A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Napa County
Groundwater Resources
Advisory Committee

ACTION MINUTES
NAPA COUNTY GROUNDWATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
July 26, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC) met in a special joint session with the Watershed Information Conservancy and Center (WICC) on Thursday, July 26, 2012 with the following GRAC members present:

Michelle Benvenuto; Vice Chair Tucker Catlin; Alan Galbraith; Dave Graves; Charles Slutzkin; Steve Soper; Marilee Talley; and Duane Wall. Chair Peter McCrea; Don Gleason; Michael Haley; Jim Verhey; Susanne von Rosenberg; and Bill Trautman were excused. Dale Withers was absent. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Tucker Catlin.

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

After a welcome by the respective Chairs, the WICC, GRAC members and staff introduced themselves and briefly noted their backgrounds and roles in their respective organizations.

3. UPDATE ON WICC ACTIVITIES

Patrick Lowe, Natural Resources Conservation Program Manager, and Jeff Sharp, Principal Watershed Resources Planner, Public Works, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the WICC and made reference to the informational brochure included in the agenda packet. Created in 2002, the WICC serves as an advisory committee to the Napa County Board of Supervisors on watershed-related matters. The 17 members of the WICC include members of the Napa County Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Land Trust, Resource Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and a Council Member from each City/Town in Napa County, as well as representatives of the farming/agricultural, business and wine industries, and environmental interest groups. Regular meetings are held the fourth Thursday of alternating months. Key programs of the WICC include providing education and outreach, monitoring federal, State and regional policies, supporting various watershed projects, pursuing funding opportunities for support, and monitoring fisheries to observe the health of watersheds. Some of the projects the WICC has been involved in are the Rutherford Reach and Oakville to Oak Knoll Reach Restoration Projects along the Napa River, Zinfandel Bridge Fish Passage Improvement Project, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation to reduce sediment in the Napa River, and a rotary screw trap in the Napa River for outmigration monitoring. The WICC has also been involved in the Historical Ecology Atlas and the "Re-Oaking the Valley" strategy. Ongoing goals of the WICC are to support, assess and monitor watershed projects; ongoing monitoring of water and watershed policies; build partnerships with mutual interest groups for effective communication and coordination; and seek continued funding of the mission of the WICC. Mr. Lowe stated one of the reasons for today's joint meeting was for the GRAC to get the WICC's help and input on building partnerships for communication and coordination and how they can partner with the GRAC on outreach efforts.

4. UPDATE ON GRAC ACTIVITIES

Patrick Lowe, Natural Resources Conservation Program Manager, Public Works, referenced the GRAC's Work Plan and the Meeting Synopsis of June 28 included in the agenda packet. Hillary Gitelman, Director, Planning, Building and Environmental Services, provided a brief overview of the GRAC. The GRAC was formed as the result of a requirement in Napa County's updated General Plan to develop a better understanding of groundwater resources. The County hired Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) to provide an initial groundwater study, which was presented to the Board of Supervisors in February 2011. The study confirmed that further understanding of groundwater resources and hydrogeologic conditions was needed, as well as developing a method to communicate with and educate the community. At the same time, the State was requiring entities to start implementing groundwater monitoring through its California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program. Although the County would adhere to the State's requirement, the initial study recommended developing a more robust program beyond the CASGEM program. Due to the amount of work and time involved in developing a plan, County staff decided to seek the support of an advisory committee. There was previous discussion of adding this to the WICC's charge, but it was decided that a new group would be formed to provide specific focus on groundwater resources. The GRAC was appointed in September 2011 and is in existence through December 31, 2014, which County staff believes is sufficient time to complete the scope of work. The primary responsibilities of the GRAC are to assist County staff with developing a robust groundwater monitoring program and community outreach for participation in the program. Members of the GRAC are geographic and interest based. The GRAC is currently working with staff on the draft groundwater monitoring plan, and an ad hoc subcommittee is focusing on developing community outreach resources.

