

Water Quality Team Outreach Meeting

March 13, 2008 7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

Present:

Darren Haver, Tammy Majcherek, Isabel Barkman, Sam Chien, Phil Concan, Alan Fitzgibbon, Sharon Hollingdrake, Alice Houseworth, Carolyn Jensen, Bev Krassner-Bulas, Myrna Liepold, Bev Lovejoy, Helen Magruder, Bill Magruder, Carol Marsh, Darla Miller, Fred Tarnay, and Georgia Thieben

Tammy Majcherek opened the monthly meeting with the following general announcements:

1. Many volunteers have now accumulated hours on this project – a few have turned their hours into Tammy, many have not. If you are one of the individuals who have not, it is very important to project research that you do so monthly.

Action Item:

Please send your volunteer hours to Tammy every month for this project.

2. For those individuals working in the field with homeowners, your mileage must be turned in monthly in order to be reimbursed. If turning in mileage, you will need to also supply your social security number – this will be kept confidential. For faster reimbursement, please provide your signature on a plain piece of white paper in black so that an electronic signature may be created, otherwise you will need to go to the Cooperative Extension office to sign a form each time.

Action Item:

For timely reimbursement, turn in your mileage monthly with your social security number and signature on a plain piece of paper.

3. If you will be working in the field and would like a list of contact numbers (Tammy's, Darren's, local Urgent Care Centers, etc.) please see Tammy. This list has already been distributed to demonstration home consultant teams.
4. Should you find yourself out and about, please jot down products that are available at that location such as low impact plants and less toxic pesticide alternatives. All information will be compiled as a tool for homeowners in the treatment sites.

NEXT MEETING: April 10TH at 7:00 p.m. in the SCREC conference room.

Project Updates

Sacramento County:

To date, Sacramento County has two demonstration homes, one in each treatment site – Folsom 2 and Antelope. However, since sending out the introduction packet as we had done, they have several residents in the Antelope site that have expressed interest.

The Sacramento County Master Gardeners and project representatives will be holding workshops in Folsom 2 and Antelope over the next couple of months:

March 15 & 24 – Good Irrigation Practices

To Include:

- Water Audit Sign-Ups
- Irrigation Equipment Know-How
- Reducing Runoff
- BMP Quick Tip Cards – Lawn Watering, Landscape Plants Fertilizing & Watering, Top Ten Ways to Keep Our Water Clean
- Household Hazardous Waste Info. Table
- Water Agency Information
- Water Wise Pest Control
- UC Master Gardener Information Table
- Vermiculture Demonstration

April 13 & 27 – Healthy Lawns

To Include:

- Mowing
- Irrigation
- Fertilizer
- Weed & Insect Identification and Management

June – Water Efficient Landscapes

To Include:

- Landscape Design
- Water Wise Plants

During the fall they are planning a large event focusing on seasonal irrigation scheduling - turn them off during the rainy season!! This event will be followed by survey to be sent out to both treatment sites.

Demonstration Home Consultants

Landscape Assessment Reports have been completed for all eight demonstration homes. The reports have been sent to each demonstration home consultant team. The reports include a brief summary of the assessment, simple/low cost fixes for areas of concern to be corrected now, along with recommendations to be done in the future as time and budget warrant. Teams will meet with residents providing an explanation of the report and its recommendations.

Action Items:

Tammy will post the Landscape Assessment reports on the project website.

Alice Houseworth presented a supplement to the assessment report that she will be providing to her team and their residents. The supplement will include photographs of problem spots in the landscape as mentioned in the assessment report along with a landscape drawing depicting those spots by correlating numbers. Alice stated that it really didn't take any time to create and that all teams should be encouraged to do this.

Teams have been authorized to offer soil sample analysis to the homes that have not already had this done. This could be a good way to initiate a meeting! Once the team has collected a minimum of 1 pint of soil (half of a gallon Ziploc bag is best) the sample, please drop it off to Tammy or Darren (SCREC 7601 Irvine Blvd. Irvine, Ca). They will in turn send the sample to the lab. When the results have been received you will be contacted so that you may review the results with the resident.

Action Item:

Darren will schedule a date for a soil lab representative to meet with Water Quality volunteers demonstrating how to read a soil analysis report.

