

MEETING MINUTES

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors July 24, 2024

A regular meeting of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WMA GSA) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Road, Lompoc, California. As was properly noticed on the agenda, WMA GSA Director Myron Heavin participated via teleconference from 2700 Lewis Place, Lompoc, California. No members of the public joined Director Heavin at that location.

Directors Present: Jeremy Ball, Steve Jordan, and Ron Stassi (Acting Alternate)

Directors Present (Teleconference): Myron Heavin

Non-Voting Directors Present (Teleconference): Meighan Dietenhofer (Acting Alternate)

Alternate Directors Present: Kristin Worthley

Alternate Directors Present (Teleconference): Mike Garner

Others Present (In Person): Cynthia Allen, Bill Buelow, Doug Circle, Paeter Garcia, Joe Hansen, Legal Counsel Isaac St. Lawrence, Amber Thompson, and Charlie Witt

Others Present (Teleconference): C. Castro, Vanessa DeAnda (EKI), Ken Domako, John Fio (EKI), Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Brandon Mann, Chris Montes, Rachel M., Matt Scrudato, Felicia Silva (CDFW), Scarlett Tovar (DWR), Matt Young, and one unannounced member of the public

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

WMA GSA Chair Ball called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Thompson called roll. Two Directors and one Acting Alternate Director were present in person and one Director participated by teleconference providing a quorum. One Alternate Director was also present in person. One Alternate Director and one non-voting Acting Alternate Director participated by teleconference.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by WMA GSA Chair Ball.

Mr. Buelow announced that after the agenda had been posted he was made aware of an item that needed to be considered by the WMA GSA Board of Directors prior to the next scheduled Board of Directors meeting. Legal Counsel advised the Board that pursuant to Brown Act (Govt. Code §54954.2(b)) the Board can take action on an item not on the posted agenda if the Board by at least a two-thirds vote determines the matter demands immediate attention and that need came to the attention of the GSA after the agenda was posted. Mr.

Buelow described the matter and need for immediate action, specifically requesting that the Board Discuss and Consider Approval of Funding the Annual USGS Lompoc Monitoring be added to the agenda as Item 7g. Mr. Buelow advised that this monitoring occurs in August and thus immediate action is needed if the WMA GSA is to participate/fund this matter. There was no discussion or public comment.

Acting Alternate Director Stassi made a MOTION to add Discuss and Consider Approval of Annual USGS Lompoc Monitoring be added to the agenda as Item 7g. Director Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES = 8: Ball (City of Lompoc – 2), Heavin (Mission Hills CSD – 1)
Jordan (SYRWCD – 4), Stassi (Vandenberg Village CSD – 1)

NO = 0: None

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Review and consider approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 26, 2024

The minutes of the WMA GSA Board meeting of June 26, 2024, were presented for Board consideration. There was no discussion or public comment.

Director Jordan made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the WMA GSA Board meeting of June 26, 2024, as presented. Director Heavin seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES = 8: Ball (City of Lompoc – 2), Heavin (Mission Hills CSD – 1)
Jordan (SYRWCD – 4), Stassi (Vandenberg Village CSD – 1)

NO = 0: None

5. Consider appointment of Ad-Hoc Committees for the following:

a. Recruitment of WMA Plan Manager/Executive Director; approving draft Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

Mr. Buelow presented the draft Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Executive Director/Plan Manager for the WMA GSA. Discussion followed. Chair Ball asked for volunteers for an Ad-Hoc Committee to review and approve the RFQ and conduct initial interviews. Chair Ball and Director Jordan volunteered to serve on the Ad-Hoc Committee for Recruitment of WMA Plan Manager/Executive Director.

Chair Ball appointed Director Ball and Director Jordan to the Ad-Hoc Committee for Recruitment of WMA Plan Manager/Executive Director.

Chair Ball requested Mr. Buelow give an overview of the RFQ for Executive Director/Plan Manager for the WMA GSA. Discussion followed. Mr. Young provided information and cost comparisons based on San Antonio Basin and Cuyama Basin.

Director Jordan made a MOTION to approve the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Executive Director/Plan Manager for the WMA GSA, in substantial form and subject to the Ad Hoc Committee's revisions. Director Ball seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES = 8: Ball (City of Lompoc – 2), Heavin (Mission Hills CSD – 1)
Jordan (SYRWCD – 4), Stassi (Vandenberg Village CSD – 1)

NO = 0: None

b. Development of a policy for administering well verifications in the WMA

The Board discussed establishing an Ad-Hoc Committee to develop a policy for administering well verifications in the WMA. Chair Ball asked for volunteers for the Ad-Hoc Committee. Acting Alternate Director Stassi volunteered Director Brooks to this Ad-Hoc Committee. After continued discussion and review of all Ad-Hoc Committee appointments, Director Heavin volunteered to also serve on the Ad-Hoc Committee

Chair Ball appointed Director Brooks and Director Heavin to the Ad-Hoc Committee for Well Verification Policy Development.

c. Development of a policy for WMA groundwater production measurement and reporting

Mr. Buelow explained the purpose and scope of the Ad-Hoc Committee to develop a policy for WMA groundwater production measurement and reporting. Discussion followed. Chair Ball asked for volunteers for the Ad-Hoc Committee. Chair Ball and Director Jordan volunteered to serve on the Ad-Hoc Committee to develop a policy for WMA groundwater production measurement and reporting.

