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

**Meeting 4 April 25, 2016**

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

Minutes prepared by Bob Vogt, Humboldt County Public Works

### **1. Introductions**

Review of Agenda and Working Group Ground Rules (see slides)

### **2. Brief updates**

Update by Jon Shultz (NRCS) on work in progress to quantify the total acreage of irrigated land in the Eel River Basin. Planning at the individual farm level is occurring as well as larger scale, ground truthing over the next couple of months to refine mapping for irrigated versus non-irrigated acreage.

Update by Hank Seemann (Humboldt County Public Works) on recent DWR groundwater level monitoring data, and DWR's draft regulations for implementing SGMA (see slides).

### **3. Proposition 1 grant for technical study and planning**

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

#### Discussion

Hank Seemann: Contracting for professional services will involve an aggressive target timeframe with Requests for Proposals (RFPs), review and ranking, and final awarding by end of June. A selection committee was established consisting of Hank Seemann, Merritt Perry, Katherine Ziemer, Bob McPherson, and Ben Dolf, with Jack Thompson as alternate.

### **4. GSA formation and governance**

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

#### Discussion

Dave Fisch: Should the GSA include the whole county not just the Eel River Basin? This could help homeowners with development/permitting now that CDF&W is getting involved with groundwater issues.

Katherine Ziemer: What will the GSA cost moving into the future once established? Do not want to see it imposed on a few property owners.

Ryan Rice: Need to stay focused on the reason behind the SGMA and the Eel River Basin being ranked "medium priority."

Merritt Perry: Need to focus on the issue at hand which is the Eel River Basin, don't grow it bigger.

Marcus Drumm: Concerned that if the GSA includes other groundwater basins there will be a drifting away from Eel River Valley interests.

John Vevoda: Stay focused on the Eel River valley, we do not want to build a dynasty.

Lee Mora: Do we need to form a GSA to take advantage of Option 2 – Alternative Submittal? Response: Hank believes not, is in the process of confirming this item.

Jenny Curtis: The process of forming a GSA and overall management does not have to be a top-down approach, can incorporate working groups, advisory committee, etc. to divide the work.

Orrin Plocher: Believes a GSA is not required for the Alternative Submittal, also believes once the Alternative Submittal is in DWR's hands the deadline to form a GSA will no longer apply, until they make a decision.

## **5. Update on Humboldt County RCD's Irrigation Water/Fertigation Management Planning Project**

Presentation by Cheryl Laffranchi (Northcoast Pumphouse) and Summer Daugherty/Frances Tjamstrom (Humboldt County Resource Conservation District)

Presentation included Cheryl reviewing the type of irrigation methods used locally versus what we do not use. She presented her estimate of the amount of water used by irrigation on a yearly basis (27,000 acre-feet).

Summer and Frances gave an update on the spreadsheet tool being developed to assist producers with evaluating water use. The finished product can be used by to manage their irrigation programs and be more efficient in water and energy used to irrigate.

## **6. Review action items set next meeting date**

Action items: Public Works will develop RFP's to consultants for professional services, selection committee will be contacted. The next meeting was not set. There will be an email update in June setting the next meeting date, potential meeting in August.

### **Working Group Members Present:**

Jeff Stackhouse	UC-Cooperative Extension
Cheryl Laffranchi	Northcoast Pumphouse
Bob McPherson	HSU and LAFCO
Ryan Rice	Commercial
Tom Gast	Thomas Gast & Associates
Denver Nelson	Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Committee, dairy owner
Summer Daugherty	HCRC
Lee Mora	Humboldt Grass Fed Beef
John Vevoda	Rancher, Humboldt County Farm Bureau
Katherine Ziemer	Humboldt County Farm Bureau
David Fisch	Fisch Drilling
Doreen Hansen	HCRC
Troy Hubner	Del Oro Water Company
Frances Tjanstrom	HCRC
Ben Dolf	Humboldt County Environmental Health
Brad Job	Pacific Watershed Associates
Merritt Perry	City of Fortuna
Jonathon Shultz	NRCS
John Corbett	McKinleyville Community Services District
Marcus Drumm	Loleta Community Services District

**Other Interested Parties Present:**

Orrin Plocher	Freshwater Environmental Services
Melissa Lema	Western United Dairymen
Joseph Alexandre	Alexandre Acres
Kyle Knopp	City of Rio Dell
Jack Thompson	City of Rio Dell
Mark Verhey	Environmental Health
Jasper Oshun	HSU
Jennifer Curtis	USGS
Doug Culbert	City of Fortuna
Sheila Eilers	Scotia Resident
Renee Abrams	Scotia Resident
Allison Clark	RWQCB
Cherie Blatt	RWQCB
Russ Forsburg	American Ag Credit