

MEETING MINUTES

Greywater Roundtable

Friday, February 27, 2009

9 AM – 11 AM

Monterey County Business Council – Conference Room

1732 Fremont Blvd, 2nd floor

Seaside, CA



9:00 AM

Attendees:

Bruce Arthur, RainSource Water / Pondsaway
Michael Bekker, Cannery Row Company, MCHA, National Marine Sanctuary
* Terry Black, Brac Systems and H2-O Mizer
* Catherine Bowie, Cal Am Water
Annette Chaplin
* Jeff Condit, City of Monterey
* Dan Cort, Pacific Grove Mayor
* Jordan Daniels, Building Wise, USGBC
Carole Dawson
* Mike Dawson, President AMAP, Member at Large SAC
* Bruce Delgado, Marina Mayor
* Mary Anne Dennis, Monterey County Health Dept, Environmental Health
* Roger Dolan
Regina Doyle, MPWMD, Director District 4
* Dan Fernandez, CSU Monterey Bay
* Laura Franklin, Monterey Peninsula College
* Oona Gabersek, Bellinger Foster Steinmetz Landscape Architecture, USGBC
* Kim Ha, Monterey County Business Council
Peter Haase, Fall Creek Engineering
* Alison Kerr, NPS - Cebrowski Institute, Del Rey Oaks
Kay Cline, Sustainable Seaside
John Kuehl, City of Monterey
Mary Ann Leffel, Monterey County Business Council
* Richard LeWarne, Monterey County Health Dept, Environmental Health Asst Dir
Deborah Lindsay, Pacific Grove City Council
Paul Lord, Marina Coast Water District
* Safwat Malek, Enviro Int'l
* Heather Marquard, PDP, Sustainable Seaside, USGBC, AIA
* Sarah McCandliss, Sarah McCandliss Landscape Design
Mibs McCarthy
Joe Piedimonte, Ausonio Inc.
* Stephanie Pintar, MPWMD
Ken Principe, Rana Creek

* Rick Riedl, City of Seaside
* Tanja Roos, Hilton Bialek Habitat
Sharon Sarris, Greenfuse, USGBC
Machell Sterbick, Kitchen Studio, NARI
Allen Stroh, Monterey County Health Dept, Environmental Health Director
Michael Waxer, Carmel Development, AIA, StepUp2Green
Roelof Wijbrandus, Sustainable Seaside

*** INDICATES INTEREST IN COMMITTEE TO MEET MORE REGULARLY**

Introduction by John Kuehl and Mary Ann Leffel

The goal for this roundtable is to discuss water conservation measures and determine a plan of action for their effective implementation, specifically greywater and water catchment technologies. We need to move this process forward, especially if we talk about training the workforce but there are no jobs if there are hurdles to installing these systems.

9:30 AM

Presentation by **Peter Haase**, Fall Creek Engineering, on greywater technologies

- Permitted sources – laundry except diapers.
- When look at available technologies, there is a short list. Most developed in Australia where they suffered 15 yr drought; also in Asia. A lot of opportunity for innovation → craft regulations to create new technologies.
- Laundry system – large scale facilities are doing it in Monterey, but don't know if Monterey hotels are doing it (SF has several hotels using greywater systems; Post Ranch Inn in Big Sur using it for their central laundry facility).
- Greywater for irrigation isn't as good (lack nutrients).
- CA Dept of Housing and Community Development held kick-off meeting on Wed to look at statewide guidelines/processes. Santa Cruz, Sonoma are ahead in discussions. Look at what options are; pre-approved technologies at state level.
- Differences in CA plumbing code vs. Int'l plumbing code; movement to bring them together. CA plumbing code is tech-based permitting; Title 22 is performance-based.
- Code is very narrow about what is allowable. Would like to make it more flexible, especially how to deal with alternative methods.

Presentation by **Bruce Arthur**, RainSource Water, on water catchment technologies

- Above-ground vs. underground water catchment systems → some benefits to using underground cisterns, etc.
- Catchment systems can catch 0.625 gallons of H₂O per inch of rain.
- Permitting for cisterns, water catchment → how to deal with it (unregulated).
- Ave. 150 days that we go without rain (in Mediterranean climate). Need greywater system to supplement demand.

[See Presentations Attached]

Input by the County Health Department, the Water District, CalAm, and Others

County Health Department

- This is a complex issue that raises serious concerns about public health
- They will permit a greywater system under code:
 - Commercial application may be more appropriate (wider effect, more #s)
 - Residential applicants may not have the technical and financial means to safely

maintain the systems

- Are behind water catchment systems as long as they are kept the appropriate distance from septic systems
- Realize that if they are too strict, there will be illegal use
- “What risk are we as a community willing to accept?”

Water District

- It may be best to incentivize installation
- Need for a consistent message and consistent information
- Concerned about:
 - Long-term maintenance
 - Re-use of water savings
 - In case of long-term drought – what happens with water savings when there aren’t any due to a drought
 - Cross-contamination
- Want to be involved in this process

CalAm

- Concerned with cross-contamination
- Need to analyze the realistic picture of risks and benefits
- There will soon be a drastic change to water rates
 - They want there to be alternatives for people without incurring huge H2O bills

Others

- People get creative without necessarily compromising safety – how to allow innovation to happen
- How to deal with renters (maintenance concern)
- If go sub-surface, okay; if above surface, then concerns
- Need definitions of greywater, water catchment, reclaimed water, recycled water, rain water, sub-surface irrigation → emphasis on education
- Bay Area has talked about H2O-training issues in general
- Look at WERF

Next Steps

- Form a working group that will meet mid-March
 - Volunteers from attendees in the room include members of City of Monterey, Health Dept., Water District, and CalAm
 - We are seeking others that wish to provide input, technical expertise
- Identify definitions to be used for Monterey County
- Create a plan for the “Residential World” Case Study: What are options for a residential homeowner, what are regulations/ordinances that exist or are needed

11:00 AM

ADJOURN

Prepared by: Jeff Condit, Kim Ha



Competitive Clusters (C²) is a program of the Monterey County Business Council, in partnership with the County of Monterey for regional economic development.

C² Workgroup Site: http://c2.mcbusiness.org/page/c2_workgroup/