

Item 5 – BVWaterSmart Grant Proposal – Dr. Ron Kaiser

Dr. Ron Kaiser submitted a grant proposal relating to a pilot project for the enhancement of the BVWaterSmart residential lawn irrigation application. The specifics of the proposal are:

- Purchase ten (10) Rachio wireless smart irrigation controllers. Ten (10) high end users will be identified.
- The objective of the pilot project is to:
 - a) Reduce over-watering
 - b) Identify cost savings to homeowner and utility by reducing waste
 - c) Time needed to recover the cost of the installed/programmed unit
 - d) Level at which cost recovery occurs based on square footage of irrigatable landscape
- Controllers are set to the same frequency as BVWaterSmart
- BVWaterSmart weather data turns the pilot systems off when sufficient rain events have occurred. Likewise, the system is turned back on (by BVWaterSmart) when the weather data indicates a need for water.
- Purchase of each controller, installation and programming is approximately \$470/unit.
- BVGCD would purchase the controllers. Five units would be made available to both the City of Bryan and City of College Station. As pilot cooperators are identified, the units would be granted directly to the homeowner becoming their property. **The District will not own any controllers.**
- BVWaterSmart software will need to be tweaked to talk to the controllers. This would be a one-time expense of \$2,000.
- Grant proposal seeks \$6,700.00

The Education/Conservation Committee met with Dr. Kaiser on June 27, 2019 in the District Office. The grant proposal was fully vetted by the committee, and the unanimous decision was to bring the proposal to the full board for review and approval. It was suggested to do a line item transfer of funds from Professional Services to fund the pilot project.

It is the recommendation of the General Manager to accept the Education/Conservation Committee endorsement of the BVWaterSmart pilot project.