Meeting Notes
GMDA Winter Meeting
February 26-27, 2025
Temecula, CA

Wednesday, February 26

Mindy Johnson, City of Temecula

- Rapid growth in past 50 years—1,800 to 110,000
- Pre-European history before 1770
- Indigenous name *Exva Temeeku*, which is believed to translate to "place of sand and sun," thought to have been inhabited for 10,000 years or more
- Spanish missionaries in late 1700s; Temecula became a breadbasket because it had sun, water, and a labor force
- Mexico assumed control in 1821 w/ independence from Spain; this began the "era of ranchos;" the Temecula area was divided into 4 ranchos up to several 10s of thousands of acres; one small rancho brought back natives who then became farmers
- California became part of the US as a result of the Mexican-American war ca 1846
- Discovery of gold in 1849 swelled the population; California became a state in 1850
- History of Anglo development through late 1800s-1900s

Rich Ottolini, Rancho California Water District

- RCWD serves about 150 square miles with a population of 150,000
- 65% imported water, 25% ground water, 10% surface water
- 3 different basins; one exclusively served by ground water
- 9 ground water sub units; 43 active production wells; 32,300 AF annual production (both native and induced recharge)
- Water quality concerns—arsenic, fluoride, PFAs

Thad & Heath Kuntz, Adaptive Resources & Longitude 103

- Overview of services—HydroData, ProducerConnect, etc.
- LPSNRD will be working with them on maintenance and updates to our ground water database

Courtney Sandoval, Central Colorado Water Conservancy District

- Current water quality concerns--TDS, sodium absorption ration, hydrogen sulfide, coliform bacteria, total N, total P
- In-well and surface water monitoring
- Reservoir monitoring for hydrogen sulfide prompted by complaints of odor; taking steps to mitigate
- Considering monitoring for harmful algae blooms
- Working with other WCDs on increasing salinity along South Platte into Nebraska

Carlos Quintero-Sweetwater Authority

- SA serves about 200,000 people over a 36 square miles in San Diego County

- About 17,000 AF/yr
- Ground water is produced from the San Diego Formation about 800' deep
- Ground water desalination began 1999; full production capability of 10 MGD, includes 2950 solar panels as alternative energy source
- Board of Directors (7) is a combination of elected and appointed (by mayor) officials

Michael Hagman-East Kaweah GW Sustainability Area/Lindmore Irrigation District

- LID has been doing things similar to California's State Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) since 1950s
- Current ag requirements are about 15"/year; given improvements they now have an allocation of about 18"
- LID became member of the EKGSA in 2014 after passing of SGMA

Wes Danskin-USGS California Water Science Center

- Experience in North Africa, Asia in similar situations to California
- Overview of recharge into coastal aquifers

GMDA Board Meeting

- Reports from National Water Resources Association and other entities
- Election of new officers:
    - Chad Schafer, Colorado—President
    - Bob McCrae, New Mexico—Vice President
    - Tylr Naprstek, Nebraska (Lower Loup NRD)—Secretary-Treasurer (replacing me as I'm stepping into retirement!)

<u>Thursday, February 27, 2025</u>

GMDA Board meeting Report—Dick Ehrman, past GMDA Secretary-Treasurer

Greg Morrison-National Water Resources Association/Mark Rude-Dragon Line MDI

- Western states' ground water challenges
    - Declining levels & overdraft
    - Water quality—nitrate, PFAS, salinity, chrome 6
    - Regulatory & policy challenges
    - Recharge impacts
    - Improve support tools for local ground water management
- Overview of new administration and possible areas for cooperation and maybe conflict
- Overview of Trump administration priorities

Tom Cech, HDR

- Overview of current issues in Colorado, especially Denver Basin/South Platte
- Reminder of 10th Amendment specifying state powers; explains why different states manage water differently—examples from NV, NE, FL, MT, AZ, CA

- Examples of water rights conflicts in Colorado, with an example from an episode of "Bonanza!"
- Colorado is first in time, first in right state for ground water

Noosha Razavian-Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

- MWD supplies 20 million people!
- Supplies
    - LA Aqueduct
    - Ground water
    - Recycling
    - Desalination
    - Conservation
- 88 ground water basins, about 1/3 of regional supplies; 98% managed or adjudicated
- Examples of "weather whiplash"-drought to abundance
- Interesting discussion of balance of supply from northern California, Colorado River, ground water, etc.
- Integrated Water Resources Plan (IRP)—cooperation between MWD and other entities

Field Trip—Diamond Valley Lakes, Wadsworth Pumping Plant, McCrometer Factory

- Diamond Valley Lake is one of the largest reservoirs in Southern California and the most recently constructed (1990s); water is used for power generation and irrigation
- McCrometer is a large-scale manufacturer of water meters; the vast majority of meters on irrigation wells in LPSNRD and Nebraska as a whole are manufactured by McCrometer

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S MONLTY REPORT

3/14/2024

PERSONNEL/OFFICE

- The Lancaster and Cass County Service Centers are under normal operations.
- New Employee: Bridget McKinley is the new Lincoln NRD Resources Technician. Bridget started February 24th, 2025.
- Lincoln Resource Conservationist - VACANT
- Lincoln Soil Conservation Technician - VACANT

LPSNRD LAND TREATMENT

- Current soil moisture conditions are variable across the district; staff are conducting soil moisture evaluations on all projects prior to construction. Projects are being released on a site-by-site basis; some may be withheld due to inadequate soil moisture conditions.
- LPSNRD currently has the following active or completed land treatment cost-share program applications:
    - Lancaster County
        - 12 Fall 2024 Structural Applications
        - 19 Fall 2024 Cover Crop Applications
        - 2 Summer 2025 Structural Applications
    - Cass County
        - 18 Fall 2024 Structural Applications
        - 2 Fall 2024 Cover Crop Applications
        - 2 Summer 2025 Structural Applications
        - 1 Fall 2025 Structural Applications

USDA PROGRAMS

- Technicians are checking completed projects, preparing for spring/summer projects, and doing frequent soil moisture monitoring for planned construction.
- Planning staff are beginning contracting for FY25 EQIP/CSP applications and certifying completed practices.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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Tom Cowan – District Conservationist