



**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY**  
**Water Conservation Committee Special Meeting**  
**Wednesday May 18, 2016**  
**11 AM Town Hall Conference Room**  
**765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA**

<http://www.portolavalley.net/for-residents/soliciting-in-portola-valley>

**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, Judith Murphy, Rebecca Flynn, Mia Giovanni, Delle Maxwell, Brandi de Garreaux, Adrienne Smith (new intern)

Absent: Whitney Lane, Loverine Taylor, Maryann Derwin,

Other Attendees: Debbie Mendelson

**Oral Communications:**

Mia – Jeremy is looking for people to support the emergency operations center

Debbie – the mayor of Palo Alto is joining mayors across the country in the “National Mayor’s Challenge for Water Conservation” (<http://www.mywaterpledge.com>)

Rebecca – Cal Water is missing May results and missing 2016 results on the consumption chart online. Residents may be under the impression that a nice green lawn will be helpful in selling their house. We need to communicate with and educate local realtors – green lawns are not necessary or desirable.

Al – Cal Water has a glitch in their system for residents that were granted an appeal to their water budget calculation. Until this issue is fixed, residents that have been granted an appeal will not be subject to overuse surcharges, but they also cannot add to their water bank if they use less than budget.

Judy – Water conservation expo in SF – shower timer – with logo, there is a 5000 unit minimum.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the April 18 meeting were approved as written.

## **Old Business:**

### **Report back on Earth Fair:**

The general impression was that the fair went well, although it may not have been as well attended as last year's at Woodside

Only 15 people entered our survey, and they were not really our target population (generally they were already low water users).

What could we do to draw in more of our target audience? Ideas: increase activities for kids, include contest for kids, have a presence at the PV film series and/or PV town concerts, set up a booth at the PV town picnic.

Town Picnic date: June 4 - Begins ~10:30 after Zot's to Tot's race. We should have a table. Our standard demonstration items can be displayed – with continual improvement as we do more of these types of events.

## **New Business:**

Update from Native Sod Plot: Delta Bluegrass representative met with Howard, Brandi, Judy and Delle. Plots have foot traffic from kids going over the fence. Path will get widened to encourage channeling that traffic. Delta and Howard will coordinate care of these plots; they will be weeded more often. Kurapia, Delta's new lawn substitute, spreads slowly by runners and so cannot go here next to field. We will look for a constrained plot on the property to demonstrate this.

Update on Native Garden Tour: Delle reported on meeting with MaryAnn, Brandi, Delle and Judy where the proposal was discussed and edited. The subcommittee consists of Delle, Judy, Marge DeStaebler (Conservation Committee), and Danna Breen (community activist and landscape designer). The group is looking for coordinating sponsorship to get volunteer docents. Carpooling will be encouraged. Having a large lawn would be a disqualifier from being included as one of the show gardens. It may make sense to have some native plant sales at the town center on the day of the tour.

### **Update on Countywide Groundwater Assessment Project:**

This is expected to happen over 3 years. The current effort is to gather as much data as possible on the ground water conditions of the San Mateo County sub-basin. Surface water and ground water interaction are being evaluated and a sub-basin water balance is being developed. There is a concern for how to get a comprehensive list of existing

wells. A permit is required for new wells in San Mateo County and in Portola Valley currently, but this was not always the case. Other questions include:

- Is the existence of a well disclosed in a real estate transaction?
- Should there be a moratorium on new wells until the County has a plan?
- Are there residents pulling water from local creeks?

### **Review and Discuss New Order from Governor on Water Restrictions:**

There is a new water conservation order from the governor. Some interim restrictions have been made permanent, others have been dropped. The conservation target dropped from 25% to 20% of 2013 levels. Overall, we do not have many details yet. A draft will be available for viewing on Cal Water's website sometime around May 24. The Governor does have leaks and smart metering highlighted as focus areas.

At this point, the discussion turned to possible PSAs to send out:

1. survey on leaks to help build testimonials to convince Cal Water of the importance of smart meters
2. Check your sprinklers for leaks before turning on for the warm weather
3. Pool bucket test for testing pool leaks.

### **Review Plan for 2016 – Discuss Subcommittees:**

Current Subcommittees

#### **Smart Irrigation** —Al, Brandi, Loverine, Mia

Smart Irrigation Workshop, Aug 27<sup>th</sup>  
Promote appropriate watering, efficient sprinklers and smart controllers

#### **Graywater** — Rebecca, Judy

Review/update graywater manual  
L2L Demo system  
Possibly organize a class w/ an option to participate in a group buy

#### **Rainwater Capture** — Loverine

Updates to WELO  
Promote rainwater catchment, rain gardens

#### **Leaks** — Brandi, Rebecca, Mia

#### **Survey Tool/HEA** — Brandi, Adrienne

#### **Native Garden Tour** — Delle, Judy, Marge DeStaebler, Danna Breen

## **Welcome to PV** — Whitney, Cheyenne

Judy suggested a subcommittee to focus on town regulations and how to possibly rework them to emphasize water conservation. For example: why not require a permit to install a lawn of any size. Some overlap with things Loverine is working on so thought she should be included to work on this. Brandi will work on a list of suggestions to go over with Jeremy, including:

- Lawns
- Septic, sewer
- Real-estate disclosures
- Impervious surfaces

Delle requested a copy of the 2016 WCC Plan slides that were used for the presentation to TC. AI will email the doc to the group.

### **Announcements:**

**a. Sustainable Silicon Valley Water Symposium – Resilience & Reuse: Monday, May 23rd** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-water-symposium-resilience-and-reuse-tickets-22237961341>

### **Next Meeting – Date/Time and Topics:**

June 20, 11:00am to 1:00pm

#### Planned Topics:

- Subcommittee reports
- Update from Maryann

**Adjournment: 12:56 pm**