

**NORTH BAY WATER DISTRICT
22950 BROADWAY, SONOMA, CA 95476**

Board of Directors

Mike Mulas, President and Chair (Sonoma Valley); Craig Jacobsen, Vice-President (Petaluma Valley); Carolyn Wasem, Secretary (Petaluma Valley); Matthew Stornetta, Treasurer (Sonoma Valley); and Mike Sangiacomo (Sonoma Valley)

PVGSA Advisor: Eugene Camozzi SVGSA Advisor: Jim Bundschu
SGMA Compliance Advisor: Mike Martini
Legal Counsel: Richard Idell

Date: August 10, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: 22950 Broadway, Schell-Vista Station #1 (via Teleconference due to Covid-19 Shelter-in-Place Order)

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Mike Mulas called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Board Members Craig Jacobsen and Carolyn Wasem were present. Counselor Richard Idell, Advisor Martini, Advisor Bundschu were also present. Ginalisa Tamayo was present.

2. CLOSED SESSION

There were no closed session items.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were on public comments.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Director Jacobson made a motion to approve the June 2021 Minutes. Director Wasem seconded the motion. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Chair Mulas reported that the NBWD account had a balance of \$ 7,337.98, with no outstanding invoices. Director Wasem made a motion to approve the Financials. Director Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Item 1: Update from Counselor Richard Idell

The only item to report on is the Safe Harbor Agreement. The United States Fish and Wildlife did not want to put the fees to be charged for participation by landowners in the Agreement that would be noticed in the Federal Register. The omission of those fees has no material impact on the Agreement.

Item 2: Report of Director Mike Sangiacomo on Sonoma Valley GSA

Director Sangiacomo was not in attendance.

Item 3: Report of Director Carolyn Wasem on Petaluma Valley GSA

Director Wasem informed the Board that the last GSA Board meeting was held on July 22nd. The next meeting is scheduled for September 23rd. The following items were discussed.

Heidi Bauer reported on the activities at the Advisory Committee. Over the last two meetings of the Advisory Committee, Section 3 of the GSP was reviewed. Most of the comments from Committee members were associated with proposed projects and management actions. Advisors had questions about groundwater levels and specific wells and land uses in the Basin. In addition to discussing projects, data gaps were shared by staff.

Drought conditions were discussed. The 2020/2021 years are third and fourth driest in the last 120 years. The lack of rainfall impact is especially pronounced when considering surface water conditions.

Advisory Committee members focused their comments on:

- a) the relationship of water supply reservoirs to the basin conditions
- b) the longer drought scenarios
- c) water hauling
- d) questioning how much water Petaluma would need to pump to offset reductions in surface water. (In response, the City indicated that they intend to obtain 7% of water needed from wells.)

Ms. Dubay shared with the Board the Rate and Fee Study Consultant Selection Process. All three GSAs need to conduct fee studies. The Board then authorized the staff to work with other GSAs to negotiate a scope of work. The final cost of the Fee Analysis and Rate Setting Services is not yet known. The GSA has approved \$90,000 for this work. The Board unanimously supported the \$90,000 spend for this purpose.

The Board was then asked to act on approval of easements on properties that agree to allow monitoring wells in site. Except for Sears Point Ranch, all other sites were public. The Board unanimously approved staff signing easements for that purpose.

Jay Jasperse and Marcus Trotta provided an update on the GSP.

Most of their discussion focused on “Projects and Management Actions”. While the need for project and actions is yet unknown, these need to be included in the Plan in the event that monitoring of water levels indicated a need to take action.

Considerations as water budgets are developed include:

1. How the basin may respond to future conditions under a wide range of climate patterns
2. General types, size and locations of potential projects and actions that may be needed or considered as contingencies to achieve or maintain sustainability.
3. When and if to implement specific projects and management actions will be the decision of the GSA Board. The GSP due January 2022 does not need to have Projects and Management Actions finalized for implementation.

The GSP does need to identify the types of projects being considered for implementation over the next 20 years and how they will help the Basin avoid undesirable results and reach its sustainability goal.

Staff grouped the projects in two categories:

1. Projects with potential funding sources or are voluntary or incentive-based or are lower-cost; and
2. New or significantly expanded projects/actions.

Additional ideas for projects need further development. Metering, groundwater recharge, water markets and zero net water use requirements for new development. **Note** that the GSA has the authority to enact mandatory conservation or pumping reductions.

