



**Date: July 12, 2022**

**9:30 AM – 11:30 AM**

**Location – Regional Water Authority**

**MEETING NOTES**

**Regional Water Efficiency Program Advisory Committee (RWE PAC)**

**Meeting called by:**

Program Manager

**Type of meeting:**

Program Advisory Committee

Call to Order at: 9:30 a.m.

**1.0 Welcome and Introductions**

Attendees

Amy Talbot, Dan Gwaltney, Don Smith, Bill Cassady, Greg Bundesen, Karen Wilhelm, Linda Higgins, Monica Garcia, Ryan Burnett, Tom Hennig, Travis Franklin, William Granger, Christina Perez, Jared Clark, Ken Kirkland, Gayleen Darting (Regional San), Bryan Byrd (DWR)

**2.0 Meeting Notes**

The May 10, 2022 notes were approved and will be posted online.

**3.0 WEP Reserve Policy**

The Policy was returned to WEP for approval of edits. The \$150,000 for grant floating and \$50,000 for drought/redesign have remained intact. The \$100,000 for program funding and indexing for inflation were revised to be 17% of WEP budget (which at this time equates to \$100,000) and no indexing for inflation.

This does not affect the current fiscal year budget but will affect future budgets. There was unanimous support of the changes, with the understanding that the policy may be reviewed/changed at a later date.

**4.0 Prop 1 Grant funding**

Toilet Saturation Study

The goals are to know what upgrade potential is still available in the region and whether to sunset or ramp up programs. The study budget is \$100,000 and the focus will be on SF and MF residential. This is a regional study but there is the potential for agencies to provide additional funding for more detailed agency specific information. The study will start in August 2022 and wrap up by fall 2023 at the latest.

Outdoor Study

WEP also received funding for an outdoor study and the RFP will need to be released by early Fall 2022 to meet the grant timeline. There is broad support for focusing on CII Landscape Measurement for 606/1668 requirements. However a mixed meter study was also suggested. If you have any ideas for this study, contact Amy.

CII High Water User Rebates

There is \$50,000 available for this program. The goal is to target high water use commercial sectors and provide them with water saving rebates. The customer would reach out to RWA with proposed upgrades, RWA would hire a contractor to evaluate savings and provide an estimated rebate amount to the customer.

There was the idea that we should reach out to a specific segment. Suggestions included breweries, commercial laundries and food/beverage facilities. Also, there is the idea that we should reach out to the highest user at each agency.

<b>5.0 General Program and Drought Updates</b>	
<b>Other Grants</b>	WEP has received about \$150,000 in reimbursements from DWR for previous grants. Discussion on how the funding should be used. Suggestions included: additional drought messaging – could extend our current media buys, increase funding for the indoor/outdoor studies, revive a regional program, i.e. Rachio or Flume, increase school education funding or add it to savings? Amy will bring proposal back to September RWEPCAC.
<b>Bonneville Environmental Foundation</b>	This funding is for 10 CII landscape upgrades. There are currently two projects that are complete, Fair Oaks Park District received new weather-based controllers. A business in the City of Folsom received a conversion from turf to water efficient landscaping. Eight businesses currently have appointments with contractors to complete the work by December 2022.
<b>School Education Program</b>	The Water Spots Video Contest will continue for an additional year. The School Education Committee will reconvene to discuss options for the future. Some of the options are: busing students to MOSAC, summer Curriculum at MOSAC, discounted Tickets for MOSAC, school presentations (ZunZun, Banana Slug String Band, StemHero, etc.), and career development.
<b>Drought/EO Regulation Messaging</b>	The focus group report was finalized and sent out. There is a public opinion phone survey is scheduled to start in late July/early August.  Messaging is focused on stress your lawn, save your trees. There is a CII turf watering ban and we expect conservation regulations to become mandatory.
<b>RWA Drought Survey Summary</b>	The results of the RWA Drought Survey are available. Here is a quick summary: Agencies have had efficiency programs for decades; annual budgets range from \$3,500 to \$1.9 million (average \$550,000); some budgets increased for drought response; website/paper mailers preferred outreach for CII turf watering ban; majority of suppliers are limiting to 3 day a week watering; most suppliers restrict watering times; there is addition/expansion of more outdoor rebates; there is an increase rebate participation for half of the suppliers; increased focus on house calls, irrigation upgrades, landscape surveys and toilet rebates; and some increased water waste enforcement.
<b>GardenSoft</b>	The software is available through the BeWaterSmart.info website. Photos have been upgraded and California natives are identified. We've removed some plants that are invasive in our region. Let Monica know if you are interested in any changes.
<b>Moisture Meters</b>	Moisture meters are being mailed out; people love them.
<b>Regional Collateral Order</b>	A collateral order is being compiled, the due date is July 19 <sup>th</sup> . Some of the available items are moisture meters; screw drivers, BWS gloves; knee pads; leak detection tabs; and yard signs.
<b>Mulch Mayhem</b>	The event occurred on May 14 and May 21, feedback and comments are being submitted to Amy. This is one of the most popular events we host.
<b>UC Davis/RWA Professionals Landscape Workshop</b>	The workshop was canceled and may be rescheduled this winter.

<b>6.0 Agency Announcements</b>	
Agency Announcements	Agencies provided information to group about upcoming events.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 a.m.