



**Special Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 10, 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 Basin Pumpers Associations, Piru Basin Pumpers Association  
Katie Brokaw  
Frank Brommenschenkel  
Dan Detmer, UWCD  
Carole Fornoff  
Matt Freeman  
Burt Handy  
Rachel Laenen, Fillmore Basin Pumpers Association, Piru Basin Pumpers Association  
Ben Lewis  
Tony Morgan, DBS&A  
Bob Morris  
Patrick O'Connell, DBS&A  
Eddie Pech, DWR  
EJ Remson, TNC  
Steve Slack, CDFW  
Leta Spencer  
Debbie Jackson  
Dr. Jason Sun, UWCD  
James Thurber  
Ed Williams  
Gilead Wurman  
Steven Zimmer, Five Point

**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: (Chair Long, Vice Chair McFadden, Kimball, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor); all directors 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 (Chair Long, Vice Chair McFadden, Kimball, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed. Motion carries 6/0.

**2. UPDATES**

**2A Legal Counsel Update**

**Information Item**

Legal Counsel Scott Nave stated he had no updates.

**3. MOTION ITEMS**

**3A Sustainable Management Criteria Development**

The Board received a presentation and considered adoption of the Agency's Draft Sustainable Management Criteria matrix and associated management actions and provided direction to Agency staff and consultant team toward development of the draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans. Mr. Tony Morgan from DBS&A presented (see slides).

Director Meneghin asked if the Board would entertain an additional option of providing funding to do a non-native species removal (Arundo and tamarisk) in the GDE areas, or if it is already in the mitigation plan to support resiliency for the GDEs. She also asked if the GSA will be able to develop a draft of the project for the GSP, or if it is not possible, can a GDE restoration project be included in the mitigation plan in the draft GSP, or if it might be more of a one- to five-year scale. Mr. Morgan said the GSA can come up with some concepts for the GSPs, but the details will have to wait until the CDFW program evolves for the Cienega project, as they are about 65 percent design, and the GSA will have to consult with them and obtain their feedback on the idea. Anthony Emmert mentioned that United and DBS&A team will be meeting with CDFW regarding mitigation concepts. Mr. Emmert suggested the GSA flesh out this concept as much as possible, and if the Board and CDFW are supportive of the concept, the GSA can than

provide an outline of the concept to be included in the GSP. Director Meneghin requested an indication from the Board regarding her request to have mitigation fund for GDEs. Director Meneghin asked Mr. Morgan if there seems to only be interest in the Cienega site, when there is also rising groundwater downstream near the Fillmore-Santa Paula basins boundary, around "Lost Creek." She added that if the GSA is planning to have monitoring wells to monitor groundwater levels in this area, it seems that the GSA should also have temperature loggers for the stream to monitor surface water temperatures.

Vice Chair McFadden stated that he felt that an arundo removal fund is beyond the scope of the GSA, and he would be cautious about diving into that. He also asked Mr. Morgan to show on the map previously displayed where the wells are located that California Department of Fish and Wildlife uses to supply water to the Fish Hatchery. Mr. Morgan pointed out four wells owned by CDFW. Vice Chair McFadden asked if those wells can be used for anything other than to supply water to the Fish Hatchery? Mr. Morgan stated he would talk to CDFW Hatchery Manager on how they use those wells, what pumping rates are, if they have extra capacity on those wells, and if the GSA might be able to put the wells to use in drought periods. He also stated that the GSA could potentially help them re-equip additional wells on their property, and if appropriate, pump water that can be available to the restoration area during drought periods.

Director Pace stated he is concerned when we say we are going to mitigate. He said the concept sounds good, but what all does that entail, and what is the time span for mitigation? He also questioned if the GSA would open itself to an unreasonable and significant impact to other stakeholders. He said he would like more information but does not feel the GSA will have that information when making that first decision, at least framework wise, and having order of magnitude of mitigation costs would be helpful.

Director Villasenor stated she agreed with Director Meneghin on the arundo removal, but mentioned if the GSA is going to mitigate, it needs to have agreements with the other agencies that are also working on removing the arundo, so to work together to run both the mitigation and the removal of arundo to give the native riparian species a better chance. She also mentioned that Director Pace brought up a good point on wanting to know the magnitude of the mitigation in order to determine its impact and whether it might be too much.

