

One Water Los Angeles
Stormwater and Runoff Management Special Topic Group – Meeting #2
Wednesday, April 27, 2016 1:30PM–3:30PM
2714 Media Center Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90065 (Board Room)

"This summary reflects the opinions of stakeholders and may not necessarily be those of the City of Los Angeles."

Meeting Summary

The purpose of this summary is to provide an overview of the discussion topics, including ideas, solutions and issues. It is not intended as a transcript or as minutes.

Meeting Attendees:

Participants

Liz Crosson	LA Mayor's Office of Sustainability
Bruce Reznik	LA Waterkeeper
Kevin Fellows	Parsons Brinkerhoff
Guangyu Wang	SMBRC
Daniel Berger	TreePeople
Katie Mika	UCLA
Rita Kampalath	Heal the Bay
Natalia Gaerlan	The Trust for Public Land
Lee Alexandreson	LA County Flood Control District
Claire Latane	Mia Lehrer & Ass.
Ghina Yamons	Alta Environmental

Meeting Team

Facilitator	Rebecca Drayse	LASAN
Scribe	Stephen Groner	SGA
Technical Lead	Mark Hanna	Geosyntec
One Water LA Team	Lenise Marrero	LASAN
One Water LA Team	Kosta Kaporis	LASAN
One Water LA Team	Azya Jackson	LASAN
One Water LA Team	Virginia Wei	LADWP
One Water LA Team	Art Castro	LADWP
Note Taker	Inge Wiersema	Carollo

Welcome and Introductions

Introduction of LASAN and LADWP staff, consultant staff, and lead team took place. Participants also introduced themselves to the group.

Agenda review and Meeting Logistics

The meeting agenda and meeting logistics were briefly discussed.

Review Purpose of Stormwater Special Topic Group

- Discuss stormwater projects and programs involving non-City entities
- Help meet EWMP and SCMP goals
- Identify opportunities to partner with the City to implement stormwater projects and programs
- Question: How can the City help non-city entities, such as private properties that are within the city boundary but not under the City's jurisdiction?
- The ultimate purpose of STG is to integrate ideas into the One Water LA 2040 Plan. Recommendations will ultimately be presented to the Mayor and his Water Cabinet.
- Example of process: Funding STG is developing a cost-sharing tool. This will be presented to the Mayor's Water Cabinet.
- Question: What is the Mayor's water Cabinet?
- Answer: The Mayor initiated his Water Cabinet in 2015 with the launch of Executive Directive No. 5 to achieve aggressive water conservation goals. The Water Cabinet consists of the Mayor and a number of key department heads, general managers and some outside advisors. The Water Cabinet's role is to promote vertical and inter-agency integration.

Expected Outcomes of Stakeholder Input

- Recommendations summarized and drafted for the One Water LA 2040 Plan
- Presentations to stakeholders and stormwater managers
- Present recommendations to key City leaders, the Mayor's Water Cabinet, and Mayor's office
- Incorporate elements into One Water LA 2040 Plan sections on Policies and Ordinances, Funding and Public Engagement

Questions/Feedback

- Is this STG a meaningful use of time?
- Appreciation was expressed for the clarification of expected outcomes.
- Is there is a guarantee that what is developed is taken into consideration?
- Answer: There are no guarantees, but that the One Water Team is committed to bringing up recommendations to decision makers.
- How will cross-connections be made between the ideas of the different STGs?
- Answer: Cross connections will happen in the Stakeholder Meetings & Plan
- Need to provide an example of IRP process and success story
- **ACTION ITEM:** Share IRP policy go policy document that communicates policies that were vetted and adopted during IRP process.

Meeting One Summary Feedback and Discussion

- A brief summary of the previous Meeting #1 discussions on the following topics were presented:

- Research and policies to consider during development of Stormwater Facilities Plan
- Menu of voluntary methods and incentive to help private property owners meet ED5 and EWMP Goals
- Roadblocks to implement mandatory measures
- Integrated projects and partnership ideas
- It was noted that more in-depth discussion would take place on incentives and partnerships during Meet #2.
- Discussion of notes, and process for comments and finalization process
 - Notes were distributed on April 21, 2016.
 - **ACTION ITEM** (all): Submit comments in track changes if possible by next Wednesday (5/4/2016)
 - **ACTION ITEM** (LASAN): Final notes of all five STGs will be posted on the OWLA website.