Vicki Kretsinger Grabert, Principal Hydrologist, LSCE, provided a PowerPoint presentation that touched on recent groundwater studies, efforts in coordinating the County's CASGEM program, recommendations from initial groundwater studies and the implementation of some of those recommendations, updating the hydrogeologic conceptualization and characterization of Napa County, and the groundwater monitoring plan. Ms. Kretsinger Grabert referenced the Napa County groundwater report, which compiled baseline data from previous studies and can be found on the GRAC's website. Napa County applied to become the monitoring entity for the CASGEM program through DWR in 2011 and to identify a representation of wells that look at existing trends and conditions representative of the aquifer system, which is a subset of an overall monitoring network. Although there is a lot of groundwater monitoring data, it is not necessarily well distributed and may not provide information important to achieving groundwater monitoring objectives, thus creating the need for improved distribution of data. Some tasks developed to improve hydrogeologic conceptualization and characterization include: 1) an extensive geologic study, 2) looking further at groundwater monitoring wells where there are historic and/or current measurements and possible well construction information, 3) looking further at the recharge in Napa County, and 4) developing guidance through other information compiled in earlier tasks. The GRAC previously looked at Sections 1 through 3 of the draft groundwater monitoring plan. There was substantial interest in discussing Section 3 – Groundwater Resources Goals and Monitoring Objectives, which spurred the creation of an ad hoc subcommittee. Overarching objectives of both groundwater level and quality monitoring are: alignment with the County's water resources goals, address data gaps and provide infill from other sources, and coordinate with other entities, such as local, State and federal organizations. Objectives of groundwater level monitoring are: being able to understand groundwater conditions, have a better knowledge of the groundwater budget, improve the understanding of occurrences, and further evaluate surface water to groundwater interaction. Priority subareas identified for groundwater level monitoring

within Napa County are: Calistoga, St. Helena, Yountville, Napa, Milliken-Sarco Tulocay (all within the Napa Valley Floor), and Carneros. Objectives of groundwater quality monitoring are: looking at what might be differences between areas or vertically within a system, assess changes and trends, monitor areas that may be affected by saline water (naturally or otherwise), and detect naturally occurring constituents, such as trace metals and minerals. Priority subareas identified for groundwater quality monitoring within Napa County are: Milliken-Sarco-Tulocay (Napa Valley Floor), Carneros, and Jameson/American Canyon. There are 79 sites located in the groundwater level priority subareas, whereas the groundwater quality priority subareas have 185 sites. The next draft of the groundwater monitoring plan will have information showing some tentative areas relative to the monitoring needs that will better meet the objectives. Later in the fall, there will be a report that will compile all of the information from the work of Tasks 1 through 3 of the updated hydrogeologic conceptualization and characterization. WICC member Marc Pandone suggested involving local well drillers with the GRAC due to the factual and anecdotal information they could provide, including anything historical in nature. Ms. Kretsinger Grabert agreed and said Mike Mortensen, Executive Director of the California Groundwater Association, an organization largely made up of drilling contractors, would be a good contact and would probably welcome the interface.

5. STRATEGIZING FOR PUBLIC OUTREACH FOR THE NAPA COUNTY GROUNDWATER MONITORING PLAN

Patrick Lowe, Natural Resources Conservation Program Manager, Public Works, referenced the Draft Communication and Education Plan and Draft FAQs included in the agenda packet. Deborah Elliott, Water Resources Specialist, Public Works, distributed a draft outreach educational brochure. Mr. Lowe complimented the ad hoc subcommittee and Ms. Elliott for the extra hours they've spent on the outreach materials and hoped the brochure, along with past meeting materials posted on the GRAC website, would provide good outreach tools. Today's materials reflect the GRAC's comments and suggestions from the June 28 meeting. Further comments submitted today or to Mr. Lowe, Ms. Elliott or Jeff Sharp via email in the next week and a half would be welcome for further revisions to the materials that will be presented at the August 23 GRAC meeting. Ms. Elliott mentioned additions to the draft plan that include an additional objective ("Establish a common understanding of groundwater resources in the County, including conditions and trends evidenced by monitoring data and scientific analyses") that might be added to the WICC website as a segue to help get the information out, and one guiding principle ("Be proactive and utilize GRAC members' existing networks to help locate appropriate well owners") that may extend to WICC members to help locate appropriate well owners to volunteer for the groundwater monitoring program. Ms. Elliott also went over the draft brochure. The information on the front pertains to groundwater resources, whereas the center has information developed thus far for the groundwater monitoring program, and the back has a brief background of the GRAC. GRAC member Alan Galbraith suggested the brochure and the GRAC website mention that further study to determine priority monitoring areas is required. WICC member Jeff Reichel suggested the Dry Creek Road area for outreach efforts due to the number of wells in the area.

6. INFORMATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Sharp, Principal Watershed Resources Planner, Public Works, stated that staff would be providing an email update to help keep WICC Board members informed between meetings since the WICC meets every other month now.

There were no further announcements from the WICC, GRAC members or staff.

7. ADJOURNMENT to the NEXT MEETING

Adjourned to the next regular meeting of the Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee on Thursday, August 23, 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