



**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 20, 2021**  
**MINUTES**

**Directors Present**

Director Kelly Long, Chair  
Director Ed McFadden, Vice Chair/Secretary  
Director Gordon Kimball  
Director Candice Meneghin  
Director Glen Pace  
Director Christina Villaseñor

**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 Basin Pumpers Associations  
Frank Brommenschenkel  
Dan Detmer, UWCD  
Eric Elliot, UWCD  
Matt Freeman  
Erin Gorospe, UWCD  
Burt Handy  
Rachel Laenen, Fillmore Basin Pumpers Association  
Tessa Lenz, UWCD  
Tony Morgan, DBS&A  
Patrick O'Connell, DBS&A  
Eddie Pech, DWR  
Zachary Plummer, UWCD  
Steve Slack, CDFW  
Dr. Jason Sun, UWCD  
James Thurber  
Jim Van de Water  
Gilead Wurman  
Steven Zimmer

**1. Call to Order – First Open Session 5:02 pm**

Chair Long called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

**1A. Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice Chair McFadden led participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1B. Directors Roll Call**

Roll call: (Kimball, Chair Long, Vice Chair McFadden, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor); six present.

**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, Vice Chair McFadden; Second, Director Villaseñor. Roll call vote: six ayes (Kimball, Chair Long, Vice Chair McFadden, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed. Motion carries 6/0.

**2. UPDATES**

**2A Director Announcements/Board Communications:**

Oral Reports from the Board

**Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update**

No update.

**Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update**

Director Pace reported Pumpers will have their annual meeting in June, they are currently gathering information to share with members regarding the GSA and will be selecting officers during their meeting.

**Environmental Stakeholder Director Update**

Director Meneghin reported Friends of the Santa Clara River adopted a site for coastal cleanup day for the City of Fillmore to help keep trash and pollution out of the waterway and will share that information with anyone interested. She also mentioned that she created an article regarding SGMA and representation for the Ventura County Civic Alliance for the Sustainable Communities News Center that went out earlier this month.

**City of Fillmore Member Director Update**

Director Villaseñor reported the City of Fillmore's City Council adopted the budget for 21-22 year, with the exception of looking at their outlay projects and other capital improvement projects. She added that she will have a report at next month's meeting from the City Manager regarding the \$3 million dollars in American Rescue Plan funding the City looks to receive and plans to allocate a significant amount for infrastructure and upgrading water systems in the City.

### **United Water Conservation District Member Director Update**

Vice Chair McFadden reported that United is currently going through its budget process and is seeking to increase the water replenishment fee, from \$2.25 per acre foot, to a proposed amount of \$4.50 per acre foot, to help United purchase imported State Water when water becomes available.

### **County of Ventura Member Director Update**

Chair Long reported the State's Budget - May revisions is now out and pointed out the agriculture, environment and rehabilitation sections account for \$5.1 billion dollars in direct drought and water resilience investment, which is critical to our county. There are over 30 California counties that are in drought and in a state of emergency. She mentioned they are trying to keep food grown locally in California, and grants for drought relief and SGMA implementation improvements. She also mentioned they are trying to add five gigabytes of broadband service to the Highway 126 corridor. She mentioned looking forward to June 15, for the Governor releasing us out of the tier system and into Covid relief, and stated June 10<sup>th</sup> is the next information update for the Governor's budget and the federal Covid relief budget.

Vice Chair McFadden asked if there is any updates related to guidance on how we can meet. Chair Long said they are looking at legislation, and we will continue to work in Zoom for now, no word on any change, although they know it will be some type of hybrid. She will update the committee once the information is received.