Incentives

A review of incentive ideas proposed by special topic group members in meeting #1 along with some new ideas presented by the One Water LA team were presented for feedback and discussion.

- Stormwater Fee Discount
 - Noted that current stormwater charge is not adequate to meet the City's needs and there is no room for discounts in the current fee.
 - How can we incentivize property owners to do something above & beyond?
 - > SW fee discount
 - Development Incentives
 - Grants/Ratepayer Incentives
 - Rebates, Tax Credits, and/or Installation Financing
 - Awards & Recognition Programs
- Suggested incentives from Meeting #1
 - Incentive and rebate for rain garden installation instead of simple turf removal
 - Incentives for commercial/industrial distributed storm water capture
 - Identify and incentivize private property parking lots for storm water recapture/infiltration
 - Incentivize private property owners to put water use back into system
 - Reduced water rates
 - Solar back into the grid
 - Fund NGOs on projects (rain barrel, rain garden, etc.)
 - Increased incentives for homeowners and private businesses
 - Tier-priced water bills
 - Explore incentive program for residential cisterns
- Additional ideas presented for discussion

- Portland Incentive example: Developed by Dean Marriott, a retiree from Portland Public Works
- Reward System – Project Spotlight
- Public Private Development – Buffers
- Development Bonus (FAR) and Grant Programs
- Ecoroof Incentive (grey to green)
- Treebate (Tree choice and design)
- “X”% for Green / Green Connectors for Schools / Zero Interest Loans

Discussion

- Reward Systems
 - Water Heroes, LASAN did a cross-promotion of LAWA's efforts at LAX on water conservation
 - Other reward system ideas are spotlight, social media, lawn signage, recognition of doing good work (from agency to property owner).
 - Are the rewards financial?
 - In the case of Portland, they were not financial
 - Another example: Clean Bay Restaurants provided an incentive to customers who made environmental choices.
 - These rewards can also provide an educational benefit
 - Yard signage can help overcome any negative impressions of neighbors and promote a positive image to promote turf replacements with California friendly landscaping.
 - Would be helpful to reward not just LAWA, but also its tenants.
 - Suggested the development of Awards (e.g. Silver, Gold, Platinum) to recognize land owners.
- Public/Private Development
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 - Suggested metrics to with value increases with green infrastructure/landscaping/sustainability improvements. These metrics can also be used to encourage HOAs.
 - Development Bonus for Improved Floor to Area Ratio (FAR)
 - Concern with using FAR because extra area may create higher water demands. Particular details needed to ensure extra green space is created.
 - Incentive for developers is timely considering the Recode: LA effort
 - Would the use of a FAR metrics provide developers with an opportunity to work outside the property boundaries? It may or may not be desired to allow compensation for green space outside the development boundary.
 - Should consider if a bonus could be considered for building a park on an adjacent property.

- Could consider treating neighborhood stormwater to receive the bonus.
- Need to consider how this plays out with the City's Net Zero initiative
- Look for opportunities to upgrade schools as well as other private parcels (e.g. parking lots)
- Stormwater Trading System developed by The Nature Conservancy
- Washington DC has a retention credit program.
- City needs to make sure that low income housing/groups can also participate in the incentives
- Ecoroof Incentive Program
 - Ecoroof Incentive Program: owner gets a rebate per square foot towards the installation of ecoroofs.
 - Ex: Portland has a rebate of \$5/sq. ft. for ecoroofs
 - LA's hydrology/climate may not be conducive for ecoroofs because the added water use offsets the benefits. There are also structural ramifications due to the need for a deep soil.
 - Necessary to bring in sufficient other benefits to make this beneficial.
 - One consideration is to revise graywater standards to make eco-roofs viable
 - New design concepts with stormwater capture including planters at drain areas could be developed and evaluated.
 - "Impervious buy-back program" alias a pervious incentive
 - Use of rebate for developers for pervious parking lots to promote non-asphalt covers, such as implemented by Watsonville, CA.
- Treebate Incentive
 - Portland Example: Plant a yard tree for clean rivers and earn a \$50 rebate
 - Discussion whether it would be more cost-effective to use rebates or NGO's
 - Consider combining with Green Streets Standard Plan
 - Explore the option of creating "Adopt a Tree" programs
 - Urban Forest incentives: Carefully selected tree list so only drought tolerant, heat and pest resistant trees qualify
 - Need a tree pruning policy and public education program on who is allowed to prune trees on public lands.
 - The value of mature tree canopy and its water capture benefits is undervalued.
 - Explore research grant opportunities to evaluate benefit of different trees (shade reduces ET) and education and develop sustainable tree guidelines.
 - Metro has unsolicited grant program that could consider a rebate program.

