

## Advisory Group Meeting #1 Meeting Summary

### **Ventura River Watershed Resilience Pilot Project Advisory Group Meeting #1 March 17, 2025 Virtual Meeting**

**Facilitators:** Vivon Sedgwick, Lynn Rodriguez, Lara Shellenbarger

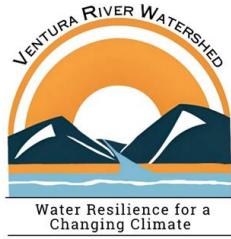
**Attendees:**

Advisory Group Members and Others:

- Bruce Kuebler, Ventura Water District
- Bryan Bondy, Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency
- Christopher Danch, Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council
- Kalli O'Connor, Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council
- Justin Martinez, Meiners Oaks Water District
- Christy Cooper, Meiners Oaks Water District (partial attendance)
- Jamie Whiteford, Ventura County Resource Conservation District (VCRCD)
- Heidi Ortloff, VCRCD, Ventura River Watershed Council
- Lauren Zaragoza, VCRCD
- Jodi Switzer, Farm Bureau of Ventura County
- Laura Pavliscak, Ventura Land Trust
- Nate Irwin, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper
- Rocio Lozano-Knowlton, Merito Foundation
- Sarah Mulder, City of Ventura, Ventura Water
- Scott Meckstroth, Ojai Valley Sanitation District
- Jennifer Tribo, City of Ventura

WRP Team & Consultants

- Lynn Rodriguez – Project Manager
- Lara Shellenbarger – Associate Project Manager
- Ben Chou, CGST, CSU Northridge
- Danielle Bram, CGST, CSU Northridge
- Jennifer Alford, CSUSB Institute for Watershed Resiliency



- Lara Shellenbarger, Watershed Resilience Project
- Michele Romolini, Loyola Marymount University Center for Urban Resilience
- Mike Antos, Stantec
- Jamil Ibrahim, Stantec

### **Summary of Key Outcomes Related to WRP:**

- Advisory group roles and responsibilities finalized with unanimous approval.
- Network assessment survey planned with advisory group feedback incorporated.
- Strategic importance of networks in watershed resilience emphasized.
- Plans for development of Ventura River Watershed-wide Water Budget initiated.
- Vision and Goals Workshop planning underway to enhance broad community involvement.

### **Meeting Agenda and Summary:**

1. Welcome and Introductions:
  - Lynn Rodriguez welcomed attendees and introduced Vivon Sedgwick as Advisory Group Chair.
  - Attendees introduced themselves via chat and verbally during the meeting.
2. Network Assessment Survey and Tools – Lynn Rodriguez & CSU Team:
  - Lynn Rodriguez discussed Task 3 Network Assessment Survey. The survey aims to identify and assess existing watershed/environmental stewardship networks, assess network relationships and identify gaps. The survey will be conducted through a web-based survey and be distributed starting in April.
  - CSU team (Danielle Bram, Ben Chou, Jennifer Alford, Michele Romolini) presented their approach, methodology, and prior experience with similar assessments.
  - Next steps: Advisory Group members will be asked to provide feedback (via email) on the survey questions, beta-test the survey, and assist in distributing and encouraging partners to respond to optimize survey effectiveness.
3. Networks for Watershed Resilience – Mike Antos, Stantec:
  - Presentation on the value of people networks as a resilience strategy.



- Discussion on the characteristics and levels of networks (cooperating, coordinating, collaborating).
  - Highlighted the importance of distributed leadership and collaborative relationships for watershed resilience.
  - Connection to broader regional initiatives like Flood MAR and IRWM.
4. Network Overview and Advisory Group Roles – Lara Shellenbarger:
- Overview of Watershed Council designated as the WRP “network” and the formation of an Advisory Group at the January 30<sup>th</sup> Leadership Committee meeting.
  - Overview of the Advisory Group’s roles and responsibilities, membership, and facilitated discussion on the proposed Code of Conduct.
  - The group voted to approve the draft document outlining advisory group protocols and responsibilities. The motion was unanimously approved by advisory group members (1<sup>st</sup> – Vivon Sedgwick, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bruce Kuebler).
  - The group discussed preferred methods for sharing documents. Different methods will be utilized as needed including email, public website, and SharePoint. Documents requiring Advisory Group edits and feedback may be sent via a link to a shared document on SharePoint, with edits visible by all.
5. Ventura River Water Budget Analysis – Jamil, Stantec:
- Introduction to the upcoming water budget analysis focused on consolidating existing hydrologic data and models.
  - Discussion of objectives to document baseline conditions for assessing climate vulnerabilities and ensuring the Water Budget follows DWR’s Water Budget Guidelines and standardization.
  - Participants encouraged providing relevant contacts and additional data sources to avoid duplication and enhance the analysis. An email will be sent to Advisory Group members by the end of the week.
  - Further discussion on the Water Budget will occur over the next two Advisory Group meetings (May 19 & July 21)
6. Vision and Goals Workshop Planning – Lara Shellenbarger:
- Discussion of logistics and goals for the upcoming Vision and Goals Workshop.



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- April 30, 2025, (time to be determined) identified as the preferred date, pending confirmation of location (potentially Oak View Resource Center, Camp Arnaz, or Kent Hall).
- Group members committed to supporting workshop planning, outreach, and participation. Vivon (OVLC) volunteered to meet with the project team in April to help with details.

### **Next Steps:**

1. Advisory group members to provide final edits on advisory group protocols document to Lara Shellenbarger by end of this week.
2. Lara Shellenbarger/Lynn Rodriguez to send email request for water budget information and key contacts by end of this week once in receipt of specific request from Jamil Ibrahim at Stantec.
3. Advisory group members to respond to water budget information request email promptly.
4. Lara Shellenbarger/Lynn Rodriguez to distribute link to website section hosting advisory group documents.
5. Lara Shellenbarger/Lynn Rodriguez to finalize date, time and location for Vision and Goals Workshop, tentatively scheduled for April 30, 2025.
6. Vivon Sedgwick to assist with planning the Vision and Goals Workshop.
7. Christopher Danch to provide contact information for Kent Hall as a potential workshop location.
8. Advisory group members to assist in advertising and participate in the Vision and Goals Workshop.