## **2B Executive Director Update**

### **Information Item**

Executive Director Tony Emmert provided an informational update on the grant for GSP development. Progress Report number eight has been submitted by staff, and he mentioned they will be talking to the Grant Manager about a potential grant amendment, as they are in the last year of the grant. Mr. Emmert also mentioned that United staff is trying to complete documentation for groundwater model expansion and validation by the end of June, then to submit to the expert panel to provide a review report by July 28<sup>th</sup>, as this documentation will be needed for the GSPs when submitted to DWR. Mr. Emmert also mentioned the Board will be briefed on the proposed budget tonight, if all acceptable, the GSA will then notice the public hearing at the next Board meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>, where the budget will be adopted and the new rates set for July 1st. He also said we are working on a contract amendment for DBS&A, as they have exceeded their

planned budget due to an excessive amount of meetings. The monitoring well project is going as planned, staff are working on well site agreements, and he stated California Department of Fish and Wildlife was asked to help with placing some new shallow monitoring wells in the Fish Hatchery area. He is hoping to bring back a request to seek bids for drilling of the monitoring wells at the June board meeting. Mr. Emmert also mentioned CEQA findings that are required by the grant, and DWR wants to review them before the GSA starts spending any money.

**2C Legal Counsel Update Information Item**

Scott Nave Legal Counsel stated the memo regarding GSP Legal Considerations, a questions and answers document requested by the Board, has now been provided for posting on the website.

**2D GSP Consultant Update Information Item**

Mr. Tony Morgan of DBS&A reported he is working on GSP and SMC language and will be providing an updated schedule at the next meeting to layout timelines.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member pulls an item from the Calendar. Pulled items will be discussed and acted on separately by the Board. Members of the public who want to comment on a Consent Calendar item should do so under Public Comments. (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED)

**3A Approval of Minutes**

The Board will consider approving the Minutes from the Board Meeting of May 20, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting.

**3B Approval of Warrants**

The Board will consider approving payment of outstanding vendor invoices

- Daniel B. Stephens & Associates \$29,997.48
- Olivarez Madruga Lemeiux O’Neill LLP \$ 880.00
- Yamagishi Ranch \$ 238.68
- The Fillmore Gazette \$ 108.00
- County of Ventura IT Services Dept. \$ 71.88

### **3C Monthly Financial Report**

The Board will receive the Agency's monthly profit and loss statement and balance sheet.

Motion to approve Consent Calendar, Vice Chair McFadden; Second Director Kimball. Roll call vote: six ayes (Kimball, Chair Long, Vice Chair McFadden, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed. Motion carries 6/0.

## **4. MOTION ITEMS**

### **4A Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Amendments**

#### **Motion**

The Board considered approving the proposed budget modifications for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Director Meneghin asked if the proposed amendment included the amendment projection for Daniel B. Stephens & Associates. Mr. Emmert stated it is included in the amended amount.

Vice Chair McFadden asked Mr. Emmert if he thinks with the Governor's new water budget if there is room for additional grant opportunities. Mr. Emmert stated not for this fiscal year, but certainly something we will keep our eyes on and for any other projects to come.

Director Meneghin asked to what extent do we as an agency advocate funding for what our priorities are, as these natural resource funds are being separated into buckets in Sacramento, is it in your hands to write letters of support for projects. Mr. Emmert stated he has not been given the direction to write letters without bringing them to the Board for approval and we could consider creating a platform for a quicker turnaround. Director Meneghin requested it be added as a future item.

Public comment; Eddie Pech with DWR stated "the available funds although now being designated have not been allocated, and they anticipate a great amount of funding to be available, not just for SGMA, but for drought-related use, and suggested that the committee keep tabs on what is available and be prepared to submit a grant application. He stated the grants will not be available in time to help for next year's budget, but definitely by the following year. He also mentioned that DWR can help with technical services that include monitoring

well installations and encouraged the agency to notify him to get started on a Technical Services Program (TSP), for the near future.”

Motion to approve Budget Amendment, Director Villasenor; Second Director Meneghin. Roll call vote: six ayes (Kimball, Chair Long, Vice Chair McFadden, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed. Motion carries 6/0.

#### **4B Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget**

##### **Motion**

The Board received the proposed budget and groundwater extraction fee rates for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and provided comments and direction.

Motion to approve Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget as outlined by Executive Director Tony Emmert, Vice Chair McFadden; Second, Director Meneghin. Roll call vote: six ayes (Kimball, Chair Long, Vice Chair McFadden, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed. Motion carries 6/0.

