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## **Eel River Valley Groundwater Basin Working Group**

### **Meeting 1      October 21, 2015**

Slides posted at <http://www.humboldt.gov/groundwater>

Minutes prepared by Bob Vogt, Humboldt County Public Works

#### **1. Introductions**

#### **2. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – Overview**

Presentation by Hank Seemann, Humboldt County Public Works (see slides)

##### Discussion

John Vevoda: Farm Bureau requests that the County look closely at the option of the “alternative submittal” process for basins where it can be demonstrated that the basin is currently being managed sustainably. This could alleviate the need to prepare a formal Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Jeff Dolf: Recommends contacting DWR to verify criteria for alternative submittal.

#### **3. Eel River Valley Groundwater Basin – Overview**

Presentation by Hank Seemann, Humboldt County Public Works (see slides)

##### Discussion

Brad Job: DWR recently released rules for revising basin boundaries.

Clif Clendenen: Expressed concern that process is focused on the groundwater basin itself while basin conditions are significantly affected by upstream users.

Dave Fisch: Data quality is important. When looking at groundwater levels it’s important to know the depth of the well and the local aquifer conditions.

Brad Job: Had discussion with Randy Klein, who believes that surface water within the Eel River is being impacted by groundwater extractions around Fortuna area, reduction in flows.

Dave Fisch: Salt water intrusion is a potential concern because it is irreversible, has been documented around Monterey Bay.

Dave Fisch: We have no evidence we are in overdraft, anecdotal right now but believes this to be true, organize data and submit to DWR as an option.

Jay Russ: Has not seen a salinity problem in his wells along the coast.

Brad Job: Water budget based on rainfall, seeing storm water recharge concepts through implementing LID (Low Impact Development) techniques with new construction.

Orrin Plocher: We may not have to do a GSA/GSP based on data, look at alternative analysis.

Jon Shultz: NRCS is interested in performing an irrigation study to support increased production in the basin.

Katherine Ziemer: Encourages more aggressive approach on working toward alternative analysis.  
Hank Seemann: Based on stakeholder input, we will incorporate a focus on pursuing the alternative submittal option.

#### **4. Working Group**

Hank presented slides and explained the purpose of the working group, which is further described in the one-page Announcement (dated October 6, 2015). Hank identified three requirements for serving as a member of the working group:

1. Attend at least half the meetings
2. Agree to the scope of the working group
3. Agree to the meeting ground rules (to be developed at next meeting)

The following individuals volunteered to serve as members of the working group:

##### Agricultural Producers

Clif Clendenen, Jay Russ, Joseph Alexandre, Jeff Dolf, John Vevoda, Cheryl Laffranchi, Denver Nelson, Emily Afriat-Hyman, Katherine Ziemer, Lee Mora (not present but confirmed interest)

##### Water Suppliers

Merritt Perry, Troy Hubner, Marcus Drumm, John Corbett, Tracy Boobar, Kevin Farmer

##### Environmental Interests

Emily Afriat-Hyman, Brad Job, Patrick Sullivan, Ben Dolf

##### Scientific

Brad Job, Tom Gast, Patrick Sullivan

##### Well Drillers

Dave Fisch, Cheryl Laffranchi, Stuart Dickey (not present but confirmed interest)

##### Local/State/Federal Agencies

Jon Shultz, Summer Daugherty, Jeff Stackhouse, Yana Valachovic (not present but confirmed interest)

##### General Public

Estelle Fennel

#### **5. Prop 1 Grant Program**

Hank presented slides describing eligible projects and the proposed scope of a grant application. Applications are expected to be due in late November/early December, awarded in 2016.

##### Discussion

Attendees generally concurred with the scope proposed by Public Works. Hank previously spoke with DWR who indicated that a primary intent of the funding is to assist local communities with gaining a better understanding of their groundwater basins. Applying for funding does not imply that a problem exists, it may simply indicate that there are potential problems that warrant further investigation and analysis. Public Works will try to circulate a draft application for review and comment. Hank indicated that applying for funds should not preclude the region from pursuing the alternative submittal option.

John Corbett: Suggested explicitly referencing the alternative submittal option in the grant application.

## **6. Next meeting Date**

The next meeting is Monday, December 14, 2015, 1-3 pm at the Humboldt County Agricultural Center

## **7. General Discussion**

Several irrigators expressed an interest in monitoring the wells on their properties to assist with data gathering. Jeff Stackhouse with UC-CE has offered to assist. There is a need to develop procedures to ensure the data-gathering is accurate and useful. Dave Fisch commented that it is important to take measurements when conditions are at equilibrium. He also commented that for comparison it is useful to compare wells with similar depths.

### Action item

Bob Vogt will coordinate with Jeff Stackhouse to develop a well-monitoring procedure.

## **Meeting Attendees**

Tracy Boobar  
Justin Ebrahemi  
Orrin Plocher  
David Fisch  
Patrick Sullivan  
Troy Hubner  
Cheryl Laffranchi  
John Vevoda  
Katherine Ziemer  
Anthony Carnemolla  
Merritt Perry  
Frank Bacik  
Thomas Gast  
Jeff Dolf  
Joseph Alexandre  
Jay Russ  
Emily Afriat-Hyman  
Summer Daugherty  
Jon Shultz  
Clif Clendenen  
Kevin Farmer  
Brad Job  
Marcus Drumm  
Jenny Curtis  
John Corbett  
Ben Dolf  
Ryan Rice