

# URBAN GREENING CHECK IN

January 15, 2016 10AM – 12PM

ABAG MetroCenter, Oakland

## PARTICIPANTS

### EPA

- Luisa Valiela

### ABAG

- Mark Shorett
- Christy Leffall

### SFEP

- Jennifer Krebs
- Josh Bradt
- Adrien Baudrimont

### SFEI

- Jennifer Hunt
- Jing Wu

### Regional Board

- Keith Lichten

### BASMAA

- Matt Fabry
- Geoff Brosseau (by phone)

### City of San Jose

- Jeff Sinclair

### City of Oakland

- Becky Tuden
- Kristin Hathaway

### Contra Costa County/City of Richmond

- John Steere
- Joanne Le

### City of San Mateo

- Jocelyn Walker

IT note: Basecamp does not work with EPA because of too many firewalls.

## SFEP UPDATE

### *Work accomplished this fall*

- Website update.
- Quarterly report and invoice submittal.
- Coordination with partners on projects.
- Contracts - SFEI: contract signed; BASMAA: contract in progress.
- Draft "Spider Web Chart."

### *Work this winter*

- Finalize BASMAA's contract.

- Revision of Spider Web Chart.
- Coordination among partners on progress.
- Setup next quarterly meeting.
- Quarterly reporting, invoicing.

## **PARTNERS UPDATES**

### SFEI – Jen Hunt, Jing Wu

#### *Work this fall*

- Completed State Board Grant in October.
- Coordination with Oakland to collect data.
- Contacted Cities to schedule GreenPlan-IT analyses.
  - Currently collaborating with Sunnyvale, Oakland, and East Bay Corridors.
- Selected Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members, including members of the project team as well as a few consultants and experts not involved directly in the project (Dino Marshalonis, EPA Region 10; John Rozum, NOAA; Steve Carter, Paradigm Environmental; John Riverson, Paradigm Environmental; Michael Tryby, EPA Region 5; Sarah McDonald, EnvisionGeo; and Jennifer Walker, Watearth)
- Tracker tool development: benchmarking in progress: looked at other existing similar tools around the country, including one in Oregon and one in LA County.

#### *Work this winter*

- GreenPlan-IT: Data gathering focused
  - Complete GIS for Oakland.
  - Start GIS work with ABAG.
- Tracker Tool: will continue to look at fields collected within existing national databases, such as the International BMP Database and the Caltrans Best Management Practices Database.
- February TAC meeting. What upgrades to the toolkit, GIS feature, etc. Defining the Tracker Tool will be at the center of the upcoming TAC meeting.
- Schedule:
  - 2016: completed toolkit, Sunnyvale, Oakland, East Bay Corridors, San Jose (Guadalupe)
  - 2017: San Jose, Contra Costa County/Richmond, San Jose (Coyote)

### BASMAA - Matt Fabry, Geoff Brosseau

#### *Work this fall*

- Meetings with SFEP and EPA on project scope and schedule revisions, including changing the proposed design contest to a focused design charrette.
- In early December, the BASMAA Board of Directors authorized BASMAA entering a sub-agreement with SFEP/ABAG for the project pending an agreed-to scope of work. Should be able to sign contract with SFEP shortly.

- USEPA, SFEP/ABAG, and BASMAA representatives met in mid-December to review and consider changes to the scope of work for the Regional Roundtable task.

*Work this winter*

- BASMAA provided a revised scope of work in the first week of January.
- BASMAA expects to have an agreed-to scope of work and signed sub-agreement by the January 15 quarterly check-in meeting or very shortly thereafter. BASMAA will then issue a 'light' RFP to its list of pre-qualified consultants with the expectation of engaging consultant help by March 1.
- Deliverables: the consultant will help with defining the scope, strategy, and methodology for the roundtable. This work will include outreach/interviews about lessons learned from past projects and how to move forward. The ultimate deliverables are an outline for the roundtable process and a report that highlights barriers to GI implementation and a roadmap for overcoming these barriers.
- Matt: intends to schedule a meeting in the next month or so to go over the approach for the design charrette. The above mentioned "light" RFP from BASMAA will be focused on the roundtable. The charrette process will be part of a separate solicitation.

**Action Item: Share the "light" RFP with EPA.**

City of San Jose – Jeff Sinclair

*Work this fall*

- Chynoweth
  - The Concept Plans were completed and submitted as part of the Site Assessment and Feasibility Studies. The Concept plans and a video showcasing the project were presented to forty-two stakeholders and staff at a neighborhood meeting. Good reception of the video, but feedback on green infrastructure was minimal. Comments were more focused on traffic, and parking issues. There was a pedestrian death a month ago, so the community is focused on calming the traffic.
  - The Monitoring Plan (for IRWMP) has been submitted.
  - Working on 65% plans. Cooperated with the Department of Transportation to offset some of the costs of the project. Construction costs ran up these last years, city is looking for \$400K to cover estimated shortfall.

