

MEETING MINUTES

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency April 24, 2024

A special meeting of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WMA GSA) was held on Wednesday, April 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 revised agenda, WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan participated via teleconference from 46250 East El Dorado, Indian Wells, California. No members of the public joined Director Jordan at that location.

Directors Present (In Person): Jeremy Ball and Chris Brooks

Directors Present (Teleconference): Steve Jordan

Directors Present (Absent): Myron Heavin

Alternate Directors Present (In Person): Brad Hagemann (Acting), Ron Stassi and Kristin Worthley

Others Present (In Person): Cynthia Allen, Bill Buelow, Paeter Garcia, Mike Garner,
Legal Counsel Isaac St. Lawrence, Brad Wilkie, and Charlie Witt

Others Present (Teleconference): Andrew Calderwood, Doug Circle, Vanessa De Anda (EKI),
Ken Domako, Dan Drugan, John Fio (EKI), Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers),
Steve Torigiani, Scarlett Tovar (DWR), and Matt Young

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

WMA GSA Chair Ball called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Mr. Buelow called roll. Three Directors and one Acting Alternate Director were present providing a quorum. Two additional Alternate Directors were present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by GSA Chair Ball.

3. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. Public Comment

Chair Ball read a statement to the members of the Board in which he proposed adding recordings of the board meetings on the GSA website to enhance transparency, trust, and increase public access; questioned if current organizational chart is the best for JPA encouraged exploring other options instead of settling into comfortable patterns.

5. Review and consider approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 28, 2024

The minutes of the WMA GSA Board meeting of February 28, 2024, were presented for Board consideration. Discussion followed. Chair Ball had questions regarding the accuracy of the minutes as to Agenda Items 11(b)-(c); 12(b); 13; 14; and 17. After discussion, Director Brooks made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the WMA GSA Committee meeting of February 28, 2024, as presented. Director Jordan seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed by the following weighted roll call vote:

AYES = 5: Brooks (Vandenberg Village CSD – 1) & Jordan (SYRWCD – 4)
NO = 2: Ball (City of Lompoc – 2)
VOTE NOT STATED = 1: Hagemann (Mission Hills CSD – 1)

6. Receive Presentation on Draft WMA By-laws, Organization Chart, job descriptions, roles and responsibilities and discuss staff positions and funding

Legal Counsel Mr. Isaac St. Lawrence presented the draft Organizational Chart, explaining job descriptions, roles and responsibilities. He advised that the JPA document is the governing document for the WMA GSA and the WMA GSA is also limited by the GSA purpose. Mr. St. Lawrence further stated that the Organization Chart could be amended if desired by the Board. Discussion followed. Public comments were received. Chair Ball requested dotted lines to signify communication between consultants/legal counsel and the Plan Manager and return updated Organization Chart to Board for consideration. Staff will revise the Organization Chart and bring it back to the Board for final approval.

Chair Ball requested additional time be given to review the Board packets and suggested that regular meetings between the Plan Manager and staff of the Member Agencies be held so Directors stay informed.

7. Receive Update on the following SGM Implementation Grant items

a. Receive updates on Component Projects, schedule, and funding requirements.

Mr. Buelow and Mr. John Fio, EKI, provided a presentation regarding SGM Implementation Grant component projects, preliminary project management schedule, and funding requirements.

Discussion followed. There was no public comment and no action was taken.

b. Update on SYRWCD Sub-grant agreement and discuss GSA coordination.

Mr. Buelow reported that a draft sub-grant agreement was distributed to the CMA, EMA, and WMA member agencies staff for review and SYRWCD received comments back. The three GSAs member agencies staff will meet to discuss revisions and then a final version will be presented to the governing bodies of the three GSAs for consideration. Steve Torigiani, legal counsel for SYRWCD, emphasized the need to approve a sub-grant agreement to establish a written agreement of how the SYRWCD is to allocate the grant reimbursements to the GSAs

since the SYRWCD is the grantee for the grant. Discussion followed. Public comment was received.

Consensus from the Board was to direct WMA GSA member agencies staff to meet with the member agencies staff from the other two GSAs in the basin to discuss the draft sub-grant agreement and implementation of the components of the grant. Director Jordan suggested that each GSA create Ad-Hoc committees that would attend basin wide meetings on behalf of the GSA governing bodies. No action was taken.

c. Review draft 6-month GSA Budget for WMA

Mr. Buelow provided a draft six-month budget for the WMA GSA which is part of the overall five-year budget that is being developed. Discussion followed. Public comment was received.

Director Ball requested a more detailed budget. After discussion, the Board directed JPA member agencies staff to work together to develop a more detailed budget to bring back to the Board for consideration.

d. Discuss member agency cost-share agreement and agency loan share contribution status.

Mr. Buelow reported that he recently requested contributions from the WMA GSA member agencies. The SYRWCD and Vandenberg Village CSD have both provided their portions of the total loan share contributions for this fiscal year. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

8. Consider authorizing Component Projects 2-8 and consider contract with EKI for Component Management

Mr. Buelow suggested that based on the comments received during this meeting this item be tabled until a sub-grant agreement is in place, agreement is received from the other two GSAs, and the intent of each GSAs to hire a component manager to help run the grant projects is known except for authorizing Component Project 3, a rate study.

Director Chris Brooks made a MOTION to authorize Component Project 3 to start the rate study. Discussion followed. The motion failed for lack of a second.

9. Receive update on WMA services contracts

After discussion, the Board directed staff to bring the contract for the Rate Consultant back to the Board for reconsideration and requested the contract amount be clarified with a not-to-exceed amount and include a scope of work.

10. Receive update on WMA GSA Insurance and consider options

Mr. Buelow presented member agency staff memo with options for insurance coverage for the WMA GSA JPA and the recommendation from Ms. Thompson who did all the insurance research to move forward with securing insurance from Golden State Risk Management Authority. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Director Ball made a MOTION to authorize the Plan Manager to execute an agreement to secure insurance coverage for the WMA GSA through Golden State Risk Management Authority, effective as soon as possible. Director Chris Brooks seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion passed by the following weighted roll call vote:

AYES = 7: Ball (City of Lompoc – 2), Brooks (Vandenberg Village CSD – 1), & Jordan (SYRWCD – 4)

NO = 0

VOTE NOT STATED = 1: Hagemann (Mission Hills CSD – 1)

11. Discuss Basin-wide Joint-GSA meeting

- a. Budget Allocations**
- b. Discuss basin-wide projects.**
- c. Discuss one SGMA annual report for the SY Basin**

These items were tabled for the next meeting.

12. Receive update on the following WMA GSA Joint Powers Agreement items:

- a. Discuss WMA Plan Manager and other WMA GSA staff and consider administrative services contract**
- b. Consider adoption of the Conflict-of-Interest Code**
- c. Receive update on required Conflict-of-Interest Code Form 700 Filings**
- d. Discuss the addition of an Agricultural Representative**

These items were tabled for the next meeting.

13. Next Regular WMA GSA Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 22, 2024

The next scheduled WMA GSA Board Regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Rd., Lompoc, California.

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

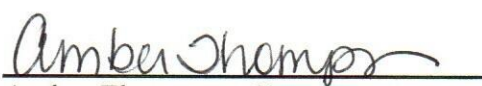
There were no reports or requests.

15. Adjournment

Chair Ball adjourned the meeting at 12:33 p.m.



Jeremy Ball, Chair



Amber Thompson, Secretary