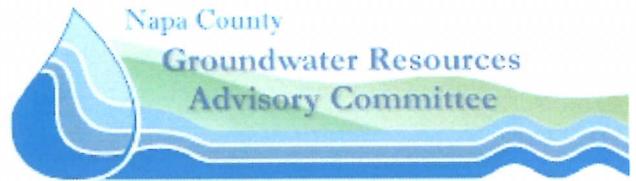




A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service



ACTION MINUTES
NAPA COUNTY GROUNDWATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 23, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC) met in regular session on Thursday, February 23, 2012 with the following members present:

Marilee Talley; Michael Haley; Jim Verhey; Dale Withers; Chair Peter McCrea; Duane Wall; Steve Soper; Don Gleason; and Alan Galbraith. Dave Graves arrived during Item 1; Vice Chair Tucker Caitlin and Bill Trautman arrived during Item 2; Michelle Benvenuto arrived during Item 5.f; and Charles Slutzkin and Susanne von Rosenberg were excused. (Jim Verhey left during Item 5.d.)

2. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Hillary Gitelman, Director, Conservation, Development and Planning, stated that staff would like to move through the agenda on a quick pace due to the number of items but wanted to ensure the items would be covered and move some items to a future agenda or to an ad hoc committee as appropriate. There was background material that wasn't covered during the previous two meetings and it was staff's goal to begin substantive discussions on education outreach – how to approach it, and developing a groundwater monitoring program, both of which are part of the GRAC's charge.

3. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

a. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES AND MEETING SUMMARY

Action Minutes and Meeting Summary approved.

MB	TC	AG	DG1	DG2	MH	PM	CS	SS	MT	BT	JV	SVR	DW1	DW2
X							X					X		

b. REVIEW MEETING AGENDA AND PROCESS

Patrick Lowe, Deputy Director, Conservation, Development and Planning, went over the agenda, noting that a cover memo included with the agenda packet was to provide the GRAC with more background information on which items to put more focus on for the meeting and which items need to be delayed. Dr. Harter (Item 5.a) was running late due to a meeting in Sacramento. Marcus Trotta (Item 5.b) would provide a presentation on Sonoma County's groundwater monitoring program. Mark Nordberg (Item 5.c) would provide a hands-on demonstration of groundwater monitoring tools. Phil Miller's item (5.f) would be moved up in the meeting to

Item 3.b...Continued

accommodate his attendance at another meeting later this afternoon. The updated workplan/schedule would be reviewed after the presentations. Vicki Kretsinger Grabert will go through Luhdorff & Scalmanini's scope of work, as well as recap previous items from the original recommendations. There will be just an introduction to the groundwater monitoring program, as outlined in the agenda. Time constraints may limit discussion of the communication and education plan, and the assistance of an ad hoc committee may be desirable.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

f. WELL LOCATION MONITORING/CONFIDENTIALITY (Item moved up in meeting order)

Phil Miller, Deputy Director-Flood Control and Water Resources, Public Works, presented a PowerPoint presentation on suggestions for developing a groundwater data confidentiality policy. Mr. Miller went over the purpose of the policy, key components, and considerations for developing the policy. A handout containing definitions of California water code sections 13751 and 13752 pertaining to well completion reports was distributed. Hillary Gitelman, Director, Conservation, Development and Planning, added that the purpose of the agenda item was to let the GRAC know what staff believes are the issues with confidentiality and hopes the GRAC will help draft a confidentiality policy that will be incorporated into the groundwater monitoring program. One part of the policy will be specific to the State's CASGEM program, and another part will be for any additional wells the County chooses to monitor and include in its expanding program. An annotated outline of what a groundwater monitoring program could look like will be provided at the April meeting, which will contain a section on confidentiality. The confidentiality policy could allow property owners to either opt in or out of the CASGEM program while allowing them to still participate in well monitoring even if they aren't interested in participating in CASGEM.

a. GROUNDWATER AND GROUNDWATER-SURFACE WATER INTERACTION: HOW DOES IT WORK?