Besides scheduling appointments to review the assessments, demonstration home teams should be starting to contact residents on a monthly basis. Teams will call the resident asking general questions as per the log in their binders. Teams should ask if we can be of any assistance (research information, a quick demonstration – i.e. sprinkler adjustment, etc.). It is also important to stress to the resident that if they have any questions or should need to contact the team for any other reason to please call the hotline number and leave their personal code.

Action Items:

Review assessment/interview data and recommendations with Tammy and Darren.

Schedule appointments with demonstration home residents to present recommendations.

Workshops

May 17, 2008 – UCCE Demonstration Landscape Open House and Vendor Fair 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Action Items:

- **Invitations will be sent to SJC2 and LN8 residents only.**
- **Tammy to check on costs for renting EZ-up tents**
- **Darren and Tammy will continue notifying vendors such as Ewing, Irrrometer, Hunter, Ewing, Tree of Life, and Your Turf to name a few.**
- **Bev Lovejoy will work with Tammy contacting the local water/HHW/IWM agencies for San Juan Capistrano and Laguna Niguel to see if they would be interested in having a table at our event or providing information.**
- **Georgia Thieben will work with contacts acquiring low impact plant specimens for display.**
- **Please plan on touring the demonstration landscapes here at SCREC at the next meeting on April 10th. EVERYONE is encouraged to be here if possible.**

“Cul-de-Sac” demonstrations –

Helen Magruder passed out an outline of the four topics that will be focus of the “Cul-de-Sac” demonstrations, a sign-up sheet for individual to volunteer conducting one of the demonstrations, and the Master Gardeners’ Home Gardens Top 3 Favorite plant list.

Action item:

Darren will review and merge the Top 3 list with a created by Lily Singer.

- Topics

All volunteers present were asked to review the topic outline and to sign up for any demonstration they would feel comfortable conducting. Individuals are encouraged to form a team of two or three. Optimistically, all topics will be demonstration in each neighborhood by the end of June.

Action Items:

Fred Tarnay and Darren Haver have agreed to conduct the Irrigation/Lawn Care Workshop.

Fred Tarnay will put together a list of irrigation terminology for homeowners.

Bill Magruder will conduct demonstrations on the topic of Mulch/Fertilizer/Soil/Green-waste Management – assistance would be appreciated.

Georgia Thieben has offered to assist anyone doing the Low Impact Plants/Design by asking her contacts for demonstration plants.

Volunteers are needed to conduct the Low Impact Plants/Design and Pest Control/Environment demonstrations. Please contact Helen Magruder.

- **Planning**

Action Items:

Helen and team will gather materials to be used during the demonstrations and notify Tammy of any supplies and materials needed.

Helen will work with the demonstration home consultant teams to set dates and topics and schedule these with those conducting the demonstration.

Demonstration consultant teams will call residents to schedule demonstrations at their home. Make sure to ask how many people are they willing to accommodate?

Tammy will check on costs for a Lawn sign and name badges for attendees.

Helen will create a sign-in sheet for residents attending the demonstrations for tracking purposes.

- **Promotion**

Action Items:

Helen and team will create a flyer to be mailed and/or posted to promote the demonstrations.

Engage resident's assistance to promote demonstration with neighbors

Hotline

Demonstration homes have received individualized codes for utilizing the hotline. Consultant teams should urge residents to call the hotline for any questions they may have or to contact the team itself.

Chairs

Check with sub-committee chairs notifying Darren and Tammy of any needs or requests.

Action Item:

Alan Fitzgibbon asks that he and Phil Concan be cc'd on all project email correspondence so that they are kept abreast of group activities. They will in turn report to Tammy.

Newsletter

Darla Miller has presented Darren and Tammy with the first rough draft of the project newsletter. A special acknowledgement goes to Duane Jones for his assistance on this first issue. A copy will be posted to the project website when completed.

Action Item:

Darren to send Darla the following information:

- **New MG logo**
- **Current Cul-de-sac demonstration dates**
- **Open House and Vendor Fair details**
- **Monthly runoff volume for each neighborhood**

Helen Magruder to keep Darla notified of future demonstration dates

All volunteers are encouraged to write informative and succinct articles relating to the project. Also needed are suggestions for monthly tips.

Data Entry

Once log sheets are turned in they will be entered onto Excel spreadsheets.