



Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, August 18, 2022
5:00 p.m.
MINUTES

Directors in Attendance

Chair Kelly Long
Director Debbie Jackson
Director Gordon Kimball
Director Candice Meneghin (joined at 6:18pm)
Director Glen Pace
Director Christina Villaseñor

Staff in Attendance

Anthony Emmert, executive director
Steve O'Neill, legal counsel
Eva Ibarra, clerk of the Board

Public in Attendance

Eric Elliott, UWCD
Carole Fornoff
Rachel Laenen, Kimball Ranches
Tony Morgan, DBS&A
Daryl Smith, UWCD
Steve Zimmer, Five Point

1. Call to Order 5:00pm

Chair Long called the Board Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1A Pledge of Allegiance

Director Pace led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1B Directors Roll Call

The clerk called roll. Five Directors were present (Jackson, Kimball, Long, Pace, Villaseñor). Director Meneghin 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 agenda, Director Villaseñor; Second, Director Jackson. Roll call vote: five ayes (Jackson, Kimball, Long, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed; motion carries unanimously 5/0/1. Director Meneghin was absent.

2. UPDATES

2A Director Announcements/Board Communications:

Oral Reports from the Board

Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Jackson stated she had nothing to report.

Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Pace said the Pumpers Association met for a special Board meeting to reorganize regarding his position change and said next month the pumpers will be officially introducing his replacement, Carole Fornoff.

Environmental Stakeholder Director Update

Director Meneghin was absent.

City of Fillmore Member Director Update

Director Villaseñor said that the City updated its Urban Water Management Plan and that it was adopted by the City Council. She also stated that the City is working on a couple of wells for maintenance projects.

United Water Conservation District Member Director Update

Director Kimball said the Board was dark for August had no update.

County of Ventura Member Director Update

Director Long said it has been sombering times with the County of Ventura with the passing of Supervisor Carmen Ramirez.

2B Executive Director Update

Information Item

The Executive Director said that staff completed and submitted progress report and invoice 13, for the Groundwater Sustainability Planning Grant. He also mentioned Groundwater late charges fees and interest have been waived for all pumpers in good standing for the months of July through December 2021 period, as per Agency Board direction. He also stated that United is scheduled to transfer pumping data for the January to June 2022 period to the Agency this week, and that statements to pumpers will follow. Also, he said AB 2201 (Bennett) passed senate committee on appropriations as amended on August 11, 2022, was read a second time on August 15, 2022, and ordered to third reading, likely on August 22, 2022. He also said a presentation by Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District on the status of its Chloride Removal Project at Valencia Water Reclamation Plant has been rescheduled for

September 29, 2022, Board meeting. He said Piru Basin Pumpers Association has nominated Carole Fornoff for consideration as member Director and will be agendized for the September Board meeting. He completed his update with the mention of Director Pace's five years of service to the Board and would like to plan a celebration.

2C Legal Counsel Update

Information Item

Legal Counsel provided an update on AB 2201 and said he has been working with Executive Director Emmert and Tony Morgan from DBS&A on language to be used on the Agency's well permit supplemental information request form.

2D GSP Consultant Update

Information Item

Tony Morgan from Daniel B Stephens & Associates provided an informational update on the Agency's groundwater sustainability planning and reporting activities.

Question from the audience: "Do you think this is a result from DWR reading all the GSP's and realizing there is water out there that they can attach their name to"? Mr. Morgan explained what he thinks some water basins were banking on to achieve water sustainability and what might happen next.

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 approved the Minutes from the regular Board Meeting of July 22, 2022.

3B Approval of Warrants

The Board approved payment of outstanding vendor invoices:

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates	\$12,482.50
Aleshire & Wynder LLP Attorneys at Law	\$ 1,276.50

3C Monthly Financial Report

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

3D Subsequent Finding Regarding Continuation of AB 361 Exemptions to Brown Act Teleconferencing Requirements

The Board adopted Resolution 2022-12 continuing findings that the requisite conditions exist for remote teleconference meetings of the Agency's legislative bodies without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3), as authorized by Government Code section 54953(e)

Motion to approve consent calendar, Director Pace; Second, Director Villaseñor.

Roll call vote: five ayes (Jackson, Kimball, Long, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed; motion carries unanimously 5/0/1. Director Meneghin was absent.

4. MOTION ITEMS

4A Resolution 2022-13 Amending the List of Authorized Signers for the Agency's Bank of the Sierra Account

Motion

The Board considered adoption of Resolution 2022-13 amending the list of authorized signers for the Agency's Bank of the Sierra Account.

Motion to approve, Director Jackson; Second, Director Villaseñor.

Roll call vote: five ayes (Jackson, Kimball, Long, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed; motion carries unanimously 5/0/1. Director Meneghin was absent.

4B Task Order for Preparation of Technical Memorandum on Land Subsidence Conditions

Motion

The Board considered approval of Task Order 2022-02 with Daniel B. Stephens and Associates for analysis of LiDAR data from the California Department of Water Resources and the preparation of a technical memorandum on land subsidence conditions.

Motion to approve, Director Villaseñor; Second, Director Jackson.

Roll call vote: five ayes (Jackson, Kimball, Long, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed; motion carries unanimously 5/0/1. Director Meneghin was absent.

4C Development of Well Permitting Review Process in Compliance with California Executive Order N-7-22

Motion

The Board received a presentation from Legal Counsel, Daniel B. Stephens and Associates, and staff regarding the development of the Agency's Well Permitting Review Process and provide comments and direction.

Following his presentation, Tony Morgan with DBS&A asked Legal Counsel Steve O'Neill if he had any additional recommendations. Mr. O'Neill said he recommends an enhancement of the introductory language in the supplemental form to explain why the Agency is being required to do this, and that it is being required by the Governor's office, not from the GSA.