#### **4C Resolution 2021-02 Approving the Monitoring Wells Project and CEQA Notice of Categorical Exemption Determination for the Monitoring Wells Project**

##### **Motion**

The Board considered adopting Resolution 2021-02 approving the Monitoring Wells Project, and the finding that the Project is Categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff was directed to file a Notice of Exemption for the monitoring well installations.

Vice Chair McFadden asked Tessa Lenz from United Water if she saw any challenges when conducting site research. Mrs. Lenz said there were no issues.

Motion to approve Resolution 2021-02, Vice Chair McFadden; Second, Director Villasenor. Roll call vote: six ayes (Kimball, Chair Long, Vice Chair McFadden, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed. Motion carries 6/0.

#### **4D Sustainable Management Criteria Development**

##### **Motion**

The Board considered adoption of the Agency’s proposed Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) matrix and associated additional studies and management actions. Discussion followed to provide direction to Agency staff and the consultant team toward development of the draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

Executive Director Tony Emmert provided comments to the Board he felt were important for the agency to consider, with a focus on SGMA requirements, noting that other agencies have management responsibilities for species such as steelhead trout, and offered some recommendations. Mr. Emmert also mentioned an idea that was discussed previously, leaving the minimum threshold (MT) for surface water blank, with a statement explaining there will be additional studies completed within the next couple of years to determine the correct criteria for the surface water MT. Mr. Emmert asked Tony Morgan from DBS&A to share the information that was relayed to him from DWR.

Tony Morgan from DBS&A said DWR indicated that you can leave an MT blank, although it will most likely be returned to you with one hundred and eighty days to correct it.

Director Meneghin asked Mr. Morgan what are DWR's feelings on us saying we do not regulate water quality, and we do not have an MT or Measurable Objective (MO), will that also come back to us with in one hundred and eighty days for correction? Mr. Morgan replied by saying we say we do not have an MT, but we do say that we are using the water quality parameters that are in the regulations, we just do not itemize them. Director Meneghin and Mr. Morgan continued their discussion on what DWR may find acceptable.

Chair Long, Vice Chair McFadden, Executive Director Tony Emmert, Director Meneghin, Director Kimball, Director Villasenor, Director Pace, Mr. Morgan, and Bryan Bondy all had an extensive discussion on what they each felt can be used to provide a reasonable number for the surface water MT and MO, while considering Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems, before agreeing on a notion of conducting further studies to establish appropriate criteria in the future.

Participant chat, "asked Mr. Morgan to explain the graph related to groundwater elevation he was displaying." Mr. Morgan explained the graph showing modeled water level changes during periods of drought both with and without groundwater pumping in the river corridor.

Participant chat asked "do the MTs and MOs have to be the same for both GSPs, or can Piru have different ones from Fillmore if the issues are different?" Mr. Morgan replied that they can be different.

Motion to receive and file SMC Matrix, Vice Chair McFadden; Second, Director Meneghin. Roll call vote: six ayes (Kimball, Chair Long, Vice Chair McFadden, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed. Motion carries 6/0.

**4E Special Board Meeting**

**Motion**

The Board discussed dates for holding a Special Board Meeting for approval of the Sustainable Management Criteria matrix and agreed on June 10, 2021.

Motion to approve a Special Board Meeting to be held on June 10, 2021, at 5pm for the purpose of approving the Sustainable Management Criteria matrix, Director Meneghin; Second, Director Villaseñor. Roll call vote: six ayes (Kimball, Chair Long, Vice Chair McFadden, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed. Motion carries 6/0.

**FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION**

None mentioned.

**ADJOURNED: 8:30 pm**

Chair Long adjourned at 8:30 p.m. to the next **Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, June 17, 2021**, or call of the Chair.

ATTEST: Kelly Long  
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 **May 20, 2021**.

ATTEST: Eva Ibarra  
Eva Ibarra, Clerk of the Board