

**SOQUEL APTOS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SAGMC)
MEETING MINUTES**

January 21, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER

Bruce Jaffe called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Voting Committee Members Present:

Bruce Jaffe, Chair, Soquel Creek Water District
Tom LaHue, Vice Chair, Soquel Creek Water District
John Benich, Central Water District
Zach Friend, County of Santa Cruz
John Leopold, County of Santa Cruz
Rosemary Menard as Alternate, City of Santa Cruz
Micah Posner, City of Santa Cruz (arrived at 7:07 p.m.)
Curt Abramson, Private Well Owner Representative
Jim Kerr, Private Well Owner Representative
Jon Kennedy, Private Well Owner Representative

Others Present:

Ralph Bracamonte, Central Water District
John Ricker, County of Santa Cruz
Brian Lockwood, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
Ron Duncan, Soquel Creek Water District
Julia Townsend, Regional Water Management Foundation
Cameron Tana, HydroMetrics WRI
Matt Orbach, Soquel Creek Water District
Members of the public (7)

Committee Members Absent:

Bob Postle, Central Water District
Cynthia Mathews, City of Santa Cruz

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of November 12, 2015

MOTION: Curt Abramson; Second: Jon Kennedy; To approve the minutes of November 12, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.
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4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (*items not on the Agenda*)

None mentioned.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

5.1 Basin Boundary Modification Update

Mr. Tana reviewed the comments that were received regarding the boundary modification, and noted that the five responses are in the meeting packet. He mentioned that an alternate boundary proposal has been drafted to address Purisima Mutual Water Company's comments which would bring them into the basin.

Mr. Ricker underscored the value of having an agreement moving forward, and noted that the modification was discussed at the County Board of Supervisor's meeting last week. The Board endorsed the modification with the understanding that this group would be reviewing this issue tonight, and suggested simplifying the boundary. A representative from Jarvis Mutual Water Company asked whether the Santa Margarita basin is more impacted. Mr. Ricker responded that although they are both in overdraft, the Soquel side appears to be more critical. The Jarvis representative noted that the Company would rather be on the less restricted side. Mr. Jaffe asked for comments from members of the public in attendance who were in agreement and did not offer any specific comments. Mr. Leopold reported that he had spoken with the Purisima staff, and thinks it makes sense to align the boundary with the creek.

MOTION: John Leopold; Second: Zach Friend; To accept the alternate basin boundary as the new boundary, including the alluvial fingers aligning the boundary with the creek. Motion carried unanimously.

5.2 Approval of Cross-sectional Protective Elevation Technical Memorandum by HydroMetrics WRI

Mr. Tana spoke briefly and reported that HydroMetrics WRI is not recommending any changes with respect to saltwater intrusion believing that current levels are conservative.

MOTION: John Leopold; Second: Tom LaHue; To approve the Cross-sectional Protective elevation Technical Memorandum by HydroMetrics WRI. Motion carried unanimously.

5.3 Quarterly Monitoring Report

Mr. Tana summarized the latest monitoring report, and shared the data show continued recovery in general due to lower pumping. That said, the annual average is at protected elevation for less than half of the wells. Mr. Jaffe commented that the level of uncertainty to accept is really a policy decision. Ms. Menard added that the City of Santa Cruz is looking at Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) for the future. The group discussed seasonal ramifications to water levels, and Mr. Duncan said that the lack of recharge has delayed effects.

MOTION: Tom LaHue; Second: John Leopold; To accept the Quarterly Monitoring Report. Motion carried unanimously.

5.4 Budget Increase Request for Boundary Modification Work by HydroMetrics WRI

Mr. Duncan provided an update to justify the requested budget increase.

MOTION: John Leopold; Second: Bruce Jaffe; To approve the budget increase for boundary modification work by HydroMetrics WRI. Motion carried unanimously.

5.5 Oral Report on Groundwater Model Update – Cameron Tana

Mr. Tana reviewed the model updates including changes from the technical advisory committee and the addition of historical pumping records. He is currently incorporating comments related to the boundary modification, and creating a working model that integrates the watershed and groundwater. Mr. Tana expects the simulations to be ready at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Lockwood reported that the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency is looking at different data layers. Mr. Tana acknowledged that overlapping models are a challenge throughout the state. Mr. Posner voiced budget concerns, and Mr. Tana reassured him that the model is consistent with the original purpose and scope. Mr. Ricker is now representing the County of Santa Cruz since Mr. Friend left the room at 7:47 pm.

5.6 Results of Partner Agency Review of Draft Joint Powers Agreement

Ms. Menard reviewed the process and draft changes to the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). Mr. Posner expressed concern about the requirement of agreement on budget modifications, and the group discussed the merits of requiring unanimous agreement for budget modifications. Mr. Jaffe asked what the parameters for the “number of days should be on p.183, to which Ms. Menard replied “120 days” and “in June.” The group discussed ideal timing considerations. Mr. Leopold suggested cleaning up the “executive director” language throughout the document. Mr. Ricker offered “board of directors or their designee” as alternate language, and Ms. Menard agreed. Mr. Posner asked staff to check with Russell McGlothlin. Ms. Menard confirmed that the JPA is not subject to CEQA.