Commenting on the draft information request form, Director Jackson asked about a pumper that wanted to drill a well that was going to replace his water source from a mutual -- will that water from the mutual go to another user or will that water come out of the system? She stated that this is something the Agency will likely want to know. Mr. O'Neill said he was not clear on the question. Director Jackson clarified her question with more detail. Mr. O'Neill said he assumes if the mutual prohibits someone from doing that, as they may be bound to the mutual unless they forfeit the mutual. Director Jackson continued to explain her question and asked if this can be added to the flow chart. Mr. Morgan recommended not adding that to the flow chart, as doing so would complicate the flow chart. Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Morgan, Director Kimball, Mr. Emmert, and Director Pace continued the discussion sharing information regarding Director Jackson's question. Director Villaseñor stated she agreed with Director Kimball. The staff and consultant team will incorporate Board comments into the documents.

Informational only.

4D Monitoring Well Project Change Orders Authorization

Motion

The Board authorized the Executive Director to approve change orders associated with the Monitoring Wells Project up to 14 percent of contract amount.

Director Pace asked where did the number 14 percent come from? Mr. Emmert said it is based upon a budgetary amount. Director Kimball said he feels this is absolutely necessary to authorize the Executive Director an increase in his approval amount.

Motion to approve, Director Kimball; Second, Director Pace.

Roll call vote: five ayes (Jackson, Kimball, Long, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed; motion carries unanimously 5/0/1. Director Meneghin was absent.

4E Projects and Management Actions

Motion

The Board received a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates reviewing the projects and management actions included in the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Plans and provided comments and direction.

Director Jackson asked what is the time frame on the grant, how many years does it cover? Mr. Morgan said it is usually 18 months.

Director Kimball said he agrees the Cienega Enhancement project is high priority and the domestic well issue is a hot button from the valley, as the Agency chose to set the minimum threshold below historic minimum. He stated that the Agency does put some wells at risk, and he would be shocked if DWR does not flag it and agrees it should be high priority. He said he does not know where subsidence falls in priority, and that the Agency may want to do a survey of critical infrastructure

and consider installing permanent GPS monument stations at each basin to have day to day or year to year reads for accurate data and wondered if DWR will consider that as a help to the Agency. He also said the invasive vegetation removal sounds good, although we need to start at the head waters of the watershed and work our way down, and he feels the grant fund will most likely not provide the funds necessary for that type of project.

Director Meneghin joined the meeting and said she recently had conversation with Tom Dudley with UCSB, and that his team has been removing a lot of *Arundo donax* out of the riparian forest in key areas. She also said that the Santa Clara Conservancy and Friends of the Santa Clara River have joined the watershed-wide invasive plants removal technical advisory team, which is developing a watershed plan. She said Mr. Dudley's group has just received funding for a watershed wide *Arundo* removal program starting at the head waters and recommends we ask Mr. Dudley to attend our Board meeting to talk about the grant and how it works, and how the Agency could partner in this effort. She stated that the Agency could potentially provide the local matching funds needed to secure grant funds. She also said she agrees Cienega site is a high priority.

Director Villaseñor said her comment is regarding the project to better identify and gather information on vulnerability on domestic wells is very important. She also stated that she is supportive of obtaining more information on watershed wide *Arundo* removal and is supportive of the Agency participating in a larger effort.

Comment from audience: Carole Fornoff, said she agrees with Director Kimball on the Cienega and domestic wells, the two projects should be a slam dunk for DWR grant funding.

Director Long asked about the Santa Clarita Valley Watershed, are we working on the chloride issue with them, and is there any progress on it? Mr. Emmert said the project is fully funded and is in construction and has a compliance deadline set by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Director Long also asked is there anything we can do to capture more storm water, or increase capacity to store water, that the Agency can be working on? Director Kimball said we can support United's efforts to enhance, improve and continue to use the Freeman Diversion, as United is making efforts to take dirtier water at high storm flows and leave the clearer water for environmental needs. He stated that this is very important regionally. Mr. Emmert said that we will need to focus on projects that can be completed within a year and a half if that is the timeframe of the SGM Round 2 grants. He stated that many projects will need a longer timeline to complete, permitting and CEQA or NEQA review. He stated that the Agency should continue to develop the longer-term projects, so they may be ready for future grant funding opportunities. Mr. Emmert mentioned the Piru Stormwater Capture project phase 2 as one that the County of Ventura's Watershed Protection District has been developing and is a candidate for Agency support. He stated that he would follow-up with County staff on what is needed for the phase two, to proceed and find out what the Agency could do to help it move forward.

Mr. Morgan stated the Fillmore and Piru basins already percolate a lot of water, and we are very lucky with the sediments we have.

Director Meneghin asked what is the status of the Ferro basin project, and is United pushing that project forward? Mr. Emmert said that United is advancing that project in smaller phases. He stated that the current phases are removing the conveyance bottlenecks. He also stated that this project's major benefit will be during extremely wet weather periods.

Director Long asked Mr. Emmert if we will be going back to these discussions? Mr. Emmert said in order to meet grant deadlines we need to continue having these discussions, and the Agency's staff and consultant team expects to bring the issue back at the September Board meeting.

FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

None mentioned.

ADJOURNMENT 6:36 p.m.


Director Long requested a moment of silence in memory of Ventura County's former Supervisor Carmen Ramirez before adjourning the meeting.

Director Long adjourned the Board meeting at 6:36p.m. to the next **Regular Board Meeting** on Thursday, **September 29, 2022**, 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 August 18, 2022.

ATTEST: 

Eva Ibarra, Clerk of the Board