



DRAFT Meeting Notes

Source Water Protection and Watershed Management in Washoe County

Team Meeting

Date: October 12, 2017

Time: 2 to 4 pm

Where: TMWA Office Independence Room 1355 Capital Blvd, Reno, NV 89502

Attendees

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Resource Concepts, Inc: Lynn Zonge, Jill Sutherland, Lynne ScottNDEP: Kim Borgzinner, Birgit HensonKTMB/OTR/NLT: Elise Traywick, Patricia TierneyCity of Sparks: Andy HummelStantec: Terri Svetich | <ul style="list-style-type: none">TMWA: Kara Steeland, John EnloeTMRPA: Kim Robinson, Chris TolleyWashoe County Community Services: Vahid BehmaramWashoe County Health Department: Chris Peterson, Wes RubioWRWC: Chris Wessel |
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Handouts

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">AgendaDraft Purpose and GoalsDraft Team Meeting ScheduleDraft Stakeholders | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Draft Key PlansDraft Funding QuestionsWatershed and Groundwater Protection Plan Example HUC 12 |
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1. Welcome, Sign In, Brief Introductions

- Lynn Zonge welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. Introductions were made around the room.

2. Program Catch-Up / Progress to date / Timeline

- Review of draft Purpose and Goals (*see handout*); emphasis on developing a useful tool, as directed by the stakeholders, not just a plan to sit on the shelf, with an emphasis on using existing information.
- Planning Process
 - Team formation scoping
 - Characterize ground and surface water
 - Map and consider existing and potential contaminants
 - Develop management strategies and actions
 - Develop public outreach
 - Bring plan through agency review and approval
- Planning timeline, topics and milestones (*see handout*)
 - 2017 progress thus far; 2018 timeline to include mapping of source water protection areas, outreach to stakeholders, develop management strategies, action plan and prioritization.

Note: See http://www.rci-nv.com/source_water_protection/ for meeting notes and handouts



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Source Water Protection Program

- 2019 timeline to include plan review and finalization, public review and local approval.
- Stakeholders (*see handout*)
 - General discussion on role of emergency management in the process. Of course, Life safety is first, environmental concern is secondary, however, additional info, mapping, or training could inform them regarding water quality protection factors. TMWA's emergency manager could provide more info.
 - Agencies and departments were broadly reviewed. Additional stakeholders were suggested:
 - Airport authority
 - Tank farm (Vista Canyon Group – CM Smith)
 - County Community Services for Cold Springs and Lemmon Valley Sewer (Dwayne Smith?) represented by V. Behmaram and W. West
 - NDEP Corrective actions (Rebecca Bodner?)
 - Tahoe Basin PWS (IVGID) already addressed separately through TRPA and Tahoe Basin efforts
 - Discussion regarding the role of domestic well owners
 - Private wells are a PCS concern.
 - WRWC has been funding nitrate studies for the region and C Wessel reviewed status. Phase II report recently completed.
 - Previously, Washoe County did prior outreach to well and Septic system owners with Dan Dragan. Now they only have outreach to Golden Valley residents.
- Key Planning Documents (*see handout*)
 - The list of the most pertinent existing planning documents was reviewed as well as the status of the various master planning efforts. These plans provide the bulk of the information needed for this planning effort and as such, this planning effort will collaborate, coordinate, conform, and compliment these plans.
 - Team suggested reviewing the County Area Plans, Specific Plan, Community Plans, and Joint Plans for pertinent information.
 - Stakeholders mentioned that land development has impacts to groundwater and surface water quality.
 - Nitrate contamination in GW has been identified in Spanish Springs and salts leached in the Chalk Bluff area due to irrigation. There is concern that irrigation in the new development in the Verdi area will leach out salts and impact Truckee River water quality.
- Funding Questions (*see handout*)
 - The team was asked how they would like to develop info about the funding opportunities. Funding Question sheet or provide the contact to discuss this information? Approved emailing the funding Question sheet.
 - Funding sources were offered by the team including:

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Source Water Protection Program

- 319 grand funded projects
- Truckee River Fund – match varies / in-kind
- Regional Water Management
- Meter retrofit fund (repurpose)
- 208 grand funds if consistent with intent of plan
- GIS Data
 - GIS data and accuracy were discussed. Coordinates often are from many sources and the accuracy of data varies. The Team cautioned against trying to “fix” GIS data because the time outweighs the benefit.
 - Mapping file types were discussed and the team is savvy to using Arc GIS type of files and prefers this over Google Earth KMZ files.
 - Washoe County Regional Maps (Dale Casalli) updates their internal on-line information monthly and pulls information from the Assessor’s data.
 - Septic/Sewer data is on an old digital platform that may not be around much longer. Some septic and well data are tied to APNs.
 - Wells not properly abandoned are PCSs of concern.
 - Sensitivity and protection of data was discussed. Both opportunities and limitations need to be recognized. Security depends on what is going to be done with the information.

3. What is the Problem?

- Several issues that have been raised by the team were reiterated
 - Drinking water and watershed protection are not always elevated in local / regional development review or on the ground actions.
 - There are many contaminants in capture zones and watersheds that cross jurisdictional boundaries. Coordination for protection is needed on many levels.
 - Improved communication is needed. / Identification of jurisdictional ownership and management entities will facilitate coordination.
 - NDEP, Emergency Response, TMWA, WCHD, PWSs

4. Understanding Our Water Quality Issues

- Contaminants in well capture zones and management strategies as presented in the TMWA Wellhead Protection Plan were reviewed.
 - septic systems, old wells, spills, storm water, human and pet waste, excessive fertilizer, fire
- A variety of mapped GIS data was reviewed to give the team a visual idea of how the watershed and groundwater existing conditions and potential and existing contamination is being analyzed. Data includes:
 - Topography: WRWC will have 1’ contours, USGS has 20’ contours

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- Geography, hydrology: stream data available on line is not accurate. Chris Wessel has remapped many of the drainages. In addition, the TMRPA is in the process of re-mapping drainages and storm water.
- Need to distinguish between watershed and “storm shed” mapping.
- Jurisdiction, ownership,
- Broad land use categories
- Vegetation (TMWA created used national data set for vegetation types)
- Capture zones and priority watersheds
- Watersheds, tributary segments and monitoring sites
- Public water system well data
- PCSs data: septic systems, old wells, and others
 - No Heating oil tanks in the UST database (WCHD)
 - Old floor drains to dry wells (WCHD) is a concern
- Land use data, mapping of existing and potential contaminant sources, capture zones and boundary development for wellhead protection areas are helpful in determining where outreach is needed to protect sensitive areas. A combination of sources relating PWS well data is needed for vulnerability studies.

5. Understanding Water Quality Issues: An Example Area (*see handout*)

- Walked Team through approach with Verdi area – no specific concerns.
- The boundary for the descriptions was discussed.
 - The Team routinely uses the groundwater basins and was not familiar with the HUC 12 basins.
 - The basin boundaries used by the WRWC and County was slightly different than the one RCI presented.
- The difference between the focused Tributary gap analysis being done by Stantec vs the broad watershed handout provided by RCI was described
- Watershed information could be made public on the “soon to be public” Community Services Department (CSD) on-line map. Sensitive materials such as well locations could be kept available to persons with passwords only.

6. Next Steps

- Next Team Meeting will be held in January 2018

Actions:

- Continue to contact other stakeholders.
- Move forward with “template” approach using groundwater basins and watershed sub basins.
- Consider results of Phase 2 Nitrate study.
- Include concern for desert soils leaching nitrate after development.
- Review existing resources and needs for outreach to well owners.
- Email funding info request to Team and compile data.

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