group watersheds by dammed versus undammed; Group watersheds by Assess/Mitigate and Prevent/Implement; Group watersheds by Geographic Region

Question 2

In considering the prioritization of projects and programs aimed at accomplishing natural resource management goals, which of the following would represent the most effective solution?

County-wide approach which measures all watersheds against a common metric	3	20%
Sub-region approach which measures sub-regions against metrics specific to the region	11	73%
Other method?	1	7%
Total Respondent's	15	100%

Comments: Specific local issues should control prioritization

Question 2b

If you selected a regional based approach for Question #2, at what scale would you define those regions?

By water planning area	10	84%
Coastal vs Inland	1	8%
Other	1	8%
Total Respondent's	12	100%

Question 3

Should a flexible, decision making tool (e.g. Interactive GIS database) that allows municipal planners to explore different development scenarios or options in relation to natural resources:

Be created in addition to classifying watersheds and management strategies and be a high priority for phase2	6	40%
Be created in addition to classifying watersheds and management strategies and be a low priority for phase 2	3	20%
Be created instead of classifying watersheds and be a high priority	3	20%
Be created instead of classifying watersheds and be a low priority	0	0%
Should not be created	3	20%
Total Respondent's	15	100%

Comments: Should not be created for this use because planners would be inclined to not use their head/judgment for decision making

Question 4

If a watershed classification approach was used, who do you envision to be the primary audience? (circle all that apply) (Respondents selected multiple answers to this question)

County	12	18%
Other Municipalities	11	16%
Resource Conservation Districts	13	19%
Other conservation organizations	10	15%
Growers, ranchers, other land managers	9	13%
Community at Large	9	13%
Other	4	6%
Total Respondent's	68	100%

Comments: Other- Industry, RWQCB, Purveyors

Question 5

Which of the county watersheds do you consider to need greater focus and studying?

Comments: Arroyo Grande Creek, Santa Margarita, Jack Creek, Santa Rita Creek, Nipomo-Suey Creek, Pismo Creek, those with flood problems, those with recharge opportunities.

