



**SANTA CRUZ MID-COUNTY GROUNDWATER AGENCY**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 21, 2017**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Marani.

**2. Roll Call**

Board Members Present: Mr. Jaffe, Dr. LaHue, Mr. Benich, Mr. Marani, Ms. Mathews, Mr. Baskin, Mr. Abramson, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Ricker (Alternate), Mr. Schultz (Alternate)

Board Members Absent: Mr. Leopold, Mr. Friend, Mr. Kennedy

Staff Present: Mr. Bracamonte, Ms. Menard, Mr. Duncan, Ms. Pruitt, Ms. Townsend, Ms. Schumacher, Ms. Strohm, Ms. Ryan

Others Present: There were approximately 16 members of the public in attendance & the following water professionals: Mr. Williams from HydroMetrics WRI, Mr. Lockwood from the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, Mr. Poncelet from Kearns & West.

**3. Public Comments**

Becky Steinbruner, resident of Aptos and Pure Source Water Customer, mentioned that she is working with group of citizens called Water for Santa Cruz to hosting a water forum. The forum will be held next Monday at 7:00 p.m. at the Aptos library. She welcomed everyone and left a flyer (Exhibit A).

Brian Lockwood, General Manager of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, reported that their board of directors met last night and provided guidance to staff to submit an application to use water from College Lake as an alternative to groundwater pumping. They are in the process of conducting an Environmental Impact Report, and will host scoping meetings during the second week of December. He encouraged participation in the process and feedback, and invited the group and members of the public to their board meetings. He looks forward to collaborating with this group.

**4. Presentation**

**4.1 HydroMetrics Water Resources Inc. on Defining Sustainability Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act**

Derrick Williams presented on behalf of HydroMetrics WRI.

Sustainability is defined locally. Each basin will define what success is going to look like. See the attached presentation slides (Exhibit B) for

reference. Mr. Schultz arrived at 7:24 p.m. Mr. Williams mentioned that the legal standard for meeting sustainability is based upon avoiding undesirable results. Measurable objectives are a point of contention in terms of legal accountability. The Department of Water Resources will release a document on best management practices. However, coming up with sustainable management criteria is anticipated to be an iterative process. No questions from the public. Questions from the board:

Is there a way to substitute groundwater levels for other indicators (e.g. the relationship between groundwater levels and saltwater intrusion)? Mr. Williams responded yes, as long as the relationship has been well defined.

When should the process begin?

There is not penalty for starting early. Mr. Williams recommended that the group start as soon as possible, namely once they feel comfortable about existing conditions and have knowledge of users and uses.

Ms. Menard commented that staff have collaborated with a consultant to outline an iterative process that begins in January 2018 for 18 months and includes three iterations. The plan is to build the knowledge base between now and the end of the year to launch in the new year.

What boundaries exist on this group's discretion?

The plan must meet the needs of local users and uses, and sustainability must be maintained for 50 years.

What do we know about the Department of Water Resources' process?

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is currently developing the review process, and hosted a meeting in Clovis yesterday. Each basin will have a point of contact to help with the process. The MGA's contact will be Amanda Peisch-Derby.

Mr. Williams introduced a couple of additional terms. Undesirable Results must not be "significant and unreasonable," which the basin gets to define. Additionally, the plan has to "substantially comply" with the regulations. Ms. Pruitt reported from the meeting in Clovis that a DWR representative mentioned that they will be comparing the models of neighboring basins. Mr. Ricker added that other agencies will be able to help define what is reasonable (e.g. the city and streamflow depletion).

## **5. Consent Agenda**

### **5.1 Approve Minutes from July 20, 2017 Board Meeting (No Memo)**

Dr. LaHue caught a few typos that he will send to staff.

MOTION: Ms. Mathews; Second: Mr. Baskin. To approve the meeting minutes from July 20, 2017 with the edits mentioned above. Motion passed with one abstention (Mr. Marani).

