

EBMUD Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
8/15/2016
2:00 pm – 3:50 pm

Present: Helmut Winkelhake (HW), Jerri McNair (JM), Kristin Bowman (KB), Tom Stewart (TS), Eric Santos (ES), Sal, Paul, Maura Baldwin (MB), Scott Sommerfeld (SS), Lisa Cuellar (LC), Dona Wessel (DW)

Absent: Dan Palmer (DP), Chris McNairy (CM)

Item 1: Updates and Announcements

Scott introduced Paul, the new EBMUD water conservation rep. Scott will be transitioning out of his role by Feb 1st

The upcoming EBMUD Designing your bay friendly garden class is sold out
EBMUD will also be having an upcoming Irrigation workshop at the Rockridge Library.
EBMUD will also be having a gray water and rain water class on sept 24th.
EBMUD's next LAC meeting speaker will be Bart Obrien from the Tilden park botanic garden and will present on planting for biodiversity
Lisa Cuellar will be joining us today from the CUWCC

Item 2: Review of the EBMUD Water Use Calculator and River Friendly Calculator

ES provided a basic overview of the calculator and TS filled in and described the calculator to get Lisa up to speed

TS summarized in a quote, "This is a water efficient landscape design tool, that helps users visualize low water used landscapes.

Lisa shared that the CUWCC is creating a calculator from feedback received from a stake holder meeting to address the "sustainable landscaping market transformation plan".

Lisa added the focus was how to get the market to adopt sustainable landscapes. In order to make a business case for homeowners and others there needs to be a ROI calculator.

Lisa added that the CUWCC will be having a meeting in October. The intent of the workshop is to assess how tools are being used, what are their weakness and strengths and how do we capture multiple uses, how do we factor emission reductions, and other non-quantifiable's like aesthetics or beneficial insects. It will also address, how do we prioritize different values for different users, residential, home owners, calculators.

Lisa added that utilities in different sectors will be looked at. Lisa referred to the river friendly calculator that is already created.

Scott and Richard commented that MWELO is not included with current ROI calculators and just focus on water savings, but should include MWELO.

TS commented that this is all voluntary at this point. Bay friendly changed to rescape California.

SS commented that the need is for someone who would be applying for a lawn rebate program.

TS commented that there are people out there that are altruistic that are already converting their landscape.

KB reiterated that the calculator isn't really MWELo, it is really a tool that shows usage.

JM said the next step would be to show a water budget and showing ROI. The calculator could also show other benefits, pest management, and food. I-trees,...

Jerrie has reviewed other online calculators and feels Tom's idea simplifies the process and the easier to use.

Tom kept things simple by using a low water use plants, but there could be a plug in that links you to low water use plants.

Maura, stated that the idea we proposed it not about just ROI, its about people who just want to do the right thing. ROI is one of many incentives. Maura likes the idea of the low water use plant connection to plants that perform well in the district. The tool gives people the opportunity to actually measure and quantify on how to save water.

Lisa then walked the group through an explanation on how the river friendly calculator is connected to their calculator. It looks at gallons per day, by zipcode, and square feet of specific plants, it tells you your gallon per day compared to river friendly landscape, then translates into emission savings and waste.

Note: Kristin navigated through the calculator with Lisa's direction.

Tom, stated the difference between what we are trying to do is that we are using a MAWA baseline

Jerri asked Lisa if the river friendly and Russian river friendly calculators are all based off the river friendly model and the answer was yes.

Helmut asked questions about the program being expanded. "Lisa, is there funding available?"

Lisa said yes, CUWCC had funding but had not approached EBMUD yet,

Scott suggested that we present our initial ideas to Richard and ask if this is something the district would like to do.

Lisa wanted to scroll back and add a rain water harvesting feature, but Tom stated that SLA's are defined in MWELo. We could include add on a section for Rain Water Harvesting.

Maura asked for links for other items such as RWH.

Dona feels RWH is good conceptually but doesn't feel it's often feasible.

Kristin's thought was even though RWH may not be significant, there are some unique situations where it helps

Helmut feels RWH is practical for some. Its for those who have a big garden have the room and the money.

KB stated the workshop will be in October discuss what will work and wont work when it comes to RWH.

HW asked LC, "How much was the budget and how many people are using the River Friendly Calculator and how are they marketing it.

Jerrie asked questions about target audience. Who does cuwcc focus their content towards.

Lisa said Santa Rosa's calculator is robust and targeted towards contractors and landscape professionals.

Jerrie has been looking at calculators and translating to a water budget and how to use it. Jerrie is recommending it to connect to a controller.

Scott mentioned Tom's idea is different from smart controllers. Scott feels the river friendly is more geared towards professionals. Scott shared a book on navigating environmental attitudes. Tom Heberline

KB – the question the River Friendly calculator answers is how much water it will save?

DW – The focus of the proposal needs to tell EBMUD the ROI. Dona is reviewing the recrafting the irrigation proposal around how much it will save water.

LC – Funding doesn't exist but a small group will be put together to determine funding needs and will be checking of strategies and how to shift the market. How valuable are the tools?

DW – wanted to address the chart in the River Friendly calculator. Sees lots of value of using the layout in the calculator. The iconic pictures show problems. This could be an extra step.

SS – another project, to think about. How to hydrozone. There are a few things to think about. Scotts idea would be to have several different projects on going. Specifically about plants with reversed et curves, summer reduced.

KB – Agree'd, it would be a great idea to add summer reduced watering plants.

DW – loves low water use, shade loving plants but its difficult to find these plants. There are "cold hearty" lists but no "low water use, shade loving plant" lists.

SS – within low you have low water use, then you have summer reduced water use. Also, there is a difference between deep rooted and shallow rooted.

Item 3:

Next Steps

We should all review the River Friendly site

Jerrie will compile her notes on different calculators she has come across

Dan Palmer will share his smart controller guide

The next meeting is on Monday, May 16th, from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm.