



**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Water Conservation Committee Meeting
Monday October 17, 2016
11 AM Town Hall Conference Room
765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA**

WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:03 AM.

Roll Call:

Committee Members:

Present: Al Sill, Loverine Taylor, Mia Di Giovanni, Maryann Derwin, Judith Murphy, Delle Maxwell, Rebecca Flynn, Whitney Lane

Absent: Brandi de Garneau,

Other Attendees: Jeremy Dennis (for Brandi), Simone LaValle (Parks and Recreation Committee)

Oral Communications:

Rebecca - Cal Water endpoint unit installed, and it is working. She provided examples of the types of analytics that are available. She expressed a concern about the capability for timely leak detection.

Loverine – good rainfall in last storm – maybe as much as 5 inches

Al – Cal Water endpoint unit installed, but it is not working. Cal Water has been notified. They will notify Al when it is fixed.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the September 19 meeting were approved as written.

Old Business:

Subcommittee Updates:

Smart Irrigation (Al, Brandi, Loverine, Mia):

- No discussion

Graywater (Rebecca, Judy):

- All changes to the manual have been completed, but there is a small correction needed to some of the footers
- Consider letter to San Mateo County highlighting concerns around gray water permitting process and fees

Rainwater Capture (Loverine):

- Loverine visited “Mountain Feed and Farm Supply” in Ben Lomond. They have homesteading supplies, graywater conversions, and big water tanks – up to 5000 gallons. They recommend Pioneer water tanks. Loverine was not sure if they have a design person.

Leaks (Brandi, Rebecca, Mia):

- No discussion

Native Garden Tour (Judy, Delle, Marge, Danna):

- The subcommittee is meeting later today and will be discussing the gardens that will be on tour
- There is a question on including communities within the PV sphere of influence (Ladera, Los Trancos, etc.). There are pros and cons: additional good gardens, but more people and larger area.

Welcome to PV (Whitney, CheyAnne):

- No discussion

Update from Maryann:

- RMCP meeting – the region has reduced water consumption by 20%; San Francisco is calling for 10% voluntary reduction. There are concerns that additional mandatory water cuts may be coming next year,

Update from Brandi (Jeremy):

- Recap of Municipal Water Reduction Discussions: “Thanks for discussion and input”
- Jeremy – Cal Water rate increase is coming; smart meters were not included as part of rate increase justification (can we do smart meters ourselves? It’s a complicated issue.)

New Business:

Report on CPUC Hearing on Cal Water Rate Case (Loverine):

PUC hearing on Cal Water rate increase – Loverine attended. The hearing was very interesting. It included a judge in black robes and a stenographer. Every speaker complained about the short advanced notice of the hearing. Cal Water has 23 districts,

each with a different rate structure. Cal Water rep was Darren Duncan. There were roughly 10 Cal Water attendees, 20 attendees from the public (6 signed up to speak), and a few PUC officials also. ORA is the Office of Rate Payer Advocates. The Cal Water request under consideration was for the Bay Area Region (South San Francisco, San Carlos, part of Redwood City). Cal Water proposed a cost sharing arrangement with the Redwood Valley District (Sonoma, Napa, Lake County). A number of well-prepared speakers spoke at the hearing. Now the Judge needs to consider input from Cal Water, ORA, and the public to arrive at a final decision.

Check in with Parks & Recreation Committee (Simone):

Simone LaValle joined us for a discussion on PV town fields given limited water availability. Parks and Rec is thinking about longer term solutions. They are looking at desert environments. Arizona is experienced at maintaining fields in good shape and keeping them green without excessive water use. Our fields (at least Rossotti's) have gravel and sand base; water just runs through them. This is good for keeping water from pooling on the field, but not for conserving water. Could we modify fields to store runoff for later use? We should consider an cross committee sub-committee to look at longer term strategies for fields (Parks and Rec, WCC, Conservation). Mia volunteered to represent the WCC. Simone also noted that we probably need a 2 month period in winter and 2 months in summer when the fields are not used.

Discussion on Rainwater Harvesting Demo Site (Brandi):

Need volunteers in designing rain water harvesting demo (Loverine and Judith volunteered)

Announcements:

Next Meeting – Date/Time and Topics:

November 21, 11:00am to 1:00pm

Planned Topics:

- Subcommittee updates
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Adjournment: 12:35 pm