

EBMUD LAC Project Committee Meeting

DATE: Tuesday November 9, 2021

TIME: 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

LOCATION: Zoom

2:00 Attendees: Stew Winchester, Jerri McNair, Alisa Rose Seidlitz, Karly Behncke, Eric Santos, Ann-Marie Benz, Jolene Bertetto, Jessica Woodard, Lou Bendon, Dona Wessells, Kristin Bowman, Sundong Kwong, Chris McNairy, Scott Sommerfeld, Helmut Winkelhake

2:10pm LAC General Meeting Presentations

- ✓ Completed -Nice job!
- ✓ Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates - Saxon Holt
- ✓ Overcoming Barriers to Lawn Conversion – Rebecca, Lou, Ann-Marie
- ✓ Irrigation Tools and Resources - Christine Hawkins and Luke Sires

2:15pm Upcoming Presentations

- Dec 6, 2021 SB 1383 [Organics Waste Reduction Law](#) (Kelly Schoonmaker/Ron Alexander)
 - Stew requested presenters cover different compost/mulch treatments for various landscape types
- Feb 2022 Water Conservation Strategic Plan (Alice Towey)
- Sustainable Landscape Demonstration Gardens (TBD)
- The Art of Rainwater Catchment (TBD)
- Native Plant Maintenance and Planting for Blooms year-round (Spring 22)
 - Dona, Stew, Lou, Jessica/Ann-Marie, Kristin to work on this. Potential demonstration at a Devil Mountain site. Topic ideas include – plants that provide cut flowers year-round, climate appropriate plants, life span of plants, new root system of trees, tree species with more conservative water needs, planting under Oaks, planting under Redwood. Calscape – look under landscape information
 - [Query Calscape for Redwood companion plants.](#)
 - [Calscape Oak companion plants](#)
- Changing use of outdoor space since the pandemic and water conservation. How are park depts. manage the influx of people
 - Ann Marie and Karly to work on this. Could include “natureplay” sustainable plants for children and dogs. Could focus on how the use of outdoor spaces changed during COVID. Karly in the midst of designing for new uses for outdoors spaces.
- Panel of Arborists
 - Dona recommends LA tree presentations and programs
- Sundong comments about how people are choosing artificial turf since it is perceived as easy and clean.
 - Need more info on grass-like low water groundcovers i.e. Thyme (not great for foot traffic)
 - Dona noted APLD did an exceptional presentation on native plant and firescaping. Found monocultures are bad for fire. Woody plants also difficult for fire issues.

APLD on Firescaping: <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/l-bkoDDjRxShx9SW37IzBiYY7f9RbvY20tLy4rXGaTZbicSb9v83AYw3AI95DD0.HWj25W0mPEghBTOh> (Passcode – s\$4&&rE)

- Stew mentioned low-water Mexican grasses for commercial property owners.
- Alisa Rose mentioned Lypia/Kurapia as an alternative to grass.
- Karly mentioned people are using artificial turf for dogs. Need dog-friendly plant material, sustainable recreational plants. CNPS did a webinar on [dogscaping available on youtube](#) and covered at LAC [Overcoming Barriers to Lawn Conversion](#).

2:25pm

Project Updates and Ideas

- ROI – Subgroup for this project
 - Water reductions, Native vs Turf maintenance cost etc.
 - Lou, Kristin, Helmut, and possibly Rebecca to work on this.
 - Helmut has sites with rain catchment, fog catchment, dehumidiers, and a 9 acres sustainable landscape to showcase and share before and after metrics.
 - Money is part of ROI but benefits are also non-monetary
 - Eric mentioned Rebecca worked with Brightview on a number of the lawn conversion projects at Rossmoor and may have some before and after maintenance requirement metrics, cost of project etc for ROI study.
- Fall Webinars and Office Hours offered in English and Spanish
 - Fall Garden Maintenance, Save Our Water Save our Trees
 - Office Hours – Leaks and Rebates
 - [Median Strips Office Hour – Nov 16 1-2pm](#)
- Offering programs and materials for non-English speaking landscapers
 - [Need help spreading the word](#) – Forming a task force with PAO. Other ideas?
- Plant list updates (Stew)
 - Waiting on CNPS to update climate zones. The goal is to update the EBMUD plant list with more specificity to climate zones.
- CNPS Native Plant Marketing Campaign Update (Did not get to this item)
- ReScape Re-Certification of Rated Landscapes (Did not get to this item)
- Ruth Bancroft tours (Jolene)
 - EBMUD, CCWD, and Ruth Bancroft Gardens organizing sustainable landscape garden tour in 7 square mile radius from Ruth Bancroft this spring
- Demonstration Gardens
 - Survey (Winter 2022 – Did not get to this item)
 - Contra Costa Community College, Culinary Garden (Jolene)
 - Updated irrigation system, added submeter, added native plants, refurbished site.
 - Heather Farms
 - “Climate Discovery” garden
 - Plant removal, grading, irrigation plan, planting plan in progress
 - To be completed in phases

2:45pm

New Business

3:15pm

Adjourn