



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service



ACTION MINUTES

NAPA COUNTY GROUNDWATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 25, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC) met in regular session on Thursday, October 25, 2012 with the following members present:

Alan Galbraith; Don Gleason; Michael Haley; Chair Peter McCrea; Charles Slutzkin; Steve Soper; Marilee Talley; Bill Trautman; Jim Verhey; Susanne von Rosenberg; Duane Wall; and Dale Withers. Michelle Benvenuto and Dave Graves arrived during Item 3.c; and Vice-Chair Tucker Catlin arrived during item 5.a.

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Not formally discussed.

3. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

a. REVIEW MEETING AGENDA AND PROCESS

Dorian Fougères, Ph.D., Mediator, Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS, briefly reviewed the background and purpose of each agenda item.

b. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES AND MEETING SUMMARY

Action Minutes and Meeting Summary of the August 23, 2012 regular meeting approved.

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

c. REVIEW ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ADOPT UPDATED WORK PLAN/SCHEDULE

Dorian Fougères, Ph.D., Mediator, Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS, went over a large printout of a timeline that coincides with the work plan included in the agenda packet. The printout charts the GRAC's accomplishments since October 2011 to date and the tasks that will be carried out in the future. Some of the highlights of the past year's work include adoption of the Mission Statement; working on the characterization of groundwater conditions; an ad hoc subcommittee's work to further refine the priorities and objectives of the Groundwater Monitoring Plan; and adoption of a communication and education plan as a working document. Goals for next year include finalization of the data disclosure outline and outreach materials (January); adoption of the Groundwater Monitoring Plan (January/February); work on outreach efforts and the Groundwater Ordinance (February/June); report to the Board of

Item 3.c...Continued

Supervisors on the GRAC's work plan, accomplishments to date, and upcoming outreach efforts (February); and a joint meeting with the Watershed Information Conservancy and Center (July). The focus for 2014 will be on the GRAC's charge of developing sustainability objectives and incentives. Patrick Lowe, Natural Resources Conservation Program Manager, Public Works, stated the GRAC would receive a smaller version of the printout via email. The work plan was adopted as presented.

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. GROUNDWATER MONITORING DATA

Phil Miller, Deputy Director-Flood Control and Water Resources, presented a PowerPoint presentation on an outline that would be referred to as a data management and disclosure guidance document. The outline provides goals and objectives; intended audiences; the voluntary and non-voluntary groundwater monitoring programs used for data collection; the types of data collected; the manner in which the County processes the data; and how the County and other agencies will publish the data and how it would be used. Appendices to the guidance document include data management procedures, reference to the relevant State Water Code sections, public website addresses, and a sample Right of Entry agreement. Along with a revised version of the outline that was provided in the agenda packet, Mr. Miller distributed a handout that displayed the level of program participation according to County and State groundwater monitoring programs in a tabular format. Discussion arose on how confidentiality is addressed in the outreach materials, as well as the clarity of information. Chair Peter McCrea suggested the comments made could be reviewed by the ad hoc subcommittee for further revisions to the materials. Tom Adams, Senior Counsel, Dickenson Peatman & Fogarty, presented a PowerPoint presentation of his own perspective based on his experience in dealing with landowners on water rights and land issues and their typical concerns. Examples of some concerns are the necessity of groundwater monitoring, what are the benefits of groundwater monitoring and being proactive, and how much information is enough. Other more specific concerns pertain to confidentiality, groundwater monitoring data being used against the landowner, and the next steps that may impact landowners.

b. DRAFT NAPA COUNTY GROUNDWATER MONITORING PLAN

Vicki Kretsinger Grabert, Principal Hydrologist, LSCE, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the most recent draft of the Groundwater Monitoring Plan and noted the GRAC's previous reviews of Sections 1 through 3 in June and Sections 1 through 6 in August. A redlined version that showed the most recent revisions less the appendices and the complete clean version were included in the agenda packet. The most recent revisions pertained to clarifying tables and the definitions of

Item 5.b...Continued

acronyms, groundwater balance, additional background on quality issues, and simplifying Section 5. Ms. Kretsinger Grabert responded to previous questions on how the Groundwater Monitoring Plan would address mining and wastewater, which would apply only if a local/environmental health department recognized a site-specific interest to be of concern and if broader, non-point kinds of land uses were occurring at a recycled water use area near an area of interest. Topics of discussion included the most recent revisions to the Groundwater Monitoring Plan; a recap of objectives, priorities and areas of interest for groundwater level and quality monitoring; and the next steps. Groundwater balance and how the inflows and outflows affect storage was also discussed. It was recommended that the groundwater reporting by the County doesn't have to occur annually. The next steps focused on identifying the 18 areas of interest – how they relate to the education and outreach program and how there are some potential wells that might become the focus of volunteer participants. Although most of the areas of interest contain wells located within the same area where LSCE has conducted extensive geologic work, there are six areas of interest outside of the LSCE geologic work area that have unlocated wells. The information received from drillers' reports doesn't provide information on the current owner. A goal would be to link the located wells to the current owners and to locate the unlocated wells and then link to those owners. The Groundwater Monitoring Plan will be finalized and brought back to the GRAC at their January meeting. The draft report on Updated Hydrogeologic Characterization and Conceptualization will also be presented to the GRAC at their January/February meetings. Hillary Gitelman, Director, PBES, suggested that any GRAC members who have additional comments on the draft Groundwater Monitor Plan to submit them to staff via email.

c. REVIEW OF THE COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION VOLUNTARY GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE AND OUTREACH MATERIALS

Member Michael Haley requested the GRAC provide general comments about the brochure and inserts during the meeting, whereas Patrick Lowe, Natural Resources Conservation Program Manager, Public Works, would send an email to the GRAC asking for more specific comments. Many of the GRAC members concurred that the outreach materials should address the purpose and goal of groundwater monitoring, as well as list the possible risks. Mr. Haley stated the subcommittee will look at possibly rearranging some of the content of the brochure to give other subjects higher priorities and that confidentiality needs to be clear. Mr. Lowe added the intent of the brochure is to act as a framing piece while the inserts provide additional information that focus on different aspects of the Groundwater Monitoring Program and allow the GRAC members flexibility on what best to share with property owners. Chair Peter McCrea, Vice-Chair Tucker Catlin, and members Michelle Benvenuto and Susanne von Rosenberg volunteered and were appointed to the existing ad hoc subcommittee.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Review of Updated GRA Committee Workplan
- Review/possible finalization of Groundwater Monitoring Plan
- Finalize education and outreach materials
- Recruit members for outreach efforts

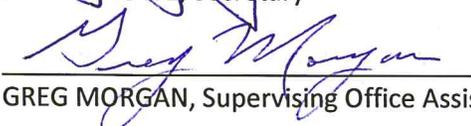
Chair Peter McCrea asked when staff would be reporting to the Board of Supervisors. Patrick Lowe, Natural Resources Conservation Program Manager, Public Works, replied that staff was planning for February since the Groundwater Monitoring Plan would hopefully be wrapped up in January, and it would be a good time to update the Board at that point on where the GRAC is at in terms of the work plan, what has been accomplished, and that the GRAC is beginning outreach efforts.

9. ADJOURNMENT to the NEXT MEETING

The regularly scheduled meeting of Thursday, December 13, 2012 has been cancelled. Adjourned to the next special meeting of the Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee on Thursday, January 31, 2013 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