

Meeting Highlights | July 23, 2009

Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program Basin Advisory Panel

Upcoming Meetings

Sept 9, 8:30-10:30, Technical Advisory Committee

Oct 14, 8:30-10:30, Technical Advisory Committee

Nov 5, 2:00-5:00, Basin Advisory Panel

Nov 11, 8:30-10:30, Technical Advisory Committee

Updates

- Sonoma Ecology Center Watershed Coordinator position (Julie Jehly) is funded again – Lisa Micheli
- The Open Space District has property near Marti Ranch and they will be completing a preliminary trail there later this year – Bill Keene
- The Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District is receiving money from the state for a flood control & habitat study
 - Previously postponed due to state funding issues, the project is now back up and running
 - The RCD was selected for mitigation of oak trees on the Trinity Road/Highway 12 road improvement
 - The RCD also has a program of watershed stewardship and education of landowners and students – 4 years of funding for 4 academic years
- Constituency Briefings on the SVGMP 2008 Annual Report
 - The Water Agency Board was provided a briefing by Marcus Trotta and it was well received
 - Sonoma Ecology Center was briefed by Lisa Micheli
 - Homeowners Association of 7th Street East received a briefing and 7 homeowners signed up for the conservation audit program
 - The SSCRCD was briefed by John Guardino
 - City of Santa Rosa was briefed last night by Jay Jasperse
 - Sonoma County Water Coalition was briefed by Jay, Mark Bramfitt and Bill Keene and there was tremendous interest expressed in duplicating the effort on the Santa Rosa Plain
- East Slope Glen Ellen Area – accelerated tree mortality – not clear why (John Guardino). There does seem to be a water supply problem up there – may be related to the large landscaped garden.
- Cave Hill Area – One spring is nearly lost – no longer produces water much water – went from about 2 gallons per minute to about 1.8 gallons per hour
- Santa Rosa Plain Update
 - The Center for Collaborative Policy (Gina Bartlett lead) has largely completed the stakeholder assessment, although there are some more interviews to be conducted
 - So far, results suggest moving forward with a small Steering Committee representative of the stakeholders in the region to start educational briefings
 - The big issue seems to be the lack of a common understanding of the basin groundwater technical setting and issues

- The USGS 5-year technical study on the Santa Rosa Plain will be completed late next year, and the CCP recommendation is to not go too far forward until the USGS study is available
- California State Biennial Groundwater Conference in Sacramento, October 6-7, 2009
 - John McLeod recommended that the BAP submit an abstract for a poster on the SVGMP
 - BAP agreed and John and Marcus will develop and submit the abstract and one of them will attend
- Rural Water Conservation Audit Program - \$25,000 Grant
 - 57 percent of the residential audits are scheduled or completed
 - 3 of the 10 agricultural audits are scheduled
 - Need more sign ups for the program from rural nonresidential areas including wineries and dairies
 - Outreach – newspaper article planned and help from the SSCRCD - lots of calls have come in but mostly from those within the city limits
- Discussion of possible need for Agricultural Guidebook (as compared to the managed aquifer recharge guidebook) – more of vineyard manual on conservation
 - The purpose of the document would be to provide useful wine industry information, examples and experience at multiple levels and scales of water conservation, water use efficiency and sustainability approaches
 - The purpose would also be to provide information on how the wine industry, including growers and producers, are continuing to take steps to conserve water, use water more efficiently, and recharge water into the ground
 - Water Agency is also talking with growers/producers in the Anderson Valley including Kendall Jackson, Constellation, and Gallo
 - Kendall Jackson is developing a winery water audit spreadsheet and will be posting at sometime in the near future on their website
- Updated Sonoma Valley Groundwater Flow Model
 - A Stanford graduate student updated the SV groundwater flow model as a masters thesis
 - The Water Agency is obtaining a copy of the thesis and model files and will provide to those who request it
 - The model incorporates distributed recharge across the basin through soil moisture budgeting
- Frost Control for vineyards – currently a big issue
 - Used in early spring
 - Tremendous amount of water used
 - Wind machinery used commonly where needed
 - State reviewing and will be holding some workshops
- Agricultural Water Enhancement Program
 - Natural Resource Conservation Survey received \$5.3M to build water storage impoundments and other facilities
 - The budget allocation is already reserved
 - Many large producers have signed up for assistance
 - Have to be a large Ag producer
 - Need to sign on by end of August
 - Communication needs to be transferred to Sonoma Valley
 - Action – Jay to obtain information and forward to SEC, RCD and SVVGA

Proposed Program to Recognize Individual Water Conservation Achievements

- A constituent of Mark Bramfitt suggested that SVGMP provide recognition for significant water conservation efforts
- BAP discussed this concept and agreed to provide annual awards for significant and notable water conservation efforts, on the part of individual residences and business
- Next steps
 - Marcus to work with Mark Bramfitt and Water Agency staff to get out a newspaper article to solicit award nominations
 - BAP and TAC members to make award nominations
 - TAC to make final selections and provide to BAP via email
 - Awards to be provided at Nov 5th BAP meeting

Briefing on Groundwater Recharge Activities Field Visits

- A PowerPoint slide presentation was provided showing pictures of the locations and features of nine areas visited by the TAC over the last several months
- Site visits included ranches and vineyards and private residences to look and current practices for surface water drainage management controls, water retention, rainfall harvesting, soil erosion issues and possible recharge options
- This included visits to a few sites managed by Clarence Jenkins, Madrone Vineyard Management, some areas that James Cannard works with, and some projects Steve Hardister, Allwest Construction is involved with

Data Collection Efforts through Volunteer Groundwater-Level Monitoring Program

- All BAP members were asked to please look at the groundwater monitoring well map to see if there are any potential candidates for added to the network
- Please send any possible additional volunteer monitoring candidates to Marcus Trotta

Action Items

- BAP and TAC members to make water conservation award nominations
- TAC to make final conservation award selections & awards to be provided at Nov 5th BAP meeting
- Jay Jasperse to obtain information on the NRCS agricultural enhancement program and forward to SEC, RCD and SVVGA
- BAP to send any possible additional volunteer monitoring candidates to Marcus Trotta
- John and Marcus will develop an abstract for a poster on the SVGMP and submit to the State Biennial GW Conference, and one of them will attend the Oct 6-7 meeting
- Next TAC Oct 14th
- Next BAP Nov 5rd