Director Kimball stated that he is aware that there are a significant number of stakeholders that have a great deal of commitment and passion for the goal of reestablishing steelhead in significant numbers, and said the GSA needs to be sensitive to that. At the same time the GSA has many stakeholders who live in the Fillmore and Piru basins and form a very significant agricultural industry that depends on this water, and those people are watching the GSA as well. He said that the GSA needs to be aware of its authorities and duties under SGMA, and that the GSA can fulfill those duties without overstepping its authority and responsibilities. He concluded by saying he would support the proposal from Mr. Morgan's draft chart.

Participant chat, “What alternative mitigation strategies were investigated or discussed.” Mr. Tony Morgan stated they did look at what impact the groundwater pumping and reduced pumping has at the Fish Hatchery and Willard Road in the western Fillmore basin, and found groundwater pumping does have an impact, but also that drought has a much larger impact on the shallow aquifer water levels.

Participant chat, “Is it correct to conclude from the chart that the GSA would provide mitigation water for 21 consecutive years as shown in one part of the chart? It seems at some point during that period that pumping is no longer really a factor that needs to be addressed.” Mr. Morgan agreed and said it will need to be wrestled with in the mitigation plan and the coordination with CDFW.

Participant chat, “If pumping doesn’t impact the GDEs, then do we have to mitigate impacts of drought to the GDEs under SGMA, or is that impact more appropriately addressed under other projects outside of SGMA?” Mr. Morgan stated that basin pumping does affect the GDEs during a drought, but not just pumping affects those shallow aquifer water levels.

Chair Long asked Mr. E.J. Remson from The Nature Conservancy if there are already agencies funding removal of invasives from the Santa Clara River. Mr. Remson stated that it is a misnomer – currently there is no one out there with funds dedicated to removing invasives from the Santa Clara River. He stated he felt there should be some responsibility borne by the GSA, some sort of fund that can be tapped and maybe used as matching funds for some grant programs to make it easier to secure grants to do the restoration.

### **Motion**

Motion to adopt the Minimum Thresholds and Measurable Objectives for surface water depletion and groundwater elevation, as proposed on the chart presented by Mr. Morgan, by Vice Chair McFadden; Second, Chair Long. Roll call vote: five ayes (Chair Long, Vice Chair McFadden, Kimball, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed, one abstained (Meneghin). Motion carries 5/0/1.

Director Meneghin proposed a motion to include a minimum threshold of water temperature of 26 degrees Celsius and to include a monitoring plan for the presence or absence of steelhead, with the potential for supplemental water purchases as a mitigation plan. Motion did not receive a second, and therefore failed for lack of a second, per Legal Counsel.

Chair Long asked Legal Counsel about the funds mentioned by Mr. Matt Freeman regarding the invasive vegetation removal, and if it were something the Directors would want. Director Pace requested more information from legal, and to see what the dollar amount might be. Director Meneghin mentioned the GSA could have some orders of magnitude, as they have with the Cienega restoration. Chair Long said that the GSA needs to address this as a future agenda item.

Executive Director Emmert stated he and the consultant team will continue to meet with CDFW to explore and better define potential mitigation measures at the Cienega site and asked Chair Long if the Board would like him to meet with E.J. Remson and discuss the cost of invasive vegetation removal.


Chair Long asked Mr. Emmert to report on when a draft GSPs would be available. Mr. Emmert stated the current schedule is set for release of a public draft of the GSPs on July 29 for a 60-day comment period for the public, and the GSA also to plans for a public workshop in the middle of the comment period.

#### **FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION**

Information from CDFW regarding the Cienega project; Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget adoption; Fiscal Year 2021-2022 groundwater extraction rate adoption; Request for authorization to request bids for construction of monitoring wells.

#### **ADJOURNED: 6:17 pm**

Chair Long adjourned at 6:17 p.m. to the next **Regular Board Meeting** on **Thursday, June 17, 2021**, 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 **June 10, 2021**.

ATTEST:   
Eva Ibarra, Clerk of the Board