



SANTA CRUZ MID-COUNTY GROUNDWATER AGENCY
Final Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2017

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chair Jaffe.

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present: B. Jaffe, T. LaHue, J. Benich, C. Mathews, D. Baskin, J. Kerr, J. Kennedy, R. Bracamonte (Alternate), J. Ricker (Alternate), R. Schultz (Alternate)

Board Members Absent: R. Marani, Z. Friend, J. Leopold, C. Abramson

Staff Present: T. Carson, R. Duncan, R. Menard, D. Pruitt, S. Ryan, J. Townsend

Others Present: There were approximately 11 members of the public in attendance & three water professionals: HydroMetrics WRI (D. Williams), Central Water District (M. Romanini), and Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (B. Lockwood)

Presentations

There was one presentation given by John Ricker for Item 6.2 Biennial Review and Report. See slides attached as Exhibit A.

3. Public Comments

Becky Steinbruner, a resident and constituent of Pure Source Water, requested that the group record future meetings. She also requested that the topic of recording and allocating funding for recording be put on the next agenda.

Debie Hencke referred to the "Guidance for Public Input," and expressed her opinion that the phrase "dialogue will not be permitted" discounts discussion. She encouraged the board to strike that sentence, and requested that the board have a private well owner as a member.

Monica McGuire expressed her appreciation for the chance to come to office hours and connect with members of the board. She referenced her application to the Advisory Committee and experience with economic development in Live Oak.

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Approve Minutes from May 18, 2017 Board Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Baskin; Second: Ms. Mathews. To approve the meeting minutes from May 2017. Motion passed with one abstention (T. LaHue).

5. General Business

5.1 Elections for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary

Mr. Carson reviewed the voting process. Ms. Mathews declined nominations for both board chair and vice chair. The group discussed the merit of rotating agencies at the helm, and decided that alternates should get one vote when more than one member from one agency (or Private Well Owner) is absent (e.g., Mr. Ricker gets one vote although both Mr. Friend and Mr. Leopold are absent from the county tonight).

MOTION: Ms. Mathews; Second: Mr. Baskin. To nominate Dr. LaHue as Board Chair. Dr. LaHue received three votes.

Mr. Benich; Second: Mr. Jaffe. To nominate Mr. Marani as Board Chair. Mr. Marani received five votes. Mr. Marani elected as Board Chair.

MOTION: Mr. Ricker; Second: Mr. Kennedy. To nominate Dr. LaHue as Vice Chair. No other nominations suggested. Motion passes unanimously. Dr. LaHue elected as Vice Chair.

MOTION: Dr. LaHue; Second: Mr. Kennedy. To re-elect Ms. Mathews as Board Secretary. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Mathews re-elected as Secretary.

5.2 Report from the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency's Working Group on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development on Recommended Advisory Committee Charge, Initial Problem Statement, and Next Steps between July and December 2017

Ms. Menard introduced the item, and provided background on previous work. No public comments were offered when the opportunity was raised. For the Problem Statement, Mr. Baskin suggested an edit on p. 17 in the first sentence: replace "only" with "primary."

MOTION: Mr. Baskin; Second: Ms. Mathews. To approve the Working Group's recommended GSP Advisory Committee Charge and Initial Problem Statement as amended above. Motion passed unanimously.

5.3 Recommendations on Contracting for Groundwater Sustainability Plan Technical & Planning Process Support

Ms. Menard asked for approval to refine the scope of work and bring it back for final approval at the September board meeting. She introduced Mr. Williams from HydroMetrics WRI to answer questions, and confirmed that Ms. Pruitt will most likely be writing most of the GSP with input from others.

Public Comment: Becky Steinbruner stated that she does need feel that sole source is always a good idea, although she supports additional technical advisors looking at the model and information in general.

Dr. LaHue asked for more information on sections 2.2.2 and 2.2.4. Mr. Williams responded that the MGA will be required to identify areas where there is interaction with groundwater and surface water; where groundwater levels are so low that they will not make a difference; where there are wetlands; and where there are independent ecosystems. How management areas and undesirable results are defined will be part of the negotiations within this group. Areas can be defined geologically, by water district boundaries, or politically.

Mr. Bracamonte asked about HydroMetrics' bandwidth to offer priority support. Mr. Williams replied that they are not yet contracted with other basins, and have discussed staffing needs internally. Cameron Tana is especially committed to this area, while Mr. Williams is working more broadly. Mr. Kennedy expressed his concern about the total cost.

Mr. Ricker asked about the possibility of reducing charges based on time and materials. Mr. Williams confirmed that it will be a "time and materials" contract, and that HydroMetrics will only charge for hours spent. Ms. Menard reminded the group that at least half of the costs will hopefully be covered by state funding through matching grants. Mr. Kennedy asked for clarification on state funding streams. Ms. Menard discussed match requirements, timing on past work that can be considered as match, and leveraging what the group has already spent towards what the MGA is planning to spend. Up to \$1.5 million in grant funds is available for critically over drafted basins. Mr. Carson added that the timeline for how far back match funding extends has not yet been determined, but that as of July 1, 2017, expenses are eligible for grant reimbursement. Mr. Schultz arrived at 7:46 p.m.

