A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Napa County
Groundwater Resources
Advisory Committee

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

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC) met in regular session on Thursday, August 23, 2012 with the following members present:
Michelle Benvenuto; Vice Chair Tucker Catlin; Alan Galbraith; Don Gleason; Dave Graves; Michael Haley; Chair Peter McCrea; Charles Slutzkin; Steve Soper; Marilee Talley; Bill Trautman; Susanne von Rosenberg; Duane Wall; and Dale Withers. Jim Verhey arrived during Item No. 5.a. and left before Item No. 5.b.

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Not formally discussed.

3. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

a. REVIEW MEETING AGENDA AND PROCESS

Chair Peter McCrea referenced Items 5.a and 5.b and hoped the items would provide a lot of in-depth discussion.

b. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES AND MEETING SUMMARY

Action Minutes of the June 28, 2012 regular meeting and July 26, 2012 special joint GRAC-WICC meeting approved. Meeting Summary of the June 28, 2012 regular meeting approved as amended.

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

c. HANDOUT OF THE ADOPTED MISSION STATEMENT

Patrick Lowe, Natural Resources Conservation Program Manager, Public Works, referenced the Mission Statement included in the agenda packet and stated the most notable change was adding "non-regulatory" under Item b of the Mission Statement. Staff would be providing an update on the GRAC's activities to the Board of Supervisors towards the end of the year, which would include the Mission Statement.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. DRAFT NAPA COUNTY GROUNDWATER MONITORING PLAN

Vicki Kretsinger Grabert, Principal Hydrologist, LSCE, presented a PowerPoint presentation that went over the results of an ad hoc meeting regarding the objectives and criteria for prioritizing groundwater monitoring, as well as the groundwater monitoring plan outline, ground water levels and quality objectives and priorities, confidentiality procedures, and the next steps. References were made to a summary of the ad hoc meeting and the draft groundwater monitoring plan included in the agenda packet. The GRAC previously reviewed and commented on Chapters 1 through 3 of the groundwater monitoring plan and were now being provided with Chapters 4 through 6. Some of the GRAC members voiced concerns that "water balance" could be interpreted as monitoring individual well levels and that this terminology should be modified in the groundwater monitoring plan and outreach materials to indicate that level monitoring is aggregate. Vice Chair Tucker Catlin, a member of the ad hoc committee, mentioned that surface water to ground water interaction was discussed as a goal but wasn't included in the ad hoc meeting summary. Several questions arose during the discussion of confidentiality procedures. Some of the questions posed were what information is kept confidential/can a landowner choose the information; will data that is kept completely confidential still be usable; where does the data go, who gets to look at it, what are they going to do with it during the normal course of business, and how will it be processed; under what conditions can data be discoverable; and is the data used in a report kept indefinitely. Some suggestions made to address landowners' concerns were to have the groundwater monitoring plan and outreach materials list what the potential risks are for participating in the groundwater monitoring program and to clearly specify what information is kept confidential under the County's groundwater monitoring program and CASGEM and under what conditions, if any, would that information become discoverable. Chair Peter McCrea felt that the GRAC was comfortable with the draft groundwater monitoring plan up to the confidentiality issue, which should be the focus of the next meeting to ensure clarity, as well as revising the water balance terminology.

b. REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF THE GRAC COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION PLAN

Patrick Lowe, Natural Resources Conservation Program Manager, Public Works, gave an overview of the communication and education plan's progress and suggested the plan itself, which incorporates previously received comments from the GRAC, could be adopted today while the brochure and FAQs could receive additional comments for further revision. Member Michael Haley stated the ad hoc subcommittee looked at the original plan and came up with certain principles the plan should follow, which were to emphasize the voluntary nature of the groundwater monitoring program and to prioritize both the needed subareas and likely groups of well owners who would be contacted first and then expand gradually out. After today's discussion on the groundwater monitoring plan, it doesn't seem quite as urgent to look for hundreds of volunteers, and maybe prioritization doesn't need to be emphasized as much. The plan is considered to be a working plan since it will have to be revised accordingly as time goes by until the plan is concise. An explanation of benefits to the landowner is mentioned in the plan, but member Jim Verhey previously suggested it should also mention possible potential risks.

Item 5.b...Continued

Some suggestions were made to the content and distribution of the plan and brochure. Mr. Lowe added that staff will be sending a Word version of the brochure text and FAQs in an email to the GRAC requesting any additional comments. Written comments submitted by the end of the meeting would also be accepted. The GRAC approved the plan subject to making it explicit in the document that it's a "working plan".

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

6. OTHER BUSINESS

   a. UPDATE ON THE DWR GRANT APPLICATION FOR GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELLS

Patrick Lowe, Natural Resources Conservation Program Manager, Public Works, referenced the Board of Supervisors' resolution in the agenda packet that authorizes the Director of Public Works to apply for DWR grant funding. Mr. Lowe also referenced a copy of the grant application binder on hand and acknowledged the efforts of Vicki Kretsinger Grabert, Principal Hydrologist, LSCE , and Deborah Elliott, Water Resources Specialist, Public Works, for completing the application along with a number of other LSCE and County staff. A response to the application will not be known until November/December, but staff will keep the GRAC apprised.

   b. UPDATE ON CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE GROUNDWATER ELEVATION MONITORING (CASGEM) PROGRAM

Phil Miller, Deputy Director-Flood Control and Water Resources, Public Works, stated there were no new responses from potential participants. At the time of the last meeting, staff was going to start an effort to re-contact those who have yet to respond, which is ongoing. Patrick Lowe, Natural Resources Conservation Program Manager, Public Works, referenced the updated letter that was sent in June based on the GRAC's direction to ensure the letter was more explicit and that it addressed some of the concerns pertaining to confidentiality.

   c. DISCUSS USE OF THE MEETING SUMMARY

Dorian Fougères, Ph.D., Mediator, Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS, asked the GRAC if they found the Meeting Summary useful, which contains much more detailed meeting information than the Action Minutes. The GRAC concurred that the Meeting Summary is useful as a good reminder of what was discussed and if members miss any meetings. Mr. Fougères replied that the Meeting Summary would continue to be produced. A motion made by Vice Chair Tucker Catlin was approved to have redlined versions of updated documents included in the agenda packets as appropriate.

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

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **Review of Groundwater Monitoring Plan with additional details on confidentiality**
- **Review of Updated GRA Committee Workplan (October/December)**

9. ADJOURNMENT to the NEXT MEETING

Adjourned to the next regular meeting of the Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee on Thursday, October 25, 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 = Don 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