The stated goal of the GSP, identified in the Group 1 Projects include:

1. seek voluntary rural residential water use by 20 percent; and
2. vineyard irrigation by 10 percent

The goal of these reductions would be to benefit the groundwater/surface water exchange.

Effect of Group 1 Scenario projects:

1. projected groundwater level changes are minor
2. projects slightly improve groundwater conditions, such as the cumulative change in groundwater storage
3. undesirable results are not projected to occur
4. benefits are relatively small, the Group 1 projects provide a buffer for model uncertainty

Routine Monitoring, Data Evaluation and Annual Reporting will include

- Groundwater-level Monitoring
 - o 16 RMP wells for GWL SMC

- o ~ 20 other wells from full monitoring network for analyzing trends and developing contour maps
- o 3 shallow-zone RMP wells for ISWD SMC

- Streamflow Measurements
 - o Compile and evaluate from existing gauges

- Groundwater Quality Monitoring
 - o Compile and evaluate data collected and reported through existing programs (i.e., public drinking water systems)

- Subsidence Monitoring
 - o Compile and evaluate In SAR data provided by DWR

- Groundwater Storage Calculations
 - o Calculate and report annual storage change using groundwater-level contour maps developed from full GSP groundwater-level monitoring network

Data Gaps include:

1. Amounts and locations of groundwater pumping
2. Three-dimensional data gaps in the monitoring network for each primary aquifer
3. Role of faults within and along the boundaries of the Subbasin
4. Basin boundary characteristics, such as the direction and magnitude of groundwater fluxes across Subbasin boundaries
5. Interconnection of streams to the shallow aquifer system, including seasonal variability and how groundwater pumping can affect streamflow
6. Aquifer characteristics, recharge and discharge mechanisms and volumes for both the shallow and deep aquifer systems
7. Distribution and extent of brackish groundwater along margins of Baylands area

Farm Plans GSP Coordination Concept

- Coordinate Farm Plans, developed at individual farm sites, with implementation of the basin-wide GSP
- Identify areas of mutual interest (e.g., improved water use efficiency, increased groundwater recharge, increased monitoring and data collection, coordinated information sharing, and reporting) in addition to challenges that need to be addressed (e.g., data confidentiality, data quality requirements, verification of Farm Plan performance)
- This project would: (1) identify requirements or standards to demonstrate benefits to GSP implementation; (2) develop metrics that would be measured and verified; and (3) consider options to incentivize actions of mutual benefit.

A Budget for the GSA to Administer, long term the GSP was shared:

GSA Administration \$200,000- \$300,000 per year

- GSA Board Meetings
- Applying for and administering grant
- Finance support (accounting, financial audits, budget development and tracking, etc.)
- Operational support (insurance, supplies and materials, GUIDE program dataset maintenance and updates)
- Legal support, as needed

Communication and Stakeholder Engagement \$80,000 to \$100,000 per year

- Maintaining and Improvements to Website
- Maintaining and Improvements to GUIDE Interface Roll-out and maintaining Groundwater Data Dashboard (under development) Advisory Committee meetings and periodic community meetings Focused stakeholder group briefings and engagement
- Engagement with
Local: County and City Planning, Permit Sonoma, other GSAs
State: DWR, SWRCB (Drinking Water and Water Rights Divisions), RWQCB

Routine Monitoring, Data Evaluation and Annual Reporting \$150,000 - \$200,000 per year

- Groundwater-level Monitoring
- o 16 RMP wells for GWL SMC
 - o ~ 20 other wells from full monitoring network for analyzing trends and developing contour maps
 - o 3 shallow-zone RMP wells for ISWD SMC

Streamflow Measurements

- o Compile and evaluate from existing gauges

Groundwater Quality Monitoring

- o Compile and evaluate data collected and reported through existing programs (i.e., public drinking water systems)

Subsidence Monitoring

- o Compile and evaluate In SAR data provided by DWR Groundwater Storage Calculations
- o Calculate and report annual storage change using groundwater-level contour maps developed from full GSP groundwater-level monitoring network

Addressing Data Gaps Studies and Information Gathering: \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 – 5-year total

- Outreach and information sharing with well owners (e.g., GUIDE program)
- Improve data/information on existing water wells and stream diversions
- Evaluate future airborne geophysical data (DWR funded)
- Additional geophysical surveys
- Aquifer tests
- Additional GDE mapping/remote sensing for vegetation health

- Compile and evaluate existing and relevant habitat field surveys

Monitoring Network Improvements

- Install 7 additional multi-depth monitoring wells with focus on developing Seawater Intrusion RMP network and addressing data gaps in Groundwater-Level RMP network
- Expand voluntary groundwater-level network
- 4 additional shallow monitoring wells near streams, as needed

Maintaining, Updating and Improvements to Model: \$200,000 to \$300,000 (5-year total)

- Focus improvements on initial 3 years of implementation to facilitate reassessing preliminary SMCs, as appropriate, and planning for any projects and actions
- Model updates and refinements will be informed by data and information collected during early stages of implementation (e.g., monitoring data, tracking of land-use data etc.)