**6. General Business**

**6.1 Recommendation from the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Nominating Committee**

Chair Marani thanked the MGA staff (Ms. Pruitt in particular), and applicants. He emphasized that everyone that applied is welcome to attend future public meetings and provide input. Ms. Pruitt provided an overview of the process. Out of the 32 applications received, the Nominating Committee has made 9 recommendations. Ms. Pruitt read the names of the nominees, noting that the nominee for the Soquel Creek Water District is Mr. Jaffe. Board questions, none.

Public Comment: Becky Steinbruner, asked for feedback about the process, noting that at the last meeting there was discussion about leaving the names redacted which was left up to the committee. Has the committee considered alternates? Will the meetings be public? How can the public get on the notification lists? She then noted that one nominee appears to live outside of the basin boundaries.

MOTION: Ms. Mathews; Second: Dr. LaHue. To approve the nominating committee's recommendation as is, and install the GSP Advisory Committee as recommended. Motion passed unanimously.

The Chair asked those nominees present to introduce themselves. Mr. Ricker noted that the meetings will be public and advertised, and encouraged applicants that were not selected to continue to be active in the process and attend. Ms. Pruitt will inform all applicants of the meeting schedule once the dates have been set. Ms. Mathews mentioned that there was a discussion of alternates, but that the committee decided not to include them at this time.

**6.2 Recommendation to Approve Resolution on Grant Application for the 2017 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program**

Ms. Pruitt provided some background on the grant opportunity. The MGA is eligible to apply for \$1.5 million in funding from Proposition 1. Matching funds can go back to January 1, 2015. The application is due in November before the next board meeting. A resolution is required in the packet submittal.

How competitive is the grant?

Mr. Duncan responded that the amount available divided by number of basins equals the maximum amount.

No public comments received.

MOTION: Mr. Jaffe; Second: Mr. Kerr. To adopt Resolution No. 17-01 to submit an application and execute an agreement with the State of California for a 2017 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

AYES: Jaffe, LaHue, Benich, Marani, Mathews, Baskin, Abramson, Kerr, Ricker (Alternate), Schultz (Alternate)

NOES: None

ABSENT: Leopold, Friend, Kennedy

**6.3 Recommendation to Approve Budget Adjustment for Grant Application Development by the Regional Water Management Foundation**

Mr. Duncan reviewed the need for the grant funding, and noted that the remaining amount not previously budgeted is approximately \$11,000. As a backup plan, the MGA treasurer could cover if need be. No board questions.

Public Comment: Becky Steinbruner, asked why this requires additional funding since Mr. Carson's time is already being funded? She expressed her opinion that the grant is not very competitive, and urged the board to use this funding for other needs (e.g. for small water companies).

Mr. Kerr asked about Disadvantaged Community (DAC) funding related to the grant. Mr. Ricker clarified that while the region has pieces of disadvantaged neighborhoods, it does not currently have any DACs as defined by the state.

MOTION: Dr. LaHue; Second: Ms. Mathews. To approve budget adjustment for grant application development by the Regional Water Management Foundation. Motion passed unanimously.

**6.4 Recommendation to Approve Contracts with HydroMetrics Water Resources Inc. and Kearns & West for Technical and Process Support for the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

Ms. Menard presented this item, and framed it as providing the support necessary to achieve the goals of the group that have been established.

Eric Poncelet, principal at Kearns & West, introduced himself and said he was happy to be selected and welcomed any questions. Derrik Williams, from HydroMetrics WRI applauded the selection of Kearns & West, and commented that the division of labor between consultants and staff has been well thought out by Ms. Menard.

Public Comment: Becky Steinbruner expressed her support for local jobs and asked if any local facilitators were considered in the process.