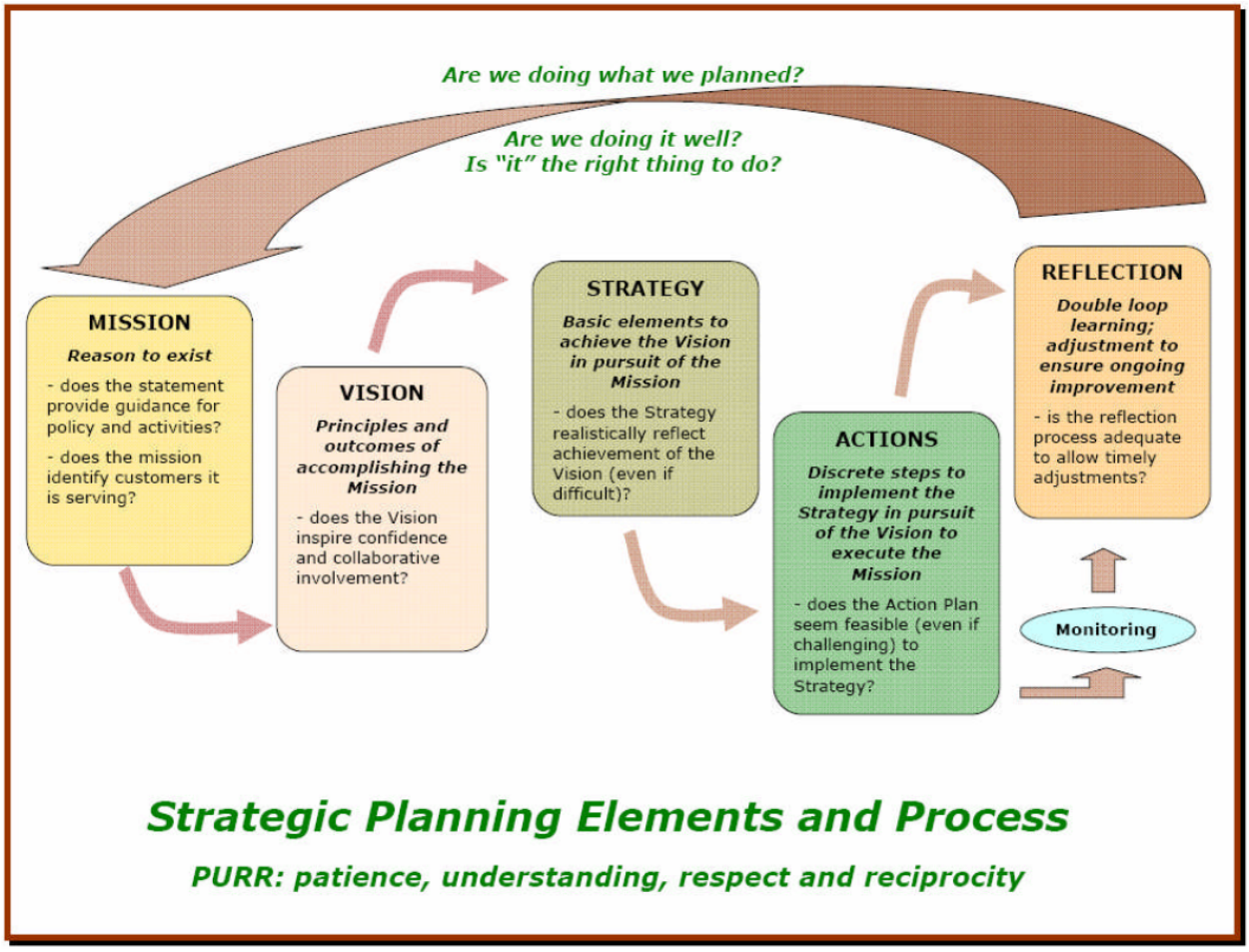
Draft Strategic Plan Outline

for the SLO County Watershed Management Plan

version March 25, 2014

This document summarizes the thoughts of the Watershed Working Group, Technical Advisory Committee and RCD Project Team related to the Countywide Watershed Management Plan process. As part of an iterative, living document, statements are not set in stone but instead act as a blueprint to guide community action.

Strategic Process



Draft Vision (Long term Goal)

SLO county watersheds are managed for present and future generations. The county's first watershed management plan engages the community to steward our watershed resources through collaboration and partnership.

Draft Goals (Mission)

These were developed by the RCD Project Team.

1. Collaboratively develop a countywide plan that prioritizes conservation efforts
2. Increase knowledge and value of ecosystem services and watersheds in community
3. Strengthen competitiveness of watershed restoration projects when competing at the County level for IRWM and other funds.

Draft Goals and Objectives

These were developed by the RCD Project Team.

1) Collaboratively develop a countywide plan that prioritizes conservation efforts
   a) Tap into the community to collect and share data
   b) Develop indicators and metrics to describe condition of watersheds
   c) [Add suggestion]

   d) [Add suggestion]

2) Increase knowledge and value of ecosystem services and watersheds in community
   a) Use SLOWatershedProjects.org to share data
   b) [Add suggestion]
   c) [Add suggestion]

3) Strengthen competitiveness of watershed restoration projects when competing at the County level for IRWM and other funds.
   a) Use indicators to better illustrate need
   b) [Add suggestion]

   c) [Add suggestion]

Interests

These were extracted and interpreted from existing individual watershed management plans. Consider if these can be summarized as vibrant healthy communities, viable economies and functioning ecology.

- experience in nature
- visual appeal of creek
- channel capacity to minimize flooding
- safety
- reduced risk to home and health
- economic viability (defer loss)
- protect wildlife T&E
- healthy fisheries
- protect ecological functions for benefit of all
- community viability/health
- drinking water source
- water for economic production
- improved information for decision making
- regulatory burden

Additionally the Technical Advisory Committee identified the following needs and drivers specific to the County scale.

- IRWMP requirements like depreciation are not always applicable to conservation projects. Need an improved process to evaluate conservation project benefits.
- A way to communicate conservation ideas to the community i.e. risk, TMDLs. This could be a one-stop shop for information
- prioritizing watersheds and project issues
- illustrate/develop partnerships
- succinct, communication of needs and priorities

Some of these may fit an interest to complete good watershed restoration projects and describe County needs and priorities to funders.

Desired Future State

These were provided by the Watershed Working Group and Project Team during a Road Map Activity in September 2013.

- Effective, long range watershed planning
- Balanced use by all stakeholders
- Placing a value on ecosystem services
- Comprehensive steelhead restoration countywide
- Resilient communities & ecological functions in the face of drought, flood, sea level rise and other hazards

- Strengthen competitiveness of watershed restoration projects when competing at the County level for IRWMP and other funds.

Preferred Approach to Countywide WMP

These were provided by the Technical Advisory Committee during an activity in June 2013.

- Set stage for meeting long term goals
- Evaluate biochemical cycles in terms of risk/land use similar to Birch Bay, WA study
- Consider making recommendations, not County approved
- Succinct
- Living document
- Metrics

Existing Resources

These were provided by the Watershed Working Group and Project Team during a Road Map Activity in September 2013.

- Local expertise i.e. conservation orgs, municipalities, consultants, etc.
- Stakeholder involvement to guide activities
- Online databases, portals, etc.
- SLO County Permit Coordination Program
- Watershed Management Plans
- SLOWatershedsProject.org
- Creek Stewardship Guide and a multitude of other resource guides

Other existing resources

- Cal Poly professors and students
- Volunteer networks i.e. Rotary Club, Morro Bay National Estuary Program, Earth Day Alliance, Surfriders, Outside Now, Pacific Wildlife Care, Master Gardeners, and more.
- Private donors, crowd-sourcing, foundations, grants.

Communication Map

- Still to come

Themes to incorporate into future funding requests

- Community resilience to climate risk and natural hazards
- Multiple partnerships that leverage funds
- Vulnerable or disadvantaged communities
- Measurable results
- Stakeholder involvement