Chair Ball requested information on how often other groundwater basins are handling groundwater production measurement and reporting and the potential for litigation.

Chair Ball appointed Director Ball and Director Jordan to the Ad-Hoc Committee for WMA Groundwater Production Measurement and Reporting Policy Development.

6. **Receive and discuss request for WMA GSA Written Verification of a proposed well on APN 099-650-012, 1990 Tularosa Rd., Lompoc (Lany1990 LLC, Christopher Montes)**

Mr. Buelow presented the Review of Well Application for APN: 099-650-012 (EH-LUA-23-000283), Montes, dated July 19, 2024, by GSI Water Solutions, Inc. He provided information about the well verification request and the reported potential land use. Director Heavin recommended that the WMA GSA request access to the well to be added to the monitoring network. Mr. Montes provided public comment, explained requirement for well permit, answered questions from Board, and stated he had no issue with installing a flow meter or making the well accessible to be part of the WMA GSA Monitoring Network. Discussion followed and additional public comments were received.

Director Jordan made a MOTION to approve issuing the well verification for APN 099-650-012 with adding conditions to require a meter based on specifications acceptable to WMA and a request that the well owner provide access to the well for the WMA GSA Monitoring Network. Director Ball seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES = 8: Ball (City of Lompoc – 2), Heavin (Mission Hills CSD – 1)
Jordan (SYRWCD – 4), Stassi (Vandenberg Village CSD – 1)

NO = 0: None

7. Receive update and consider possible action on the following WMA JPA items:

a. Revisions to WMA JPA adding Agricultural Representative

Mr. St. Lawrence presented the draft First Amendment to Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement for Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“First Amendment”) for Board consideration to endorse and submit to the governing bodies of the JPA entities for consideration to approve. Mr. St. Lawrence reported that the First Amendment adds the position of Agricultural Representative Director, the qualifications to serve as the Agricultural Representative, and process to appoint. Mr. St. Lawrence clarified that the Agricultural Representative Director is a non-voting position. Mr. St. Lawrence also presented the Draft Alternative Nomination Provisions for consideration. Mr. St. Lawrence explained the process necessary to amend the WMA GSA Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement. Discussion followed. Public Comment was received.

Director Jordan made a MOTION to endorse the First Amendment to Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement for Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency incorporating the changes discussed by the Board, specifically changes to the nomination and approval process and wording related to the term for that position.

Director Heavin seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES = 8: Ball (City of Lompoc – 2), Heavin (Mission Hills CSD – 1)
Jordan (SYRWCD – 4), Stassi (Vandenberg Village CSD – 1)

NO = 0: None

b. Approval of Revised Draft 5-year Budget for WMA GSA

Mr. Buelow presented the Revised Draft 5-Year Budget, dated 07-24-2024, for discussion and consideration and explained that Board approval of the Expenses is needed for the Rate Consultant to proceed with preparation of a Rate Study. Discussion followed.

Acting Alternate Director Stassi made a MOTION to approve the Revised Draft 5-Year Budget, dated 07-24-2024, as presented. Director Jordan seconded the motion. There was additional discussion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES = 8: Ball (City of Lompoc – 2), Heavin (Mission Hills CSD – 1)
Jordan (SYRWCD – 4), Stassi (Vandenberg Village CSD – 1)

NO = 0: None

c. Endorsement of member agency cost/loan share reimbursement agreement

Mr. Buelow presented the Santa Ynez WMA Joint Powers Authority Cost Sharing and Reimbursement Agreement for the Board to consider endorsing. Mr. Buelow explained that this agreement must be approved by the governing bodies of the JPA entities. There was no discussion or public comment.

Director Jordan made a MOTION to endorse the Santa Ynez WMA Joint Powers Authority Cost Sharing and Reimbursement Agreement, as presented, and forward to the JPA entities for consideration. Director Ball seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES = 8: Ball (City of Lompoc – 2), Heavin (Mission Hills CSD – 1)
Jordan (SYRWCD – 4), Stassi (Vandenberg Village CSD – 1)

NO = 0: None

d. Scope of Work for seawater intrusion monitoring by County and consider approval of laboratory costs

Mr. Buelow explained the sea water intrusion work that has been a regular routine monitoring effort completed by the County of Santa Barbara. However, since sea water intrusion monitoring is a management action listed in the WMA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan, it is appropriate that the WMA GSA now take over that monitoring. He added that the County of Santa Barbara has offered to provide the labor to collect the samples, at no cost to the GSA, but requested the WMA GSA pay for the costs of lab work, not to exceed \$5,000. Mr. Fio, EKI, added that the Prop 68 GSP Implementation Grant has funds specified for seawater intrusion monitoring.

