

Muni/HOA/SmallAg meeting notes

8/18/2016 at WRLT office

Present: Steve Miller, Dale Ewerson, David Sias, Pat McMahon, Jim White, Jae Hill, and Patti Lousen

Yellow highlights need verification. We covered the agenda loosely but the main items discussed were:

Data needs:

- Monitoring of wells for depth to water needed on a 1x per month basis. Designating some sentinel wells in the GGWD locality.
- Request from IDWR/USGS a target volume level that represents a sustainable aquifer, knowing that this will change annually and seasonally.
- Data for individual well use off of the District 45 and Baseline canals to know that agricultural reductions are occurring in the future.
- What is the recharge capacity of the Hiawatha canal and are there limitations to using it to increase aquifer resilience at the mid-valley region?
- 2015 District 37 water use data
- Recharge – investigate for feasibility, locations, periodicity of impact

Group discussed what are the city planning and growth needs for water use? Pat explained that all cities currently have a 40 year water use plan filed with the state due to wastewater treatment planning requirements by **DEQ**. Cities know their 40 year water needs.

Water Conservation Targets: Terminology and support of the following water reduction targets need verification from all groups.

- HOA's – Patti and David thought 15% was achievable for HOA's
- Muni's – Pat thought that SVW&SD could achieve 14% reduction
- Small Ag – Jim thought that 15% was possible for farms under 5-10 acres

Seasonal and/or Annual Strategies:

- Maximize the surface water use as long as possible. Shorten use of irrigation pumping season (**April 15 – October 15**)
- Investigate recharge locations, objectives,
- Decrease lawns – use native/drought tolerant vegetation
- Work with cities on code to increase water conservation
 - Tiered rates, daytime watering restrictions, allowed vegetation recommendations, irrigation audits, amended soil.
- Investigate opportunities with snow making: change beneficial use to be non-consumptive or partially consumptive instead of entirely consumptive. Look at

increasing storage at Rotarun, Baldy, Dollar for delaying run-off and increasing aquifer storage.

- Support cloud seeding
- Support vegetation management or investigate at larger landscapes using grazing to reduce water use. Ex: use grazers to reduce sage brush in appropriate areas where distance to ground table is being effected to transition to a grass environment.
- Manage creeks and tributaries to increase aquifer resilience. Consider elimination of cottonwoods if appropriate.

Outreach:

- Continue with water wise workshops which target DIY landscape practices for reducing water use and continue hosting community water talks. Target Rotary, Syringa Mountain School, Bellevue Farms HOA, and larger groups.
- Encourage municipalities to be more water conservation oriented in their codes and requirements.
- Create a list of Best Practices for HOA's and homeowners
- Create surveys to see where knowledge is lacking
- Get more media coverage. Host a series of articles. Give reporters a land tour of the area

Funding:

- Bring in expertise to help us develop a funding model, specifically using impact investing for conservation projects.