*Work this winter*

- Chynoweth 65% plans and specs to be completed by April.
- EPA QAPP: their biologist is working on that.
- Internal discussions on how to incorporate GreenPlan-IT 1.0 outputs in city plans and what additional analyses are to be done in GreenPlan-IT 2.0. Extending the optimization tool to the extent of the entire Guadalupe watershed would be very useful. It would help the urban villages, since some are moving quicker. Next, San Jose would like to model Coyote Creek's watershed.
- Total cost estimate for Chynoweth: \$2.25M with matching funds, but will need \$400K more to cover everything they want to do.
- Schedule:
  - First finishing up Guadalupe Watershed;

- Then start modeling Coyote Creek Watershed.
- In parallel, San Jose is updating its Storm Sewer Master Plan. AECOM was hired for that, they added few more layers to the GreenPlan-IT tool. City engineers will be using that.
- Question from Oakland: *what is the ideal basin catchment size for micro analysis?*
  - Jing: *It depends on the studied areas and the data available. For San Jose, from 10 acres to 100 acres. For Oakland, 5 acres to 10 acres since Oakland is smaller.*
- Are there limitations regarding scales?
  - *Optimization tool: EPA guidance says not to exceed 300 acres.*
  - *Locator tool would be much larger. The more localized data, the better.*

**Action Item: Show the Chynoweth video at our next quarterly meeting.**

Sunnyvale – Jennifer Krebs (reporting for Elaine)

*Work this fall*

City of Sunnyvale

*Work this fall*

- SFEI has completed initial run of the site locator tool.
- SFEI and Sunnyvale have discussed LID Locations.

*Work this winter*

- Meeting(s) with SFEI on GreenPlan-IT outputs. Jen: very preliminary output. Just received new data, new run shortly for a second output. Meeting on Friday, January 22 in Sunnyvale.
- Contracting with SFEP.
- Run GreenPlan-IT optimization tool.
- Collaboration on Design Charrette.

**Action Item: setup a call-in number for Urban Greening folks to attend.**

City of Oakland - Becky Tuden, Kristin Hathaway

*Work this fall*

- City of Oakland focused on West Oakland and PCB reduction.
- Met with SFEI to begin GreenPlan-IT analyses of Oakland. The data transfer to SFEI started. There are data gaps but they can be filled out.
- Jing: SFEI is waiting for delineation of small sub-basins watershed boundaries.

*Work this winter*

- Review data analyses by SFEI
- Discuss refining data
- The City of Oakland is working with a consultant (CDA) to do street guidelines and design guidance. This project started with internal staff stakeholders interviews. They had some issues with having the consultant during the interviews. They will summarize the concerns, challenges, as well as technical, administrative and political challenges to designing green infrastructure. How can GI designing can be standardized? This process is also a chance to educate the staff about the latest GI requirements.

**Action Item: Share the results of this interview process to the Urban Greening team.**

Contra Costa County/Richmond - John Steere, Joanne Le

*Work this fall*

- Richmond city GIS staff met to pass along the data SFEI requested. Initial discussion about datasets available by partners also started. The County will gather and forward Richmond GIS data along with its own to SFEI.
- John expressed interest in merging GreenPlan-IT analyses with other programs/plans (Safer Routes to Schools, Urban Greening Master Plan, Community Based Clean Program, etc.)
  - Matt and Jocelyn have some experience with this from the San Mateo Sustainable Streets planning process and can be a helpful resource.
- Joanne shared that internal city departmental communications are improving. She spoke to planners about integrating GI into future planning efforts. The city is also working with Trust for Public Land who are also creating GI plans

*Work this winter*

- Additional meetings to scope areas of interest and datasets available this winter.
- Begin work with SFEI this spring or summer?
- Keith: *Any feedback on how to handle the data gathering and avoid gaps?*
  - Joanne: *The most challenging is to assess the utility of the available data, and to manage internal coordination.*
  - John: *Some data layers are proprietary (consultant-derived). Other departments beyond Public Works also have layers that can be used.*

ABAG East Bay Corridors Initiative - Mark Shorett, Christy Leffall

*Work this fall*

- The East Bay Corridors had their second steering committee last week.
- Upcoming meeting with SFEI regarding data collection: what scale is needed since corridors are so broad? What data will be needed?
- Coordination efforts with cities.

