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

### **Meeting 2      December 14, 2015**

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

Minutes prepared by Bob Vogt, Humboldt County Public Works

#### **1. Introductions**

#### **2. Proposition 1 Grant Program – Overview**

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

##### Discussion

Brad Job: Randy Klein has collected discharge data on the Lower Eel River during the low-flow season, he may be a resource for information.

Cheryl Laffranchi: Recommended we look at wells located not just in the valley but in the hills as well, this is needed for water balance information.

Lee Mora: There appears to be an emphasis on new data and spending time and money on securing new data, and not looking at existing data. Are we making more out of this than necessary? If we're being asked to "prove a negative," where does it end?

Dave Fisch: The State DWR will not be satisfied with anecdotal information or incomplete data, they will expect verification and documentation.

Merritt Perry: To meet the legislative requirements, we will need to take reasonable measures to verify that groundwater is being used and managed sustainably. It appears that the County built flexibility into the scope of work to allow adjustments as we move forward.

Dave Fisch: It is important to know about potential saline intrusion and try to get advanced warning because once it happens the damage is irreversible.

#### **3. Basin Priority Ranking – Overview**

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

##### Discussion

Cheryl Laffranchi: Analysis of her numbers indicates there is actually closer to 13,450 acres irrigated as opposed to the 33,309 irrigated acres stated by DWR.

Denver Nelson: Upstream surface water withdrawal by cannabis growers is one of the main reasons the Eel River has issues with low flows in summer and fall.

Hank: The County would like to work with NRCS, UC-Cooperative Extension, and the Agricultural Commissioner to document the acreage of irrigated land. We will continue to review the DWR ranking criteria in 2016 and assess whether there are grounds to request a change in prioritization.

#### 4. Working Group

Hank presented the three requirements for membership in the Working Group:

1. Agree to Working Group's purpose and scope
2. Pledge to attend at least half of meetings
3. Agree to follow meeting ground rules

Hank invited suggestions for ground rules, and received the following:

1. Use people's time wisely; make comments concise
2. Stay on topic, follow the agenda
3. Be respectful of other speakers, refrain from talking over others
4. Continuity of members and regular attendance at meetings is important
5. Set goals or desired outcomes for meeting
6. Meeting dates should be scheduled in advance

#### 5. Humboldt County Resource Conservation District Irrigation/Fertigation Study

Presentation by Summer Daugherty and Frances Tjarmstrom (RCD) and Patrick Sullivan (GHD) on their Irrigation Water and Fertigation Management Planning Project

The project will work with irrigators to provide a better understanding of water use and explore opportunities for efficiencies and cost savings through reduced pumping and fertilizing costs as well as opportunities for increased crop productivity.

##### Discussion

Dave Fisch: In areas where groundwater is deep below the surface, there is more contact time for nutrients applied at the surface to be treated by soil before reaching the groundwater. Nutrients can become more of an issue where groundwater is shallow with less contact time.

Patrick Sullivan: The RCD is in the early stages of project development and has not worked out all aspects for implementing.

#### 6. Next meeting Date

The next meeting is Monday, February 22, 2016, 1-3 pm at the Humboldt County Agricultural Center

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

Tracy Boobar	Scotia CSD
Jeff Stackhouse	NRCS
Patrick Sullivan	GHD Consulting Engineers
Cheryl Laffranchi	Rancher
Ben Dolf	County Environmental Health
Bob McPherson	HSU and LAFCO
Tom Gast	Thomas Gast & Associates
Denver Nelson	Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Clif Clendenen	Clendenen's Cider Works
Frances Tjarmstrom	HCRCD
Summer Daugherty	HCRCD

Lee Mora	Humboldt Grass Fed Beef
John Vevoda	Rancher, Humboldt County Farm Bureau
Katherine Ziemer	Humboldt County Farm Bureau
Merritt Perry	City of Fortuna
Michael Wheeler	Humboldt County Building and Planning
Jeff Dolf	Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner
Emily Afriat-Hyman	The Wildlands Conservancy
Brad Job	Pacific Watershed Associates
Marcus Drumm	Loleta Community Services District
David Fisch	Fisch Drilling

**Other Interest Group Members Present:**

Skip Jorgensen  
Justin Ebrahemi  
Leslie Marshall  
Jill Demers  
Doreen Hansen  
Orrin Plocher  
David Rodriques