- Approach Air Quality Management District and Air Resources Board to consider rebates or cost sharing as they value trees to reduce air quality problems.
- City could be a part of cost-sharing.
- Consider “Adopt a Parkway Swale.” It would be beneficial to have incentives that are flexible for parkways and swales too.
- Removing barriers to those who want to install parkway swales is also important.
- One Percent for Green
 - Need to integrate the Complete Streets, Green Streets, Pedestrian Streets, Safe Routes to School and Vision Zero programs.
 - Should be an effort to put all these programs on one map.
 - Vision Zero Initiative
 - ACTION ITEM: Provide GIS layer of Vision Zero initiative.
 - ACTION ITEM: Add extra street program and Vision Zero initiative layers to the Stormwater Facilities Master Plan
- Other Incentives & Open Discussion
 - Develop a grand prize for innovation
 - Health concerns about standing water should be communicated with the public.
 - Work with stores like Home Depot & Lowes to promote rain barrels.
 - Identify and work with inspirational figures to promote plan.
 - Rebate programs need to consider educational needs.
 - City is currently modifying the turf removal rebate program to include stormwater capture.
 - The City’s watershed motion will also support the effort.

Incentives are important because quantitative goals have practical metrics to communicate with the public and gets the media's attention. For example, with setting big goals like installing one million cisterns or retrofitting 100,000 properties allows the goals to be visualized, and can also create multiple jobs. We need to quantify the City's Sustainability pLAN stormwater capture goal into relatable metrics. This can be done using the number of cisterns, rain gardens, rain barrels, etc.

ACTION ITEM: Develop practical metrics to communicate stormwater goals with the public and media.

Improving partnership opportunities with the City

Summary from Meeting #1

- LADWP Toilet Replacement Program – Success!
- Small grants to NGOs
- Online platform for information transfer (Blog, LMU database...)
- Education and Outreach

- Standardized Agreements
- Schools and Parks
- LA County

Discussion

- More communication and partnership is needed with the Industrial community to implement the Industrial General Permit. The California Metals Association is one example.
- LA Chamber and BizFed are other avenues to promote One Water LA and make presentations.
- One Water LA Advisory Group recently expanded with the addition of representatives from the industrial sector.
- City partnership with the Trust of Public Land (TPL) helped secure funding for alley retrofits and similar NGO partnerships can increase funding opportunities.
- ACTION ITEM: Summarize lesson learned from NGOs working with the City and identify improvement of partnership agreements.
- Specification and policies and plan/project approvals need to be streamlined to avoid roadblock or implementation hurdles. Project templates need to be developed along with standardization
- Beneficial to have a one point of contact to get projects implemented
- Group would like more information on EWMP implementation

Meeting Recap

- ACTION ITEM: Develop poll to get input on prioritization of incentive ideas
- ACTION ITEM: Send out prioritization poll out via e-mail
- Provide input on "Non-Dean Marriott" presentation ideas (via email).
- Interest in repeating the OWLA and Water Cabinet goals
- ACTION ITEM: Provide a list of One Water GIS Layers (current and requested)

Next Steps

The next meeting will be scheduled shortly with the STG members. The meeting notes and action items will be sent out to STG members.