



Board of Directors Meeting

November 19, 2020

Via Zoom

MINUTES

Directors Present

Director Kelly Long, Chair
Director Ed McFadden, Vice Chair
Director Gordon Kimball
Director Candice Meneghin
Director Glen Pace

Directors Absent

Director Tim Holmgren

Staff Present

Anthony Emmert, executive director
Scott Nave, legal counsel
Eva Ibarra, clerk of the board

Public Present

Lisa Ballin, CSUS/DBS&A
Bryan Bondy, Fillmore and Piru Pumpers Associations
Frank Brommenschenkel
Dan Detmer, UWCD
Burt Handy
Dr. Zachary Hanson, UWCD
Debbie Jackson
Tony Morgan, DBS&A
Patrick O'Connell, DBS&A
Dr. Jason Sun, UWCD
Ambry Tibay, UWCD
Steven Zimmer

1. Call to Order – First Open Session 5:00p.m.

Vice Chair McFadden called the meeting to order at 5p.m.

1A. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair McFadden asked everyone to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1B. Directors Roll Call

Chair Long asked the Clerk to call roll. Five directors were present (Kimball, Meneghin, Pace, Chair Long, Vice Chair McFadden,) Director Holmgren was absent.

1C. Public Comments

Chair Long asked if there were any public comments; none were offered.

1D. Approval of Agenda

Motion

Motion to approve the agenda, Director Pace; Second, Chair Long. Roll call vote: five ayes (Kimball, Chair Long, Vice Chair McFadden, Meneghin, Pace); none opposed; one absent (Holmgren). Motion carries 5/0/1.

2. Director Announcements/Board Communications

2A Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Information Item

Director Kimball stated the Fillmore Basin and Piru Basin Pumpers Associations had their monthly Board meetings on November 10. He then shared the subjects discussed during the meeting with the Agency's board members.

Vice Chair McFadden asked Director Kimball if he felt that there is a need to put something in writing concerning comments on the Sustainable Management Criteria(SMC)?. Director Kimball stated the Pumpers Associations are working on that and requested Director Pace provide insight on the subject as well. Vice Chair McFadden requested Director Kimball share the pumpers' comments regarding the SMCs. Director Kimball shared that the Pumpers Associations desired the Agency set its initial SMC more aggressively, in anticipation of future multi-year droughts. For example, he shared that the pumpers had concerns with using well screens as an undesirable results indicator, and desired to set the initial undesirable result for water level be lower. Director Kimball also stated that the Pumpers Association provided input regarding future agricultural water usage projections for use in the planning process.

Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Information Item

Director Pace stated there was a lot of discussion at the Pumpers' meeting on November 10 that was prompted by the November 4 Special Board Meeting. The pumpers were happy to be heard at that meeting, especially regarding their concerns about subsidence. Director Pace also expressed that he would like to get more information tonight regarding the technical memorandum, which will help him to provide more information to the pumpers.

City of Fillmore Member Director Update

Information Item

Director Holmgren was absent.

Environmental Stakeholder Director Update

Information Item

Director Meneghin apologized for missing such an important meeting on-November 4 and added that she had followed up with some Environmental Stakeholders that participated in the meeting. She also stated that her group will do what they can to support the Fillmore Piru Basin and will also be providing recommendations. Director Meneghin reported the Water Talk Meeting was videotaped and will be shared on the website. She also thanked Executive Director Emmert for his participation representing the GSA at that meeting as well as for his presentation. Director Meneghin announced that she will be on maternity leave beginning in January and through April and specified the meetings she would still be able to attend during her leave, in particular, she was not sure that she would be able to continue with her participation in the two ad hoc committees.

Executive Director Emmert suggested an item be added to the December agenda to assign another Board member to step in for the ad hoc committees while Director Meneghin is on maternity leave.

United Water Conservation District Member Director Update

Information Item

Vice Chair McFadden mentioned United Waters three-month long water release from the Santa Felicia Dam has been completed.

County of Ventura Member Director Update

Information Item

Chair Long mentioned the Ventura County's Watershed Protection District (VCWPD) received a GIS presentation on the watershed and mentioned the Storm Water project for Piru that has been underway since December 2019. She added that VCWPD is creating a video on this project and its purpose. She also mentioned the governor will be providing an update regarding COVID-19 at 3pm today and reminded everyone of the website being used to communicate COVID-19 updates.

2B Executive Director Update

Information Item

Executive Director Anthony Emmert said he had made note of the concern over a recent invoice Director Pace mentioned during his last update to the Board. Mr. Emmert also provided an update on the Agency's open invoices, recent grant submission to DWR, Groundwater Model validation, recycled water, and chloride removal.

Vice Chair McFadden asked if the Newhall project will be trying to hold onto stormwater run-off and if the Agency will see an increase in stormwater run-off. Mr. Emmert said he did not know the answer and asked Mr. Dan Detmer if he could answer the question. Mr. Detmer explained what he knew about the project and added that he did not have all the details.