MOTION: John Leopold; Second: Tom LaHue; To accept the draft JPA with the modifications spelled out as written. Motion carried unanimously.

5.7 Preliminary Work Plan and Staffing Strategy or Development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

Ms. Menard reviewed the possible approach to developing the GSP, and asked for feedback on how best to support the process. Mr. Kennedy expressed interest in being part of the staff committee and analysis on behalf of the private well community. Ms. Menard echoed the need to have credible and accurate data as the foundation of the impact assessment. Mr. Ricker proposed sub-subcommittees that can report back. Mr. Kerr noted the importance of communicating data analysis to the public. The group discussed how best to assign subcommittee members. Mr. Leopold stated that the group should discuss further how best to include, attract, and vet members of the larger community. Ms. Menard added that recruitment will be developed later in the work plan strategy. Mr. Duncan suggested looking at the individuals that applied to be part of the group.

Mr. Posner expressed a preference for hiring a staff person instead of a consultant, and added that it would be ideal for one person to take on the responsibility of overseeing general communications and committees. Mr. LaHue concurred. Mr. Bracamonte said that Mr. Carson has done an excellent job, and that ideally the group would find someone like him. Mr. Leopold liked the idea of having a dedicated person as well. Mr. Jaffe agreed that the details are not as important as the idea of having a dedicated person. Ms. Menard asked the group to continue providing feedback moving forward.

5.8 Preliminary Proposal for Using a Collaborative Staffing Model for the GSA, including a Working Draft of a Proposed Staff Work Plan for the Remainder of the Current Fiscal Year

Ms. Menard reviewed the staffing model and draft work plan, and acknowledged that the group needs to find a lawyer. The group discussed the pros and cons of having a regular lawyer at the table versus one on call as needed. Mr. Leopold proposed getting a list of names together to see if there is a big difference in cost. Mr. Bracamonte suggested having an approved list of attorneys to call upon. Ms. Menard added that it would be great to have someone review the by-laws. Mr. Duncan mentioned that Bob Bosso's firm split up, and his colleagues might be available. Ms. Menard suggested asking Anthony Condotti and Mr. Bosso for a list of recommendations. Mr. Kerr suggested looking at other attorneys that work with JPAs. Mr. Leopold offered to check with the county to see about potential options. Ms. Menard reported that the group hopes to have a staff person in place by the summer, and asked the group to confirm whether the generation direction looks good for now.

5.9 Update on Public Outreach Efforts

Mr. Orbach reported on recent outreach efforts, and asked the group for impressions of the Mid-County Groundwater Stakeholder meeting on December 10th. Mr. LaHue thought it went well and noticed that there were individuals in attendance that had not been to other meetings. Mr. Posner observed that the group should renew its commitment to bring more environmentalist organizations into the room. Mr. Orbach & Sierra Ryan have added a page online about the boundary modification. Mr. Orbach also reported on the public outreach working group meeting last week, and deferred to Mr. Kerr (chair of the outreach committee) for further updates. Mr. Kerr said that the group is working on developing a model for how best to vet the information that goes online. He added that the group wants to use the email list more to announce meetings. Mr. Orbach is currently working on consolidating email addresses. Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Ricker are developing a FAQ page. Mr. Orbach encouraged the group to look at the website, and send any suggestions to Sierra Ryan. Mr. Kennedy specifically asked for feedback on how easy it is to find things on the site.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Flyer for Connecting the Drops; Working Together for Water

Mr. Leopold invited everyone to the event on January 28, 2016. Mr. Orbach reported that he plans to do more electronic advertising next week.

7. **REPORTS**

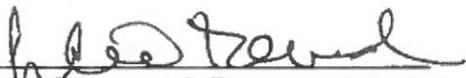
7.1 Oral – time for any SAGMC member to report out

Mr. Kerr shared that the Soquel Creek Water District board meetings are live cast. Ms. Menard summarized the Water Supply Advisory Committee findings and public responses. The group discussed that the ground has been saturated enough that the area is finally getting runoff from recent storms. Mr. Duncan reported that the state officially declared the basin to be overdrafted. Mr. Leopold stated that there is a new potential meeting place at the Sherriff's community center off of 17th Avenue. The group asked about the meeting schedule, and committed to reviewing the work plan.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. The next meeting of the SAGMC (or Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater agency) will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2016.

SUBMITTED BY:


Julia Townsend, Program Associate
Regional Water Management Foundation

APPROVED BY:


Ron Duncan, Interim General Manager
Soquel Creek Water District