Refinement, Study, and Implementation of Potential Projects and Actions Preliminary

Estimate of Costs: —\$150,000 to \$350,000 (5-year total)

- Implement conservation and groundwater-use efficiency programs: Focused voluntary programs based on assessment of basin-specific groundwater use characteristics and existing levels of groundwater use efficiency to optimize preferred tools and strategies.
- Coordinate with City of Petaluma in assessment of additional recycled water irrigation opportunities that benefit GSP implementation
- Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR):
- Study of On-Farm and other dispersed recharge opportunities
- Feasibility Study for aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) opportunities and pilot studies
Study of potential policy options for future GSA consideration

Preliminary areas of focus:

- o Focused calibration of surface water and groundwater interaction
- o Assessment of model boundary conditions
- o Improve how model represents groundwater pumping
- o Assessment of aquifer properties assigned to model

Five-Year GSP Update \$200,000 to \$300,000 – 5 year total

- First update scheduled for 2027
- Evaluation of new information and refinement of SMCs
- Update 50-year projected water budget

Used to assess progress towards sustainability goal or to show how sustainability has been maintained

Include any significant new information or changes that have been made after submittal of 2022 GSP.

Preliminary Average Annual Costs = approximately \$1,200,000 per year.

Item 4: Report by Advisor Jim Bundschu

Advisor Bundschu asked that the Board take note that the \$1.2 million annual expense did not include projects to ensure sustainable groundwater levels.

Sonoma Sanitation has water available to provided to agriculture users. The contract is up for re-negotiation in 2023 for the 700-acre feet available. That is an effort that we should consider undertaking.

Chair Mulas suggested that the process for applying and negotiating for Sonoma Sanitation water is very convoluted. Sonoma Sanitation District is under the auspicious of Sonoma Water.

Advisor Martini shared that the challenges of agriculture negotiating with local water agencies reminded him of Gallo, and what the fine points of those negotiations were and might be in this case. Getting someone lilke Tim Byrd from Gallo to share how they negotiated a deal for treated wastewater from the City of Santa Rosa could potentially inform next steps with Sonoma Sanitation.

Advisor Bundschu noted that Sonoma Sanitation is planning on extending the recycled water pipeline up Napa Road. That water went to the Cargill Pond.

There is a belief amongst some of the GSA Advisors that staff does not have a clear understanding of ground/surface water levels and their interaction. Do we need to consider restoring surface water as well as groundwater levels? That is the question that needs to be answered.

Advisor Bundschu closed his comments by noting that there are people aghast that the County is still allowing the drilling of wells. A pretty strong majority are opposed to drilling additional wells.

Item 5: Report of Advisor Eugene Camozzi

Advisor Camozzi was not in attendance.

Item 6: Report of Compliance Advisor Mike Martini

Advisor Martini prefaced his comments that his report would be short. He shared that he is serving on the County's committee to explore district elections. The County must have the district maps drawn and done by December 15th. Each district within the County must represent 100,000 people. Currently, there are 3,000 too many people in Supervisor Hopkins district and 3,000 too few in Susan Gorin's district.

Advisor Martini is still working on formation of a District – or expansion of NBWD to represent the challenges for agriculture producers in Alexander Valley and beyond.

Item 7. Report by Ginalisa Tamayo on Website Development

Ms. Tamayo reported that she sent out an alert yesterday. The alert notified the recipients that the website has a new format and access to additional information about water and water issues is available.

- 7. ADJOURNMENT** Director Wasem made a motion to adjourn. Director Jacobson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55

The Next scheduled meeting is scheduled for October 11th at 6:00 pm. Those who wish to attend in person will be able to do so. There will be a zoom option for those that cannot make the meeting in person.

Board meeting documents are available to review prior to the meeting at the Shell-Vista Station, 22950 Broadway, Sonoma California. Please call or contact Mike Mulas for an appointment to obtain a copy.