Patrick Lowe, Deputy Director, Conservation, Development and Planning, referred to a handout in the agenda packet that contained a glossary of groundwater terminology excerpted from the Department of Water Resources' website. Additional information can be added in the future as needed. Dr. Thomas Harter, Ph.D., University of California-Davis, presented a PowerPoint presentation on groundwater. The focus of the presentation was on how groundwater works and how it fits in the bigger picture. Dr Harter went over the definition of groundwater and the available amount, the speed of its movement, how it's measured, from where it originates and where it goes, how it is used in California, and groundwater management and quality.

b. SONOMA COUNTY GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM

Marcus Trotta, Hydrologist, Sonoma County Water Agency, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program. The presentation included an overview of the Sonoma County Water Agency, their groundwater management program, and more specifically, their groundwater monitoring program. Mr. Trotta went over their voluntary groundwater level monitoring, program outreach materials for participation in groundwater monitoring, data sharing, groundwater conditions according to areas, a hydrograph that displays groundwater elevation, the installation of nested groundwater monitoring wells, geologic findings, well construction and data collection, groundwater quality monitoring, surface water to groundwater interaction, monitoring data utilized to support ongoing activities, challenges and lessons learned in developing a groundwater monitoring program, and funding sources for their groundwater management program. Dr. Thomas Harter, Ph.D., University of California-Davis, mentioned an introductory short course offered by the Groundwater Resources Association of California that will take place Tuesday, February 28, and Wednesday, February 29 at U.C. Davis. Topics of discussion will include well drilling and construction, water quality and transport on the groundwater side, watersheds and watershed management/best practices, how to use and access the DWR's well data, how to geo-track water quality data, and water rights. Dr. Harter referenced the Groundwater Resources Association of California's website for further information and encouraged anyone interested to attend.

d. REVIEW & ADOPT UPDATED GRAC WORKPLAN/SCHEDULE (Item moved up in meeting order)

Hillary Gitelman, Director, Conservation, Development and Planning, stated the Board of Supervisors wants a community-based information gathering program developed so that informed decisions can be made in the future. Ms. Gitelman referenced the second version of the draft work plan contained in the agenda packet, which incorporates the GRAC's charge as noted in the creating Resolution. The work plan will need to be continually revised and revisited every two to three meetings to ensure the GRAC and staff are on course for accomplishing its goals. The focus of the next two to three meetings will be the development of a groundwater monitoring program – what does it mean, what does it constitute, how to get people to participate, and what data will be collected. An annotated outline of the groundwater monitoring program will be provided in April. It is the hope of staff that working sessions will occur during the April and June meetings with a communication and education plan that will outline how to reach out to the community, the roles of the GRAC and staff, other partners that will be used, what data will be collected and the means for obtaining the data. Staff also hopes that in July we will have the first opportunity to check in with other organizations, such as the Water Information Conservancy Center (WICC) and the Board of Supervisors and other elected entities if desired. This can be further discussed at the same time as the communication and outreach plan. With the exception of assisting in revising pump test protocols and standards under the County's groundwater ordinance, the GRAC's charge is not to work on a management plan or regulations, but rather, to assist staff and consultants in developing a monitoring program in which the end product will include articulating objectives to sustain groundwater resources.

e. **HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERIZATION/MODELING/RECHARGE – NEXT STEPS**

Vicki Kretsinger Grabert, Principal Hydrologist, Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers, provided a short summary of her agenda item due to time limitations but will return in April with a more detailed presentation. Ms. Kretsinger Grabert commended today’s presentations and added there were a lot of similarities that she wanted to get into about the work LSCE has begun in January going forward and how it would be linked to the work done in 2009 to 2011. A lot of foundational work has been done with recommendations made in the groundwater conditions report and executive summary. Of those, there were selected highlights and priority recommendations, all of which are relevant to a formalized ongoing long-term systematic groundwater monitoring program. The key is having the physical setting understood and better defined. The Napa Valley floor is a key piece, as well as the recharge that occurs off the mountain front and in the valley floor. LSCE’s current work has four main tasks: 1) creation of hydro-geologic cross sections largely up the Napa Valley floor, 2) connecting well construction information to wells that have measurements, 3) recharge through the Napa Valley floor, and 4) issues relating to surface water to groundwater interaction and questions of the new development of wells. The GRAC’s input on the design of the monitoring program, as well as input on detailed objectives for groundwater monitoring in the groundwater conditions report, scope of work, and CASGEM report, would be of tremendous value.

g. **DEVELOPING A GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM FOR NAPA COUNTY**