Ms. Mathews noted that having gone through the Water Supply Advisory Committee process with the City of Santa Cruz, she is pleased to have adequate technical and process support. The group discussed the contingency fee. Mr. Williams confirmed that if that money is not spent the MGA will receive it back. Ms. Menard spoke about the uncertainties related to the number of meetings and other aspects of the process that merit having flexibility. Contingencies will only be allocated if the Executive Team feels it is necessary with financial reports being shared with the board along the way if so desired. If the grant funding is not received, the budget will have to be adjusted. The group discussed the uncertainties related to facilitation costs. Mr. Poncelet noted that the current budget is based on the number of meetings assumed. An agreement focused process is more time consuming than simply receiving input. He acknowledged the difficulty of estimating the work required to identify and progress towards areas of agreement. Ms. Townsend repeated the motion.

MOTION: Ms. Mathews; Second: Dr. LaHue. To authorize the general manager of the Soquel Creek Water District to finalize the contracts, and authorize the board chair to execute said contracts in the amount of \$508,100 with HydroMetrics WRI, and \$420,492.64 with Kearns & West for the scope of work described in the attachments for this item. To authorize the general manager of Soquel Creek Water District to sign purchase orders for the work to be performed by HydroMetrics WRI and Kearns & West in the amounts indicated above. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **6.5 Groundwater Model Update from HydroMetrics Water Resources Inc. and Recommendation to Approve HydroMetrics Water Resources Inc. Scope of Work and Associated Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018**

Mr. Duncan presented an overview of the scope of work, and reviewed the work of SkyTem which recently tried to apply a tool from Denmark to locate saltwater intrusion offshore. No board comments or questions.

Public Comment: Becky Steinbruner heard about a new climate change model being used by the City of Santa Cruz at a recent county Water Advisory Commission meeting. Is this model different from what HydroMetrics WRI is using? If so, would it produce different results? She asked to include this topic on a future board agenda.

Mr. Williams responded that HydroMetrics WRI will be using global climate change models similar to the City of Santa Cruz, and that all analysis done in the basin will be based on the same assumptions. Ms. Menard noted that each agency is planning to use the model for various needs, and added that having different models can be useful for understanding modeling assumptions for future scenarios.

Does this scope of work include work for the City of Santa Cruz and Pure Water Soquel?

No. It includes the impact of coastal pumping versus inland pumping.

Mr. Jaffe noted that although this is a large amount of money, it is not unwarranted. He appreciates that the Technical Advisory Committee is involved for guidance.

MOTION: Mr. Baskin; Second: Mr. Jaffe. To approve the FY 2017/2018 scope of work and budget as presented; authorize the general manager of Soquel Creek Water District and the board chair to finalize and execute the contract agreement as outlined; and authorize the general manager of the Soquel Creek Water District to sign a purchase order for the work to be performed. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **6.6 Recommendation on Audio Recording**

Mr. Duncan provided an overview of the recommendations from staff, and noted that the MGA could also utilize Community Television of Santa Cruz County to film future learning sessions if so desired. No comments from the board.

Public Comment: Becky Steinbruner, thanked the group for considering this topic as an agenda item. She also thanked Bruce Tanner for donating his time for filming recently, and mentioned that she has made the videos available on YouTube for public viewing. She encouraged the group to record all future meetings.

Anonymous, would like to see the group invest funding in recording the meetings and making them available to everyone. Suggested that the MGA consider buying equipment to be self sufficient.

Mr. Baskin suggested that staff provide user friendly links on the website so that individuals can view past presentation slides while listening to the audio recording.

MOTION: Mr. Baskin; Second: Mr. Kerr. To direct staff to purchase the Marantz Ultimate Meeting Recorder Package and use at subsequent meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

### **6.7 Recommendation to Accept Draft Communication & Engagement Plan**

Ms. Pruitt reported that the state released communication guidance in June that has since been reviewed by staff. Board questions:

How will we know that the plan is working? What are we measuring? Ms. Pruitt responded that attendance and asking people how they heard about the meetings will be a couple of the metrics for success. Other metrics could include checking for understanding about general water related concepts. Ms. Ryan added that she is consistently tracking online visits (both new and existing), and distributed a copy of the brochure that went out recently to private well owners (Exhibit C). The brochure was sent to households that do not receive municipal water, which includes small water systems. Out of the over 2,000 brochures sent, 43 survey responses were received.

