

Attendees:

Aisha Bouziane
Katie Creighton
Saxon Holt
Marie Kahn

Georgia Madden
Alisa Rose Seidlitz
Michael Thilgen
Kristin Bowman

Announcements:

- Next meeting is Jan 23rd 2:00-3:30, before General LAC. Speaker will be on rain gardens.

1. Demonstration Gardens project - general discussion:

- Our subcommittee goal is to submit a proposal to EBMUD that defines the formal process through which the subcommittee will recommend additional funding for existing demonstration gardens. The proposal will address ongoing maintenance and garden care as a responsibility for renewal grants.
- The tech subcommittee submitted a proposal for the development of an online water budget tool, and the Professional Development subcommittee is writing a proposal to create an online hub/calendar for professional development trainings and events.
- We can then follow up with the committee recommendations for specific demonstration gardens needing “renewal” funds.
- A rubric or an application for the gardens to use when applying may be developed by the subcommittee.
- The proposal to EBMUD will address the following (but not limited to) headings: Project description (renewal grant), Audience (general public and gardens), Benefits (inspiring and delightful low-water use demonstration gardens), Needs (money for renewal), Completion time (depends on individual gardens), Responsibilities (both of EBMUD and gardens, including ongoing maintenance).
- Katie and Georgia will work on a formal proposal draft and check in with Kristin before the next meeting.
- This subcommittee members will be assigned a garden(s) and conduct outreach on refresher grant opportunity.

2. CUWCC Demonstration Garden Wiki recommendations:

- Kristin recapped the California Urban Water Conservation Council’s project to create a WIKI page of demonstration gardens statewide, which will be launched this spring. CUWCC has asked for garden recommendations from EBMUD. The gardens do not have to be perfect. The work this subcommittee has done on researching EBMUD grant projects dovetails with CUWCC goals.
- It would be important to let the gardens we are submitting know that they would be on this list.
- This kind of attention might encourage more garden care and maintenance. Gardens would be listed on both CUWCC and EBMUD’s websites.
- Would be good to know if CUWCC is collecting information regarding the quality of signage, hours of operation, fees, and ADA accessibility.
- Gardens (and point people): Subcommittee members will complete short questionnaire provided by CUWCC for their wiki page and communicate with gardens.
 - Heather Farms (Saxon)
 - Dimond Park (Michael)
 - Glen Echo (Michael)
 - Lakeside Park (Michael)
 - Stopwaste Office (Michael)
 - Sausal Creek (Bobbi & Katie)
 - Stopwaste Bay Farm Island (Georgia)

3. Update on the Nursery Kiosk program and Companion Planting List for nurseries:

- 25 Nurseries signed up for EBMUD's kiosk program, and 19 have kiosks so far. Kiosks are a podium provided by EBMUD with a copy of EBMUD book, handouts, and a binder ring of laminated information.
- Should we create a suggestion list with 5-6 compatible plants based on community or growing conditions to be included as handouts available at the nursery kiosks?
- Is it in this subcommittee's best interest to put effort into this kind of resource when there has already been a great deal of effort put into what could be a huge project. Much of this kind of guidance is provided extensively on the summer-dry website and in the book.
- Saxon is currently putting efforts into expanding the summer-dry website to include all of WUCOLS with DWR.
- Could we utilize this existing work to pull some information to the forefront to make it easier for homeowners to make smart selections? Perhaps utilizing a captivating photo vignette with several companion species as a buying guide with names and horticultural information?
- Are there two separate needs being addressed - those of the nursery and those of the homeowner?
- In what other ways can we make the best use of the resource of the EBMUD and summer-dry website?
- Can this subcommittee propose that EBMUD reprint the book, as well as make it available in another way - via jump drive or on a tablet at the kiosks?
- Subject tabled until next meeting as it's past 5:30pm.