*Work this winter*

- Coordination with Cities about GreenPlan-IT goals and outputs; educating partners on opportunities to integrate GI into place-making work
  - Hosted Corridors steering committee Jan 7th
  - Will get arms around geographic scope of GreenPlan-IT analyses and begin to collect infrastructure data from cities
  - Will look for funding for GI/corridors implementation
- Participate in Round Table Effort
  - Meet with Planning Department leadership to discuss the potential to institutionalize/incentivize GI policy at the regional level -Regional opportunities include, OBAG, Plan Bay Area 2040, Planning Grant Program, educational components

- Mark also asked about how to better include NGOs and community organizations (such as Greenbelt Alliance and Enterprise Community Partners) in developing a pipeline of projects, especially with anticipated GI-funding available from the Strategic Growth Council's Urban Greening Programs.
  - Matt: *can the East Bay Corridor strategy can be exported to other locations?*
  - Mark: Yes. (Volunteered to do a write up)

### San Mateo - Jocelyn Walker

#### *Work this fall*

- The contract parameters were ok'd by the City Attorney's office.
- Preliminary selection of intersection locations. Three different types of locations for the charrette, including: one light industrial area; one residential area; and one downtown.
  - JK: *Are those called out by the locator tool?*
  - Matt: *found intersections with a variety of characteristics they were looking for. They did not use the tool, but with plenty of intersections to choose from, they will check it out.*

#### **Action Item: check how the potential sites ranked with the Locator Tool.**

- Sought clarification of agency roles and responsibilities including:
  - The City has confirmed with the EPA that project will not need to follow the Caltrans Local Assistance Procedure.
  - The City does not need to obtain NEPA clearance for the project.
  - Grant funds will be available for survey and 100% PS&E.
  - There will be money in the charrette task to implement it (Surveys, etc.)

#### *Work this winter*

- Finalize intersection locations.
- Enter into Agreement.
- Planning for Design Charrette Activities.

### Water Board – Keith Lichten

- Adoption of the MRP, with its associated green infrastructure and PCB/Hg TMDL planning requirements.
- June 30, 2017: Framework for GI planning process due
- State Board's adoption of a resolution on the Storm Water Initiative. Storm water as a resource, not a waste, and think about opportunities to reuse.
- EPA Reasonable Assurance Guidance scheduled for 2019.
- Becky: previous conversations mentioned the link between transportation projects and water quality. Any update on that discussion?
  - Keith: No update right now, but still working on it.
  - Mark: maybe this is a good conversation for the Strategic Growth Council, ABAG, and others to push for GI funding
  - Matt: gave a presentation to SPUR on that topic. Jim McGrath was interested.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

- Confirmation of SFEI schedule of working with Cities
  - 2016: working with Oakland, Sunnyvale, Corridors, San Jose (Guadalupe).
  - 2017: working with Contra Costa/Richmond, San Jose (Coyote).
  - San Jose was first scheduled in 2017, but Jeff would like to push the completion of the Guadalupe watershed modeling to 2016. Coyote creek can be pushed to 2017. SFEI agreed.
  - Richmond is okay with kicking off the data gathering now, and start the modeling next year.
- February TAC meeting
  - What updates for the tool? What additional features? Who wants what?
  - The tracker tool framework to be developed for feedback.
  - SFEI will have provide agenda and presentation in advance with questions for the TAC members to consider prior to the meeting.
  - Tree Well filter Question – kick off discussion

**Action Item: SFEI - material out for participants before the TAC.**

- Spider Web Chart discussion

The draft Spider Web Chart triggered discussion points:

- Maybe one portion at once? It is a big bite to chew all of it at once.
- The different bubbles do not represent the same things: projects, agencies, topics, etc.
- Create a sub flow chart with more details on the bubbles?
- Add relationships to the lines.
- Urban Greening Bay Area does not have to be in the center.
- Add this task to the consultant hired for the roundtable?

The group also discussed the benefits of building such a Spider Web Chart:

- Link everything in the GI world, in order to not miss anything when starting a GI project.
- This exercise speaks to the complexity of incorporation GI into projects.
- This can become a tool to develop common understanding and highlight who to talk to when starting a GI project.
- It would be a good tool for elected people too.

Matt: What about bubbles for:

- Where to do GI?
- How to do it? (Process: Stakeholder interviews, plan validated by city council?, etc.)
- Funding
- Existing projects and their benefits (relationship to complete streets, trash reduction, GHG reduction, safe travel to school, etc.)

- Clickable bubbles that would lead to information about the bubble topic.

**Action Item: Matt, Jeff and Geoff to identify bubbles and sub-bubbles (or reorganize).**

### **CLOSING COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- SPUR/BASMAA GI talk in a few weeks: post the date on Basecamp.
- Geoff: CASQA Annual Conference, September 12-14 in San Diego: “Stormwater Evolution, Source to Resource.” Request for abstract mid-march.
- Next meeting: April 15, 2016 at 10am.