Mr. Baskin and Ms. Mathews suggested adjusting the current language related to the predominant drinking water supply in the county to “the majority of our drinking water supply is groundwater.” Mr. Jaffe suggested involving students and interns in the communication process. Outreach efforts will be supported by the city of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District as well. Ms. Mathews said she would be happy to contribute further, and sees some places to do more. The group agreed that the Advisory Committee will play an important role in providing input on the communication process. Finally, this will be a living plan that will be adjusted over time.

Public Comment: Becky Steimbruner, commented that she likes road signs, although she suggested making the logo smaller so that the date and time are easier to read.

MOTION: Ms. Mathews; Second: Mr. Kerr. To accept the Draft Communication & Engagement Plan with the minor changes suggested above. To direct staff to finalize and publish the plan. Motion passed unanimously.

**6.8 Recommendation to Approve Resolution to Join Joint Powers Insurance Authority & Association of California Water Agencies**

Mr. Bracamonte provided background, namely that the MGA needs liability insurance coverage. Membership in the Association of California Water Agencies is a bonus considering their conferences and forums on sustainability. Soquel Creek Water District and Central Water District already have coverage with the JPIA and have been satisfied with their experience.

Does this include directors and officers insurance?  
Yes.

Public Comment: Martin Mills Pure Source Water, Aptos. Did you look into the California Rural Water Association? Their Utility Resource Insurance Services provides insurance to small water companies and might be another option to look into.

MOTION: Dr. LaHue; Second: Ms. Mathews. To adopt Resolution No. 17-02 to join the Joint Powers Insurance Authority/Association of California Water Agencies Liability Program. To authorize the board chair to sign the Joint Powers Insurance Authority Agreement. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
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AYES: Jaffe, LaHue, Benich, Marani, Mathews, Baskin, Abramson, Kerr, Ricker (Alternate), Schultz (Alternate)

NOES: None

ABSENT: Leopold, Friend, Kennedy

**7. Informational Updates from Directors and Staff**

**7.1 Treasurer's Report for the Period Ending August 31, 2017**

Board Treasurer, Ms. Strohm shared that the MGA will undergo its first audit during the first week of October. She has already provided the auditors with the information requested. She shared her report and welcomed questions. No questions.

**7.2 Outreach Reports**

Ms. Ryan shared a brochure that has been posted to the website. The Outreach Committee is still working on developing a brief overview for those who are less likely to read a two pager. There are four public orientation sessions planned for the GSP Advisory Committee. Ms. Mathews expressed her hope that the group can cast a wide net of invites, and mentioned that it might be worth getting letters of support on the record politically. The orientation sessions will be facilitated, and include a presentation format with time for questions and answers. Ms.



Mathews suggested creating a cheat sheet for acronyms for those sessions and other future events. The group also agreed that it would be best to use fewer acronyms in general as much as possible.

**7.3 Board Member Reports**

Mr. Benich spoke about Senator Monning’s recent proposal, and requested that the group send a letter denouncing it publicly if they are opposed. Mr. Duncan filled in some of the background, and shared that ACWA recently wrote a letter to legislators. Dr. LaHue commended staff on their work getting budget and advisory committee together. Chair Marani hoped that people will continue to come out to meetings.

**7.4 Staff Reports**

No further reports provided.

**8. Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Jaffe requested that outreach be a continuing report.  
Ms. Mathews requested upcoming meetings as part of future agenda packets.  
Mr. Benich requested an item pertaining to Senator Monning’s recent bill.

**9. Adjournment**

The group adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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Julia Townsend  
Program Associate  
Regional Water Management Foundation

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Cynthia Mathews  
Board Secretary  
City of Santa Cruz