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- MINUTES / ACTION SUMMARY -

JOINT GRAC-WICC SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, July 26, 2012, 4:00 p.m.

Yountville Community Center
6516 Washington St., Yountville, CA

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS (Chair)

Members Present: Mark Luce; Peter White; Belia Bennett; Jeff Reichel; Rita Steiner; Susan Boswell; Jim Lincoln; Marc Pandone; Chris Sauer; Mitchell Klug; Jason Lauritsen; Marita Dorenbecher, Keith Caldwell.

Members excused: Diane Dillon, Mike Basayne and Jeffrey Redding

Members absent: Gary Kraus, and James Krider

Staff present: Patrick Lowe, Jeff Sharp, Sarah Minahen

After a welcome by the respective Chairs, the WICC and Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC) members introduced themselves and briefly noted their backgrounds and roles in their respective organizations.

2. UPDATE ON WICC ACTIVITIES

Patrick Lowe, Natural Resources Conservation Program Manager, and Jeff Sharp, Principal Natural Resources Planner, Public Works, gave an informational PowerPoint presentation on the WICC and made reference to the informational brochure included in the agenda packet.

3. 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, of Planning, Building and Environmental Services, provided a brief overview of the GRAC creation and activities to date.

Vicki Kretsinger Grabert, Principal Hydrologist, Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE), provided a PowerPoint presentation that touched on recent groundwater studies, efforts in coordinating the County's California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program, and recommendations from initial groundwater studies and the implementation of some of those recommendations, including the updating of the hydrogeologic conceptualization and characterization of Napa County's groundwater resources, and the development of a groundwater monitoring plan. Ms. Kretsinger Grabert referenced the 2011 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 CA Dept of Water Resources in 2011 and identified 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 in select areas, 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 levels, and 4) developing guidance through other information compiled in earlier studies. The GRAC previously looked at Sections 1 through 3 of a 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, addressing data gaps and provide infill from other sources, and coordination with other entities, such as local, State and Federal agencies/organizations. The objectives of groundwater level monitoring are: to understand groundwater conditions, have a better knowledge of the groundwater budget, 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 quality differences between areas or vertically within a groundwater system, assess changes and trends, monitor areas that may be affected by saline water (naturally or otherwise), and detect naturally occurring 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 groundwater level priority subareas, whereas groundwater quality priority subareas have 185 sites. The next draft of the groundwater monitoring plan will have information showing some tentative sites relative to the monitoring needs that will better meet the plan objectives. Later in the fall, there will be a report that will compile all of the information from LSCE's work to update the hydrogeologic conceptualization and characterization of the resource. 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 opportunity.

4. 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. The materials presented reflect the GRAC's comments and suggestions from their June 28 meeting. Further comments submitted 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 ultimately 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"). It was suggested that the WICC website also be used as a tool to help get the information out. Also added to the plan was one guiding principle ("Be proactive and utilize GRAC members' existing networks to help locate appropriate well owners") that could be extend to WICC members to help locate appropriate well owners to volunteer for the groundwater

monitoring program. Ms. Elliott went over the draft outreach brochure. 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.

5. INFORMATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Sharp, Principal Natural 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.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned to the next regular meeting of the Watershed Information Center & Conservancy on Thursday, September 27, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