Director Ball made a MOTION to approve payment of laboratory costs for sea water intrusion monitoring, not to exceed \$5,000. Acting Alternate Director Stassi seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES = 8: Ball (City of Lompoc – 2), Heavin (Mission Hills CSD – 1)
Jordan (SYRWCD – 4), Stassi (Vandenberg Village CSD – 1)

NO = 0: None

e. WMA GSA Contract with EKI for Component Management Services on behalf of the Santa Ynez Basin

Mr. Buelow presented the EKI Environment & Water, Inc. "Terms and Conditions", "Attachment B: Schedule of Charges", and "Attachment C: Detailed Budget Tables" for Prop 68 Grant Component management services on behalf of the Santa Ynez Basin. He reported that the costs in the Detailed Budget Tables were tied to allocations for grant

funds components as developed by joint GSAs member agencies staff during a meeting in June and are grant reimbursable. Mr. Buelow stated he had reviewed the proposed scope of work and summarized the scope of work presented to the Board. Discussion followed and public comment was received. The Board expressed appreciation for the work EKI had previously completed for the basin and expressed confidence in utilizing EKI for the grant implementation work discussed.

Acting Alternate Director Stassi made a MOTION to approve the WMA GSA contract with EKI Environment & Water, Inc. for certain Component Management Services on behalf of the Santa Ynez Basin and Component projects for the WMA GSA, as presented in the EKI Scope of Work. Director Ball seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES = 8: Ball (City of Lompoc – 2), Heavin (Mission Hills CSD – 1)
Jordan (SYRWCD – 4), Stassi (Vandenberg Village CSD – 1)

NO = 0: None

f. Approval of scope of work and cost estimate from Stetson Engineers for ongoing technical support

Mr. Buelow presented the Stetson Engineers Scope of Work and Estimated Cost for Western Management Area (WMA) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation Support for Fiscal Year 2024/2025. He explained that Stetson has been providing such services to the WMA GSA through a contract made with the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, on behalf of the WMA GSA, but it is now appropriate for the WMA GSA to enter a contract directly with Stetson Engineers for the work.

Director Jordan made a MOTION to approve the Scope of Work, as presented, and direct staff to develop a contract with Stetson Engineers, not to exceed \$7,000. Director Ball seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES = 8: Ball (City of Lompoc – 2), Heavin (Mission Hills CSD – 1)
Jordan (SYRWCD – 4), Stassi (Vandenberg Village CSD – 1)

NO = 0: None

g. Discuss and Consider Approval of Funding the Annual USGS Lompoc Monitoring

Mr. Buelow explained that annual Lompoc Area Monitoring has been performed by the USGS every August, coordinated by Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, and paid for by the County Water Agency, City of Lompoc, Mission Hills Community Services District, and Vandenberg Village Community Services District, all of which are WMA GSA JPA entities. However, since the data collected is used by the GSA and is required by the WMA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan, it is appropriate that the program be moved over to the WMA GSA and the WMA GSA now pay for that USGS monitoring through the coordination of Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District. Discussion followed.

Director Ball made a MOTION to have the WMA GSA assume the costs of the annual USGS Lompoc Area Monitoring, not to exceed \$35,000. Director Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES = 8: Ball (City of Lompoc – 2), Heavin (Mission Hills CSD – 1)
Jordan (SYRWCD – 4), Stassi (Vandenberg Village CSD – 1)

NO = 0: None

8. Discuss Basin-wide Joint-GSAs Meeting Friday, September 6, 2024, 10 a.m., at Buellton City Council Chambers

Mr. Buelow announced that a Basin-wide Joint-GSAs meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 6, 2024, 10 a.m. at the Buellton City Council Chambers to discuss items in common to all three GSAs, as requested by all three GSAs. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

9. Next Regular WMA GSA Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 10 a.m., at VVCSD


Chair Ball announced the next scheduled WMA GSA Board Regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Rd., Lompoc, California.

10. WMA GSA Board member reports and requests for future agenda items

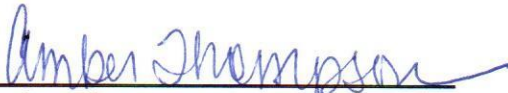
Director Heavin requested a presentation regarding the water flow to and from the upper and lower aquifers since the water levels currently reported are lower even after the last rains.

11. Adjournment

Chair Ball adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m.



Jeremy Ball, Chair
Chris Brooks, Vice Chair



Amber Thompson, Secretary