EBMUD Landscape Advisory Committee
Professional Development Subcommittee

April 17, 2017 Meeting Notes

- April 13 PIO meeting notes.
- Wesley will begin to draft the three Technical Requirements Documents (TRD) as next step to the three short-term projects submitted to EBMUD. Likely two (calendar and links) are easy; peer-to-peer group TRD will be more complicated, likely a draft outline & group review / comment effort.
- Upcoming LAC meetings: May 15 (Bishop O'Dowd site tour), July 17, Sept 18, Nov 13
- LAC PD meetings may go to every other month; depends on energy in the group and progress with tasks at hand.
- Discussed in-person forum concept; intent is to have it outside of the LAC.
- Survey to LAC: Ann Marie will lead survey effort.
- Discussion regarding LAC PD Sub-committee members: outreach to contractors and facilities professionals, design-builders. Paul will ask Kirstin to recruit within the LAC.
- EBMUD Success Stories sites: Who with a Success Stories Site could be recruited to participate in the LAC PD sub-committee?
- Tools & Apps: do we need a tools survey?
- Surveys: keep them short
- EBMUD Qualified designer / installer / operator concept:
  - Self-certification process?
  - What documentation to submit for certification? EG: License; current sustainability qualifications, memberships, etc?
  - Basic level of proven work: at least "X" # of facilities / sites within EBMUD service area designed / installed / maintained
  - EBMUD verification and update process
- Wesley attended part of the Technical Sub-Committee meeting; they considering a LAC member survey as well, but have not done one to date.
- Paul & Ann Marie reviewed the two long-term goals...

4. EBMUD hosted in-person forums (previously stated long-term goal)

EBMUD Forums with Professionals; Focus on Data and Solutions

EBMUD Comments:
This is one of the focuses of the LAC and its sub-Committees. Were open to suggestions on how to do this better. If there was interest we could convene a forum night or day. Perhaps the LAC could make a list of forum topics.

We could put together a panel of experts on that topic where each panel member would provide a short 7 to 10 minute overview followed by Q & A + discussion. The data would

be the hard part. It would certainly be included where available. Where data is lacking, part of the discussion would be how to get the data.

WB Comments 3.8.17:
First approach was start by identifying topics; then determine data needed so that a forum is even possible. I tend to agree w/EBMUD comments that this fruit is very "high on the tree." Perhaps start with topics where data is readily available, with the intent that the people in the industry who we're trying to reach are those not familiar with the conservation practices that are currently state of the art, or that are already broadly used or required, but less-well understood.

E.G.:

Topic: water reductions with conversion to smart controller, existing irrigation nozzle conversion, etc.

Data: site water use before & after installation of smart controller; water reductions & runoff elimination due to high-efficiency nozzle replacement, etc.

Discussion: factors influencing efficiency, limitations and options, Q&A

5. Workshop Speaker Series (previously stated long-term goal)

Initial event concept - design to a water budget

Possible Topics:
- Grant Writing
- Rain Gardens
- Edibles

Audiences:
- LAC Committee
- Public (customers)
- Public (professionals)

EBMUD Comments:
Committee to identify essential sustainable business practices and skills such as: how to water to a budget rather than a schedule, appropriate grouping of landscape plants into hydrozones, how to improve soil health, how to design and install durable efficient easy to maintain drip systems, rain gardens, appropriate use of lawn. Then research if resources already exist or a workshop already is available, where can professionals find these resources, how much do they cost. It would also help to build a business case for each practice or skill. Where data is lacking to support the business case work with EBMUD to develop the data.

I see EBMUD being a clearinghouse for training and professional development. We can create a professional training calendar. It requires work to keep the calendar up to date so support from the LAC and other professional organizations and nonprofits would make it most effective.

WB Comments 3.8.17:
Designing to a water budget is a previously identified high-priority concept noted by Scott Sommerfeld; it's also the concept the Technical Sub-committee is currently focussing on: developing a tool for designing to a water budget. Perhaps there's a way to work with the Technical sub-committee to develop an initial event alongside their tool and as a way to push the tool to a broader audience.

It seems like these topics and the focus topic in general is covered by LAC general meetings. Is this a redundant item that's already addressed by the LAC?

Should we simply be proposing topics for speakers at the LAC?