



**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY  
Water Conservation Committee Meeting  
Monday September 19, 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 11:08 AM.

**Roll Call:**

Committee Members:

Present: Al Sill, Rebecca Flynn, Loverine Taylor, Brandi de Garmaux, Mia Di Giovanni, Maryann Derwin, Judith Murphy

Absent: Delle Maxwell, Whitney Lane

Other Attendees: Jeremy Dennis

**Oral Communications:**

Rebecca – has completed the conversion of her lawn to low water use natives

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the July 18 meeting were approved as amended. Al to correct and send on to Sharon

**Old Business:**

**Update from Brandi:**

New meeting time of 11:00am has been approved by town council.

Brandi attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop for the San Mateo Groundwater Assessment. They are anticipating a draft report in January. One item being considered is how far wells should be set back from streams. Existing regulations are more focused on protecting wells rather than protecting creeks. There are two more workshops left.

**Subcommittee Updates:**

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

- Rebecca will check on possible classes possible for local gardeners

- Mia will check on another possible controller expert (someone who could teach an advanced class or consult with residents on installation)—Al to find name of the expert that we met earlier in the year
- Brandi will post Lori's presentation from the Smart Controller Workshop
- Brandi will send follow-up email to workshop attendees

**Graywater (Rebecca, Judy):**

- Manual almost done, Rebecca just has a few last changes; the last version circulated looked great
- Al to edit the web site to post it after it is finalized
- We should consider presentation to Town Council after the manual is completed; Judy volunteered to do the presentation

**Rainwater Capture (Loverine):**

- Lovey will talk with Jeremy to provide input on rainwater catchment that might be implemented at the Town Center and Old Schoolhouse

**Leaks (Brandi, Rebecca, Mia):**

- Brandi owes Rebecca 2 PSAs to be posted on the PV Forum

**Survey Tool / HEA (Brandi, Adrienne):**

- No progress yet

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

- Sunday April 2, confirming which gardens will be on tour

**Welcome to PV (Whitney, CheyAnne):**

- Emergency Preparedness is also interested in participating in this

**New Business:**

**Distribution of Committee Postcards:**

Jeremy distributed Committee postcards to all attendees. They are for outreach and contact with residents. Let the town staff know if we run out.

**Discussion of Town Regulations with Jeremy:**

Discussion of process: as the committee comes up with ideas for next fiscal year, provide recommendations to the Town Council of potential areas to work on. That lets the Town Council provide feedback before too much effort is expended. It also gives the town staff a chance to review our ideas. The approach should be to bring to the Council

the idea of an area to work on first, rather than with a specific, fully formed recommendation. Try to get ideas fleshed out prior to budget setting in June.

### **Discussion of Potential Voluntary Municipal Water Reduction with Jeremy:**

The state is allowing a change in the water conservation target from 36% to 10%. What should the town do to support the conservation target? Specifically, what should we do with the town fields? Brandi provided an extensive presentation of data on how the fields are currently maintained and their expected condition under differing watering scenarios. She will send the data out to committee members.

We need to conserve at least 10%, but even at that level fields will likely be stressed. So manage the fields so that they are as good as possible while still saving 10%. Long term there may be more of a role for technology and rainwater catchment in helping adapt to reduced water availability.

### **Debrief from Smart Irrigation Controller Workshop**

Good turnout – 34 attendees. Some comments from committee members who attended:

- possibly too basic
- Lori (the workshop leader) may have emphasized her favorite controller too much
- the intro may have been too long

Maryann brought up that debugging issues with Smart Irrigation Controllers can be problematic – may be a little too complicated for many residents. One suggestion was to perhaps sponsor some local peer user groups to help out others with the same brand of smart controller.

We need to try and do more to have qualified, trained contractors who can work with residents. Lori's handout at the workshop had some information on water wise certification. Discuss further in Smart Irrigation Subcommittee

### **Announcements:**

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

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am to 1:00pm

Planned Topics:

- Subcommittee updates
- Update on presentation to Town Council on municipal water recommendation

**Adjournment: 12:54 pm**