2C Legal Counsel Update

Information Item

Legal Counsel Scott Nave updated the Board on the three options it had for collecting on delinquent fees and explained the details of each option.

Director Meneghin asked Mr. Nave about another option that could be implemented for collection on the tax roll. Mr. Nave explained that option.

Chair Long mentioned that if you form a special district, you can use the tax roll for purposes of collection. Mr. Nave said he only knew of property liens and was not aware of being able to collect a debt through the tax roll.

Director Meneghin asked what statute allows districts the authority to collect on tax rolls through the county? Mr. Nave discussed specific districts that have the authority and stated he would like to present the requested information to the Board at a later time.

Chair Long requested an item be added to the agenda to discuss these options in greater detail at the next Board meeting

2D. GSP Consultant Update

Information Item

Mr. Tony Morgan, representing DBS&A, made a presentation to the Board (see slide presentation)

Director Pace said he noticed items listed on the slide presentation have now shifted. Mr. Morgan replied that he has yet to decide how the SMC should be structured and is proposing more discussions at workshops and Board Meetings to provide input as to what should be incorporated into the SMCs. Mr. Morgan and Director Pace discussed the technical memorandum and Mr. Morgan explained what is planned.

Vice Chair McFadden expressed his support of having another workshop to allow time for more input on the SMCs, as there is a great deal of important information that needs to be gathered and organized moving towards the GSPs.

Director Meneghin asked about the data gaps in the water budget and wanted to know if the technical memos will be made available to the public. Mr. Morgan said the technical memos can be found on the Fillmore Piru Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency website.

Director Kimball thanked Mr. Morgan for listening to the Board and for making the requested changes.

Mr. Bryan Bondy wanted to echo Director Pace's comment about the technical memo as he wants to understand the assumptions behind the calculations and is hoping that information is also in the technical memo posted on the website.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

3A Approval of Minutes

The Board will consider approving the Minutes from the Board Meeting of October 15 and November 4, 2020.

3B Approval of Warrants

The Board will consider approving the following invoices for payment:

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.	\$69,108.11
Olivarez Madruga Lemeiux O'Neill LLP	\$4,828.60
The Fillmore Gazette	\$180.00

3C Monthly Financial Report

The Board will receive a monthly profit and loss statement and balance sheet for the FPBGSA from UWCD's accounting staff.

3D Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget Report

The Board will receive the Agency's Fiscal Year 2019-2020 financial reports.

Motion to approve consent calendar, Vice Chair McFadden; Second, Director Pace. Roll call vote: four ayes (Kimball, Pace, Chair Long, Vice Chair McFadden); none opposed; one abstaining (Meneghin); one absent (Holmgren) Motion carries 4//0/1/1.

4. MOTION ITEMS

4A Sustainable Management Criteria

Motion

The Board received a report from Mr. Morgan on the development of the Agency's Draft Sustainable Groundwater Management Criteria and asked the Board and public to provide comments and recommendations.

Mrs. Lisa Ballin shared input received from the November 4 Special Board Meeting.

Mr. Patrick O'Connell made a presentation to the Board. (see slides)

Mr. Morgan made a presentation to the Board. (see slides)

Mr. Brian Bondy asked if he can expect to get information regarding the benefits and effects of stream flows with analysis at the next Board meeting and also asked if DBS&A could provide an inclusion of the model's calibration. Mr. Morgan explained that information will be available at the next Board meeting and stated the model calibration information should be available at the December 9 Stakeholder Workshop.

Director Meneghin asked if the Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) technical memo, which is to be delivered in December according to the timeline, will be completed ahead of

the December Board meeting. Mr. Morgan stated it would be after the meeting at the end of December. Mr. Morgan added that he will have an updated map of the GDEs available on the website meanwhile the technical memo is completed.

Director Meneghin asked if 30% increase is a realistic number for the City of Fillmore groundwater pumping as Newhall Ranch is also behind schedule and wondered how DBS&A is factoring in those projections and actualities. Mr. Morgan said he is not the one to make the assumptions as to what the City of Fillmore thinks it wants to happen. He said he asked the City for its best guess and it requested he use the numbers from the 2015 Urban Water Plan. Chair Long asked if the City of Fillmore provided a date as to when it would complete its 2020 Plan. Mr. Morgan stated the 2020 Plan is just getting started and he believes the City has not selected the consultant to do the 2020 update yet.

On chat: Mr. Brian Bondy asked about how much actual demand there was in 2019? And if the City of Fillmore provide that information? Mr. Morgan stated it did not provide that information, and he supposes he could probably add up the pumping of the City's wells to get that number.

Director Meneghin said she thought American Water was now providing water to the community of Piru. Mr. Morgan directed the question to Director Pace. Director Pace said Warring Water is still operating in Piru and discussed the numbers, mentioning that for the foreseeable future, Warring Water is working to have American Water provide the water to the community.

