

EBMUD Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
12/12/2016
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Present:

Tom Stewart
Jerri McNair
Eric Santos
Kristin Bowman
Maura Baldwin
Dona Wessells
Chris McNairy
Helmut Winkelhake
Scott Sommerfeld

Absent:

Item 1: Eric, Dan and Kristin provided a recap of the 1 pm meeting with EBMUD to discuss the calculator.

EBMUD requested a column that showed a comparison between existing landscapes and the proposed landscape.

There was also extensive discussion about how the calculator is intended to be a very high level tool used in the early planning phases and it is not intended to be used as a water management tool after the landscape has been installed.

Item 2: Jerri provided an overview of how the EPA.gov site works

Item 3: The group started outlining and brainstorming the steps behind the online calculator.

The following is a list of all of the key ideas that were shared during the meeting behind the layout of the online calculator:

Intro: The landing page needs to explain the overview of how the tool works.

There needs to be a statement at the beginning that emphasizes “Water to a budget, not to a schedule”.

There needs to be a disclaimer about how this a conceptual development tool and not intended to be used as a way to manage the water on a landscape

Step 1: Enter a zip code or click on you location in bay area by clicking on a map

Step 1A: The calculator taps into a historical ET database – possibly spatial cimis

Step 2: User enters the total landscape area or uses a google earth outline tool

Step 2A: Provide a link hot to calculate square footage. Expose the user to the concept of hydrozoning.

Step 3: Enter estimated % of lawns and shrubs

Example

80% Lawns (PF 0.8)

20% shrubs (PF = 0.5)

Step 4: Enter types of Irrigation
Offer an image of a sprinkler
Offer an image of a drip

Step 5: Enter new plantings
Offer a hyperlink
Offer a link to sunsets western garden list with a sub list
Break into categories of high, med, and low

Output: Show a graph of what you are using now
Show how much you should use
Show, how low you can go

Graphic ideas: have a thermometer that shows three levels

Mark or level of Water budget based on Existing

Mark or level of Mawa

Mark or level of water budget based on new plantings

Side Discussion between Item 3 and Item 4:

Jerri wanted to know if we considered using any of the other items that provided links to other people.

Dan mentioned that the EPA water budgeting tool has what we need but not the numbers we would like. If the EPA changed their tool and created adjustments for us, we would be able to use it for what we are trying to do.

Prior to and at our next meeting, Jerri asked us to summarize our ideas on a revised sheet she will send out.

Item 4: Smart Controller Buyers Guide

EPA has a smart controllers buyer guide but there is a lot of information that is provided on a water sense labeled products.

We need a short manageable list of key items to help customers

Dan asked how is it programmed and what do we do if its programmed wrong

Our guide should address the benefits of smart controllers and helping residents understand the benefits of a smart controller. Our guide should be focused and simplified to the top 10 most important features of a smart controller.

Closing Comments / Action Items

1. Kristin will schedule a meeting for someone from the committee to meet with EBMUD to discuss the calculator
2. Jerri will send out a matrix for us to comment on other websites
3. Prior to the next meeting, committee members will review the other websites and be prepared to have group discussion on likes and dislikes at our next meeting as we begin to draft up our vision of how the water budget calculator will work.
4. Our next meeting will be December 12th at 2 pm