

## Technology Committee Meeting Minutes 10/17/16

- 1) Water Budget Calculator
  - a. The majority of the meeting was spent reviewing the benefits and differentiation of our proposed “Water Budget Calculator” vs. those Jerri had summarized. At the end of the discussion, we determined there is a need for, and value in, our calculator.
    - i. The first step in planning a new or retrofitted landscape / garden should be a general estimate of the amount of water required based on the various planting areas.
    - ii. Many calculators are water scheduling calculators which is a more detailed step taken later in the process (2 of the 4 examples Jerri provided).
    - iii. Of Jerri’s two examples that were water use based, the “River Friendly” is less of a tool and more of a report card and it focuses on the Sacramento area. The EPA tool is good, but doesn’t consider the MWELo ETAF (per Tom). Another issue I have with it is the requirement for a FLASH plug-in in the browser, which is a security concern (i.e. malware, etc.).
- 2) “How to create your water smart garden”
  - a. Maura presented a potential roadmap beyond the “Water Budget Calculator” that would guide interested parties to information on next steps. That is, plant selection, irrigation design, controller selection, controller programming, etc. (I’m sure I’m not doing her flow chart justice). So the “Water Budget Calculator” is just one of several (many) steps in the overall process.
- 3) Weather based (“smart”) irrigation controllers
  - a. We had a brief discussion on the previous material distributed on smart controllers and it was agreed to re-distribute this material. It was also suggested that this be a major topic for the next meeting.
- 4) Action Items
  - a. Update the “Water Budget Calculator” proposal as follows and distribute new draft by 11/1/16). Responsible: Dan
    - i. Include a table / paragraph on the need for this tool in a world where so many other calculators already exist.
    - ii. Remove “EBMUD as a leader in calculators” text if not already removed.
    - iii. Make sure an appropriate “Landscape Design Focus” is included in the document (Tom thought there wasn’t, but then seemed to change his mind.....).
  - b. Resend info previously distributed on smart controllers prior to the next meeting (target 11/1/16). Responsible: Dan
  - c. Spend up to 30 minutes of next month’s meeting with the Professional Committee to review/discuss what our committee has been working on.