Rick Thomasser, Watershed and Flood Control Operations Manager, Flood Control and Water Conservation District, went over the memo provided in the agenda packet. Mr. Thomasser noted a key purpose of the program is to provide essential data needed to evaluate changes in the resource over time. The monitoring program for Napa County is viewed as being very similar to the Sonoma County monitoring program. Some of the key components of the monitoring program include hydro-geologic conditions, elevation monitoring, quality monitoring, how data will be stored and reported, and how to adapt the program to changes that occur over time. When the monitoring program is designed, we won’t immediately have all the wells in place to implement the program. We’ll either have to do outreach efforts to get the wells from voluntary sources or consider drilling and funding wells. Some challenges to date are relying primarily on private well owners, and there isn’t adequate geographical coverage county-wide to evaluate the resource. Private wells designed for water supply are not typically the best constructed for monitoring purposes. Confidentiality will be a big component of the monitoring program. An annotated outline will be brought to the April meeting with a draft of the monitoring program brought back in June that will coincide with LSCE’s work.

h. **DRAFT PLAN FOR COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION**

Dorian Fougères, Ph.D., Mediator, Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS, asked if there were two to three volunteers to assist Deborah Elliott, Water Resources Specialist, Flood Control and Water Conservation District, with the development of a communication and education plan. Jim Verhey was delegated, and Michael Haley and Don Gleason volunteered. Suggested topics for the plan include explaining how and why the public will be involved with data gathering and managing, data sharing and confidentiality, the latest study results, and defining the groundwater monitoring program as non-regulatory.

c. WHAT IS INVOLVED IN MONITORING A WELL? (Item moved back in meeting order)

Mark Nordberg, Department of Water Resources, brought three examples of well measuring equipment: steel tape, an electric sounder, and a pressure transducer with datalogger. A steel tape is used by chalking up the bottom 10' – 15' and then lowering it into the well from the top of the casing. After the number is indicated, the tape is pulled back up and the well depth is obtained by adding/subtracting wherever the chalked rubbed off. An electric sounder has a probe that makes a noise once it hits the water. After the device is lowered from the top of the casing and the probe makes a noise, the number is recorded and then added/subtracted to obtain the well depth. The steel tape and electric water sounder have a limit of 300' and collect a single number. An electric sounder is not recommended to measure well depth on pumping wells. A pressure transducer is attached to a cable and lowered into a well completely submerged and is connected to a hand-held computer that can be set for multiple readings. A pressure transducer with datalogger is commonly used for monitoring surface water to groundwater interaction.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

a. UPDATE ON PRESENTATION TO ST. HELENA CITY COUNCIL RE: WELLS

Patrick Lowe, Deputy Director, Conservation, Development and Planning, mentioned Steve Lederer's memo in the agenda which basically outlined his presentation to the St. Helena City Council, but he will discuss it when he returns to the April meeting with an update of the MST area.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

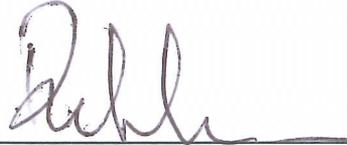
None were mentioned.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

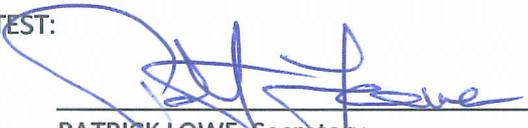
- **Annotated outline of groundwater monitoring program**
- **Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers scope of work**

9. ADJOURNMENT to the NEXT MEETING

Adjourned to the next regular meeting of the Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee on Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.


PETER McCREA, Chairperson

ATTEST:


PATRICK-LOWE, Secretary

By: 
GREG MORGAN, Supervising Office Assistant

Voting Key

If not unanimous, member votes will be tallied (N = No; X = Excused; A = Abstained) using the following Committee Member abbreviations:

MB = Michelle Benvenuto; TC = Tucker Catlin; AG = Alan Galbraith; DG1 = Donald Gleason; DG2 = Dave Graves; MH = Michael Haley; PM = Peter McCrea; CS = Charles Slutzkin; SS = Steve Soper; MT = Marilee Talley; BT = Bill Trautman; JV = Jim Verhey; SVR = Susanne von Rosenberg; DW1 = Duane Wall; DW2 = Dale Withers

Example Key:

MB TC AG DG1 DG2 MH PM CS SS MT BT JV SVR DW1 DW2