Director Kimball said that recent development in Fillmore and Piru occurred on agricultural lands, so this may be new domestic water use but there was a discontinuation of ag water use, therefore the net change will not be a simple increase. Mr. Morgan agreed with Director Kimball and stated there will be a land use change associated with that and then DBS&A can figure out the differences.

Director Meneghin asked Mr. Morgan if he received input from the Farm Bureau and the County Agricultural Commission with regard to crops projections. Mr. Morgan directed the question to Vice Chair McFadden or Director Kimball. Vice Chair McFadden said he consulted Agricultural Commission documents but did not get direct input from the Agricultural Commission, but the information he sent Mr. Morgan was reviewed by the Farm Bureau and they agreed with his assumptions. He then discussed one of his assumptions with Mr. Morgan.

Director Kimball asked if an Agricultural Commission has historical crop production, can you even project that forward? He added that this just shows how slowly things change but he is not sure if historical production should be used. He also said he feels the Agricultural Commission does not have the data that will help predict the future.

Vice Chair McFadden said to Director Kimball, that if you look back at historical acreage in agriculture you will find it has decreased and that acreage does include dry farming. Vice Chair McFadden also directed a comment to Director Meneghin stating he is sure orchard farmers and row croppers would love to get into the hemp business, but there has been some big complications with that.

Chair Long suggested speaking to the Farm Bureau and Agricultural Commission to determine what the forecast will be.

On chat: Matt Freeman commented he believes the avocado planting will continue to increase east of Piru because of Ventura County's moratorium limiting the hemp industry.

Vice Chair McFadden responded to Matt Freeman's comment, saying he sees avocados replacing other agriculture, although it is tough on the side canyons where it gets really hot, but down in the valley it could take the place of other crops that use more water than avocados.

Director Meneghin asked Mr. Emmert about the Santa Clarita water use and Newhall's runoff. Mr. Emmert explained what he has learned from his monthly meetings but mentioned he does not have the numbers from Santa Clarita just yet. Director Meneghin asked if the Santa Clarita water budget is public. Mr. Emmert said it should be, as they have already provided a presentation to the Agency's Stakeholder Committee.

Chair Long asked if all of today's PowerPoints will be part of the agenda items. Mr. Morgan mentioned there has been conflicting information on subsidence and wanted to clarify.

Vice Chair McFadden addressed Mr. Morgan and Mr. Patrick O'Connell saying that he was very impressed with the stress testing presented.

Motion to receive and file the Sustainable Management Criteria update as presented, Director Meneghin; Second, Vice Chair McFadden. Roll call vote: five ayes, (Kimball, Meneghin, Pace, Chair Long, Vice Chair McFadden). None opposed. One absent (Holmgren) Motion carries 5/0/1

4B Monitoring Wells Project

Motion

The Board received a report from staff and Mr. Morgan of Daniel B. Stephens & Associates on the Monitoring Wells Project and provided comments and recommendations.

Mr. Morgan made a presentation to the Board (see slides)

Motion to receive and file the report on the Monitoring Wells project, Director Meneghin; Second, Director Pace. Roll call vote: five ayes (Kimball, Meneghin, Pace, Chair Long, Vice Chair McFadden); none opposed; one absent (Holmgren) Motion carries 5/0/1.

FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

Director Kimball requested an email be sent out to all Stakeholders when new information is posted on the FPB GSA website, and that the full Board meeting packet contain the presentations so the Board and public may review prior to the meeting. Mr. Emmert mentioned that it has been challenging to get the presentations early but will do all that he can to ensure presentations are included in the packet.

Vice Chair McFadden asked Mr. Nave if there are supplements to the agenda, can they be added to the packet later. Mr. Nave said yes, but they must also be available to the public and explained other conditions.

Mr. Emmert mentioned even he was unaware of the most recent postings of technical memos to the website and likes the idea of sending out an email blast to all when new information is posted on the website.

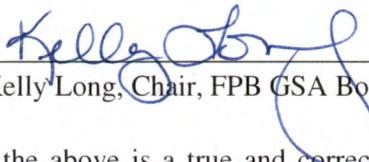
Director Kimball asked for clarification on the Brown Act requirements when posting of agenda and packet. Mr. Nave explained the requirement.

The Board asked for the following to be agendized for future meetings:

- Ad hoc committee assignments, in light of Director Meneghin's pending leave.
- Recommendation for collections of outstanding receivables.
- Status report on the Newhall Ranch Project.
- Status Report on the Santa Clarita Sanitary District Chloride Removal Project.

ADJOURNMENT 7:09 p.m.

Chair Long adjourned the meeting at 7:09p.m. to the next **Regular Board Meeting** on Thursday, **December 17, 2020** or call of the Chair.

ATTEST: 
Kelly Long, Chair, FPB GSA Board of Directors

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Board of Directors meeting of November 19, 2020.

ATTEST: 
Eva Ibarra, Clerk of the Board