Mr. Jaffe commented sole source is a good idea in this case. The group discussed the merits of not having to bring another consultant up to date, and that timing matters. Mr. Jaffe asked for more information about HydroMetrics' involvement with the state process. Mr. Williams

responded that he is directly involved with defining sustainability and sustainability indicators. He continued that HydroMetrics is well positioned to help the MGA figure out what the GSP needs to accomplish and what the state is expecting to see. He referred to the cost efficiencies inherent in having people involved that can help the MGA avoid mistakes and irrelevancies. Mr. Jaffe soundly recommended Mr. Tana from his work with the Soquel Creek Water District.

MOTION: Ms. Mathews; Second: Dr. LaHue. To direct staff to refine the scope of work for the HydroMetrics GSP technical support contract for board review and action at its September 21, 2017 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Menard reviewed the process of developing a support service scope of work to facilitate the GSP Advisory Committee. Mr. Jaffe noted that he was impressed with the water clients listed on the Kearns & West website. No public comment offered when asked.

MOTION: Dr. LaHue; Second: Mr. Kerr. To approve the recommendation to engage with Kearns & West to develop a scope of work and contract for GSP process support services for board review and action at its September 21, 2017 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Informational Updates from Directors and Staff

6.1 Treasurer's Report

Informational, no motion necessary. No questions or discussion.

6.2 Biennial Review and Report

Mr. Ricker shared that the decision was made to have the report cover two years. The full report is available on the MGA website. He continued to review some of the trends in the report (Exhibit A). The basin is responding to management. Mr. Jaffe asked how much of the basin's response is due to reduced pumping levels by the Soquel Creek Water District. Mr. Ricker responded that there is a large correlation. He then highlighted locations where water levels are below protective levels. The recent helicopter survey will hopefully help fill in some of the gaps related to seawater intrusion data. Pumping levels have not been this low since 1977. He commended Central Water District, the City of Santa Cruz, and the Soquel Creek Water District. Even with increased rain, water use has trended down.

Ms. Mathews expressed her appreciation for the report and the succinct executive summary which reminded her of the need to report back to board constituents. She asked staff to develop a brief update on MGA efforts she could bring back to the City of Santa Cruz and that others could use as well. Ms. Menard offered to develop a report for the City of

Santa Cruz. Staff concurred that there should be a presentation given to the Capitola City Council and the County Board of Supervisors as well. Consensus was that staff should create one summary report that can be circulated as needed. The group asked that staff post Mr. Ricker's presentation to the website.

Public Comment: Becky Steinbruner asked where to find full report. On the MGA website on the Resource Library page, under "Groundwater Management Plan Annual Review and Reports" for Water Year 2015-2016. Or through the link in the meeting packet included in the memo for this item. She then asked about water quality in chloride ridden areas, and commented that there are point contaminations of TCP in Seascapes that need to be addressed now that the state has set maximum levels.

6.3 Report on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee Candidates and Process

Ms. Pruitt reported on the process which included hosting an informational meeting on June 29, 2017 in which approximately 40 people were in attendance. To date, the MGA has received 30 applications for the Advisory Committee. There has been a request from members of the public for the GSP Advisory Nominating Committee to review the first round with names redacted.

At the last meeting, Chair Jaffe was tasked with putting together a Nominating Committee to review the applications. So far the following board members have been nominated: Mr. Kerr, Mr. Marani, Ms. Mathews, Mr. Leopold, and Mr. Jaffe.

Public Comment: Marco Romanini from Central Water District encouraged the group to retain applicants to recruit them for other tasks in the future.

Becky Steinbruner stated that the best way to keep people engaged is to make everyone an alternate.

The group discussed whether to define a specific charge; to come forward with a recommendation for committee members as a starting point.

<p>MOTION: Dr. LaHue; Second: Mr. Benich. To approve the Nominating Committee structure and members as proposed. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

Public Comment: Becky Steinbruner encouraged the group to review the applications anonymously.

Monica McGuire recommended The Gradients of Agreement as a decision making tool to document the range of opinions present within the group. Mr. Jaffe requested that she distribute it to staff. Ms. McGuire responded that she would like to see discussion happen.

Anonymous, seconded the point that the review of applications should be anonymous.

MOTION: Ms. Mathews; Second: Mr. Baskin. To give the Nominating Committee the power to re-open the process as needed with the goal of having a recommendation for membership of the GSP Advisory Committee by the September board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The group discussed the merits of various processes, and agreed to leave the process up to the Nominating Committee to determine.

6.4 Outreach Reports

Ms. Ryan reported on various outreach events including road signs, articles in various publications, and the latest email list serve size (over 500). Additionally, the Outreach Committee sent out 2,650 postcards to non-municipal well users in the basin. The website is currently receiving 300 individual users every month, and half are new. The plan is to send brochures to the same 2,650 people next week. There was a request for staff to send brochures to the board.

6.5 Board Member Reports

Mr. Baskin noted that staff should add a place on the agenda for future agenda items. In response to public comments, he would like to agendaize the following topics: explore meeting location and capabilities, and consider recording meetings. He continued that staff should clarify the process for the public to contact board members on the website. The group mentioned that audio recording would be fine, and that staff should consider adding a separate link to the website for meeting presentations.

6.6 Staff Reports

Mr. Carson provided an update on the records retention policy. County counsel has reviewed it. Since the legislative code for special districts is different than for JPAs, the board is opting to create a records retention policy. It is not required.

7. Adjournment

The group adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Julia Townsend
Program Associate
Regional Water Management Foundation

Cynthia Mathews
Board Secretary
City of Santa Cruz