

NOTES | April 8, 2009

**Technical Advisory Committee
Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program**

Action Items (from this meeting and ongoing)

Name	Task	Status	Timeframe
TAC members	Conduct focused outreach for new volunteers, especially in the Glen Ellen and Kenwood areas. Continue to spread message about purpose of well monitoring and use of collected data. Need to educate landowners regarding importance of process and protection of their information and data.	Underway	Ongoing
Tim / Marcus	Create follow-up letter to be sent to willing participants to notify them whether their well is suitable for inclusion and provide feedback to TAC volunteers	Underway	Update in April
Tim / Marcus	Create list of potential candidate volunteer wells	Underway	Ongoing
Marcus	Research DWR/PRMD records for well logs for volunteer wells with no existing records	Underway	Update in April
SCWA	Request PRMD to give presentation to TAC and community on well construction requirements	Pending – need to determine which TAC meeting is best	April TAC
Team	Develop list of actions that landowners can do now to conserve water and reduce off-site runoff	Pending – need to determine who will pursue this.	Guidebook will help address
Marcus	Follow up with County Regional Parks regarding available wells for monitoring	Underway	Update in April
Tim/TAC	TAC will discuss Spring Monitoring and discuss draft schedule and process for undertaking monitoring	April TAC	April 09

Meeting Participants

- Al Bandur, SV BAP
- Susan Haydon, Southern Sonoma County RCD
- Clarence Jenkins, Madrone Vineyard Management
- Lisa Micheli, Sonoma Ecology Center
- James Cannard, private well owner
- Ed Nelson, Sonoma Valley Well Owner, Well Monitor
- Kathy Pons, SV BAP/Valley of the Moon Alliance
- John Robb, Mission Highlands Mutual Water Company

Staff

- Marcus Trotta, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Tim Parker, Schlumberger Water Services

Meeting Announcements

- Al Bandur will check with Krishna regarding the schedule for providing an update on the Sonoma Valley Annual Report to the VOMWD Board
- Susan Haydon will provide a briefing on the Annual Report at the next SSCRC Board meeting on April 17th
- Lisa Micheli will provide a briefing on the Annual Report at the next SEC Board meeting on April 21st
- Clarence Jenkins indicated he will try to get the Annual Report briefing on the SVVGA Board meeting
- Marcus Trotta indicated that he will present an overview on the Sonoma Valley GMP at the SVVGA sponsored Water Forum on April 28th in Sonoma

Updates

- The Norrbom Road well is now in the monitoring program.
- Recharge visits – James Cannard, Marcus Trotta and Tim Parker visited the Armstrong Estates new house with contractor Steve Ledson and looked at the facilities installed to harvest rainfall from the rooftop, and infiltrate the water onsite – also visited one in a vineyard on Fifth Street East. Visits were also made to the Oakmont Golf Course to look at potential recharge locations.

Input and Comments Related to Rainfall Harvesting and Managed Aquifer Recharge Guidebook

- Guidebook being prepared by SSCRC
- Atwood Ranch has an example of a rainfall harvesting project – captures rainfall from the barn roof and pipes it underground for infiltration while reducing runoff and erosion – other “expensive” features at the ranch include filter materials and sluice boxes to filter/trap sediments
- Clarence mentioned that Sonoma used to have a lot more shallow water from subsurface gravels in the area of 7th and 5th Street East
- Hopefully, through this and other efforts, growers will get more interested in actions to reduce flooding and increase recharge
- Growers and landowners want to contribute to the effort, but want a pat on the back
- Strategies which will be developed in the guidebook will be tiered
 - Low cost, no permitting
 - May need some funding, some permit required
 - Engineered, more costly, permit required
 - Will be customized for Sonoma Valley
 - Permit contacts, examples
 - Could identify local examples with permissions
- Have a model, know where this is going, talking to officials, and talking to other cities
- Need to look at the realities of regulatory requirements and constraints and also the costs
- Goal is to complete the draft guidebook in the next couple months with input and review by the TAC, and then it will go to the BAP

- Some other things that were discussed as possible elements to consider for the guidebook include
 - Check dams – growers use for sediment and erosion control – if not on a blue line stream as designated by USGS, can be done (?) – in Kenwood, not calling check dams but using similar for erosion control and water spreading
 - For check dam, need to go through Fish & Game to make sure okay
 - Limiting factor is available funds
 - Some check dam structures already exist – just need maintenance
 - Would need metrics and benefits of check dams
- Adobe Canyon – causes flow convergence – consider assessing re-routing – easements to reduce flooding and increase recharge –
- Starting to see federal funding possibly available for such projects
- Subsurface tiling in Napa helps to route the water
- Catchment, detention, recharge – what is simplest and effective is priority
- Water Wisdom tour on recharge in future
- SCWA working with Open Spaced District on recharge strategies
- Noted that Open Space District cannot manage lands, but the Sonoma Land Trust can
- Conservation/Water Use Audits Program – about half a dozen people have signed up – need more
 - Clarence agreed to look at it
 - SCWA Mark Greenspan would do audits
- April 28th Forum for SVVGA
 - Water overview by Lisa Micheli
 - Groundwater briefing by Marcus Trotta with conservation and monitoring focus
 - Site planning scale for water conservation
- Energy savings
 - Night versus daytime irrigation for evapotranspiration reduction
- Frost protection
 - Use micro-misters
 - Wind machines are primary protection – heaters no longer allowed - usually use propane – rely on heat inversion
 - Black frost occurs when no moisture and wind machines spread it
- Conservation/water use audits flyer placed in 7 different newspapers and bulletins
- Check valves – are on all aqueduct transfer points, and on wells – need to be on landscaping devices as well – needs to be brought up with landscapers
- GPS for monitoring well locations – SEC will allow access to their hand held GPS equipment – will provide one-time training on GPS use – GPS records waypoint and coordinate

Monitoring Group Discussion

Following the TAC, a brief meeting of the volunteer monitoring group was held to discuss logistics, issues and schedule for spring monitoring of groundwater levels in the Sonoma Valley.

Next TAC May 13th – focus on recharge discussion

Note Location: Valley of the Moon Water District, 19039 Bay Street, El Verano