

Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group

Meeting Notes

April 6, 2022, 10am

1. Introductions

There were 25 attendees representing 20 wastewater agencies and the Regional Water Board.

2. Regional Board Announcements

Alessandra Moyer from San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board attended the meeting and provided the following announcement:

- The SF Bay Regional Water Board's NPDES Wastewater & Enforcement division is currently advertising for three Scientific Aid positions (all listed under one announcement). The application is closing on 4/12. This is a great opportunity for current students, recent graduates, and anyone else to get involved with all of our work, potentially including pollution prevention.

We are holding an info session about all 12 of our agency's open positions on Friday 4/8 from noon to 1pm. Note that info about this event is **not** available on CalCareers. Anyone who is curious about these positions is encouraged to attend. Please help us spread the word to students, interns, etc!

See also the [LinkedIn post](#) w/ links to info session and CalCareers.

3. Updates

- **Steering Committee:** AVMA survey is complete. Unfortunately, we can't include their name on the survey. We didn't hear back from NACWA, so we aren't listing them either.
- **BACWA Announcement:** Annual Members' Meeting is May 6, 2022, in Berkeley. Register at BACWA.org. PFAS Regional Study Phase 2 Sampling and Analysis Plan is complete and on BACWA website. The State Water Board heard a PFAS update 4/5/22, and a recording is available [here](#).
- **Pesticides Subcommittee:** The discontinued Fed regulations.gov docket subscription service is now restored -- a relief as it's a key tool for monitoring regulation updates
- **Outreach/marketing contract:** Earth Week flea and tick campaign is ready and will begin April 13 until funding is used up. Six different banner ads, customized for different screens and locations. Spanish language versions were explored but an affordable option wasn't found. SGA is helping update the Baywise flea/tick landing page to be more user friendly.
- **Our Water, Our World (OWOW):** It's now hosted by CASQA and we are a OWOW sponsor (\$10k), not a CASQA member. Jennifer Kaiser and Susan Heistand provide BAPPG representation. We need to work on how we communicate about technical items when issues are being reviewed.
- **CWEA:** Annual Conference is next week in Sacramento, April 11-14. Mary Cousins will be presenting on "Understanding your NPDES Permit" on Thursday 4/14.

P3S: June 20-23 conference in Long Beach. FOG workshops, relevant inspector trainings etc.
Reach out to Susan Hiestand for more info

4. Budget

Robert Wilson provided an update:

- We submitted our next fiscal year, 2022-2023 to the BACWA Board. There were no changes to line items. One change is that we asked for a 4%, ~\$4k increase to the unplanned issues budget to cover any potential increases in cost. It is not approved yet.

5. BAPPG In-Person Meeting Survey Results

June: We'd like to try in-person, hybrid meeting

- 15 respondents, 60% want to return, 10 say they want to remain remote.
- Masks: majority said we shouldn't require masks.
- Agency policies: 1 said they can't meet in-person.
- Physical distancing, 52% said yes

The Phone system of previous times was problematic, we'll keep using zoom. We will have a repeat the question policy to help people on zoom.

Caveats: if health orders change, testing logistics, or guest speakers that cannot join in person.

6. EBMUD Virtual Tour Program – Phoebe Grow, EBMUD

- Started in mid-2000's, expanded into a larger public tour program in 2016
Suspended in 2020 due to COVID with subsequent launch of the live virtual tour

Tour program attendance: 2016 – 400 attendees, 2021 – 1,500 attendees
- In-person tour, covers the 60 acre MWWTP and takes about 1.5 hrs to see the different treatment processes
 - Pre-covid public tour: offered each month on the first Saturday at 9:30 and third Wednesday at 1p.
- Sign-ups through our website and only offered in the dry season.
- Virtual Tour Types:
 - Public Tour 4th Thursday of the month 6-7
 - School tours, mostly high school, prioritizing schools in our service area. Staff led
 - Non-routine tours: industry groups, foreign groups, corporate groups
 - Other special tours by request
- Virtual Tour advantages
 - We can reach diverse audiences. We can tailor to age and languages.
- in-house training. Paid staff time, OT as well. Encouraged at highest level of the department
- Tours are promoted by email blasts to known customers, both to water and ww service area

Zoe Lake, MBA, EBMUD Presented the EBMUD on-line virtual wastewater treatment tour.

The tour is hosted on the ArcGIS StoryMap website, “From your tap to the San Francisco Bay”.
<https://www.ebmud.com/about-us/education-resources>

- The website launched for World Water Day 3/22/22 and features interactive maps, 11 treatment videos and a 5min employee highlight video
- It’s self-paced and accessible on any device
- EBMUD wastewater staff lead the web design and content development. Staff worked with an external videographer, David Ronan of CrushPix.

7. CCCSD Virtual Tour

Colleen Henry presented a video that highlighted the 360 interactive tour

- A 360 degree picture that lets you can click within to move and to learn more.
- It was made with a drone, mostly in-house

Very positive feedback. A comment that it felt similar to google maps, very intuitive

8. Virtual Tour Discussion

- 1/4 of participants have a virtual option or are developing one
- We can reach different audiences and the format is versatile

9. Next Meeting: June 1, 2022, 10a-12p. Email to come about in-person and zoom options