

NORTH BAY WATER DISTRICT
22950 BROADWAY, SONOMA, CA 95476

Board of Directors

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

PVGSA Advisor: Eugene Comozzi SVGSA Advisor: Jim Bundschu

MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 9, 2020

Time: 6:00 PM

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

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Director Mike Mulas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Chair Mike Mulas, Directors Craig Jacobsen, Mike Sangiacomo, Matt Stornetta and Carolyn Wasem were present.

Also, in attendance Counselor Richard Idell and Guest Mike Martini, Advisors Jim Bundschu and Eugene Comozzi were also present.

2. CLOSED SESSION

There were not closed session items.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chair Mulas asked for approval of the May 2020 Minutes. Director Stornetta made the motion to approve the May 2020 Minutes. Director Jacobsen seconded the motion. The Minutes for the May 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Stornetta reported that the current bank balance is: \$13,052.22. Director Wasem made the motion to approve the Financial Report. Director Sangiacomo seconded the motion. The Financial Report was unanimously approved.

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Item 1. Director Sangiacomo, reported that the last GSA meeting, the next fiscal year's budget was approved. Participation in the Sonoma Valley GSA will cost NBWD and the Sonoma RCD \$10,000 annually. The City of Sonoma will provide \$25,000 annually; Sonoma Water will provide \$125,000 annually; and the County of Sonoma will cover the remaining Agency costs, with a minimum of \$25,000 guaranteed. The Sonoma RCD is expected to provide \$10K annually as well.

Existing legal service providers, Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann and Girard, were granted an extension of their contract through June 2022. The additional cost to the GSA is anticipated not to exceed \$105,0000. Another item that was covered was an agriculture working group. Keith from the Sonoma RCD, Tawny Tesconi and Nick Frey will be a part of the working group.

Jay Jasperse informed the GSA that rest of 2020 will be spend developing Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC). Jay focused his discussion on SMC and how they will prevent six the undesirable results laid out in the legislation: chronic lowering of groundwater levels, seawater subsidence, seawater intrusion, degraded water quality, reduction of groundwater storage and depletion of interconnected surface/ground water.

The SMC for each indicator must describe/define the following:

- 1) Significant and unreasonable conditions: a quantitative statement about what is undesirable
- 2) Minimum Thresholds: criteria to be achieved in the 20-year horizon and maintained for the following 30 years
- 3) Measurable Objectives: quantifiable goals that provide flexibility
- 4) Undesirable Results: combined minimum threshold exceedances (frequency and location)

The GSA was provided an update on Advisory Committee meetings as well. In May, the Advisory Committee received information about sustainable efforts and at that time salinity concerns were raised. Numerous questions arose around where the boundaries are going to be, tolerance, and impacts on land subsidence.

Item 2. Director Carolyn Wasem shared that there had not been a GSA meeting since the last NBWD Board Meeting. The next GSA meeting will be on June 25th.

Director Wasem reported that she had participated in interviewing firms for community engagement with rural landowners. The outreach goal is to build support for the GSA and the long-term agency for administration of the GSP. Further the goal of the outreach is to understand what rural landowners will find palatable/acceptable in terms of long-term costs to maintain the agency and provide funding for the projects, and studies/monitoring to achieve the GSP goals.

Additionally, Director Wasem reported that she participated in a conversation with Dr. Roger Boulton regarding water budgets for agriculture lands. Guest Martini and Director Sangiacomo can provide input into that conversation at the time that Guest Martini provides an update to the Board.

Item 3. Petaluma Advisor Eugene Comozzi reported that the last Advisory meeting was held on May 6th. The items that the Advisory Board were asked to consider included:

- Managing inelastic (unrecoverable) subsidence
- The fact that the data does not indicate that occurrences of historical inelastic subsidence in the subbasin
- Potential inelastic subsidence caused by groundwater pumping is an unreasonable condition
- *Minimum Thresholds* to achieve zero inelastic subsidence
- Recommended *Minimum Thresholds* that would not cause negative impacts to beneficial uses

On an ongoing basis, the GSA will use DWR InSar data to track and measure subsidence. If InSar data shows an impact to subsidence aiding in the further evaluation of the cause.

The Advisory Committee also discussed ground surface change related to seismic activity. This information can inform land subsidence due to groundwater pumping.

Advisor Comozzi also shared that there was a discussion regarding sea water intrusion. Sonoma Water suggested that “seawater intrusion inland of areas of brackish groundwater” would be considered an unreasonable condition. Additionally, a minimum threshold of 250 mg/l isocontour should be established.

Advisory Committee members had questions about how the data regarding seawater intrusion could be baselined. *How would the GSA determine what the historical conditions for seawater intrusion is, independent of groundwater pumping?*

Item 4. Advisor Jim Bundschu reported that the Advisory Committee had just met. Much of the meeting was devoted to project concepts and management actions that will be included in the GSP. Projects and the description and management actions to maintain sustainable ground waters for the fifty-year horizon will be the core of the GSP. The GSP must also incorporate:

- 1) Measurable objectives that will benefit from project/action
- 2) Criteria/circumstances that would trigger project/action
- 3) Process for GSA determining what action is needed

Additionally, the administrative and operational activities will need to be included in the GSP. Those activities will include:

- Managing periodic meetings and implementing policy
- Ensure proper financing of GSP
- Preparing annual reports, including monitoring, conducting studies, identifying additional monitoring needs
- Preparing 5-year progress reports
- Directing management actions

Of importance to note is that the Historical/Current Water Budget is expected to be complete by Summer 2020.

Item 5. Guest Mike Martini asked Director Sangiacomo his sense of Dr. Boulton's presentation and value of the water budget? Guest Martini and Director Sangiacomo thought that Dr. Boulton's work was very useful and informative for the development of the GSP. Dr. Roger Boulton, at the request of SAVE, is putting together the framework for the budget and has created a very impressive set. His presentation was a little long. There are concerns re: the formatting of the data and use of acre feet as a "raw" number that does not equate water use as acre feet per acre.

Guest Martini shared that one of his key takeaways from the Dr. Boulton's work is that agriculture is replenishing the lower aquifer. As Executive Director of SAVE, Martini suggested that his organization could engage interns, or appropriate students from Sonoma State to gain access to a series of ag well logs and understand the current/ongoing status of aquifer levels.

Advisor Bundschu raised two issues related to sharing out Dr. Boulton's work: getting on the agenda of the GSA meetings, perhaps easier at the Advisory Committee Meetings at the public comment section. The public gets as much time as they want to speak. A year ago, a group of vintners got together to discuss how many acres per acre foot of water. The numbers that Guest Martini heard from Dr. Boulton: 17 inches was used for irrigation.

Advisor Bundschu shared that monitoring salt-water intrusion boundaries was discussed. The goal with future projects will be to alleviate degradation of water quality.

Director Sangiacomo opined that It is difficult to get ideas in the meetings because of how the meetings structure.

Advisor Comozzi suggested that there are concerns that the vineyards are causing saline intrusion. From his perspective, water needs to be tested to understand the saline levels. From that baseline, we can determine what is workable. This will be something to watch.

Director Craig Jacobsen added that the Riverside Equestrian facility is using a reverse osmosis system to provide water for their horses.

Director Sangiacomo informed the Directors that many in agriculture use electrical conductivity (EC) to determine saline levels. And most vineyards test every other year. Experience with water in that area indicates that saline conditions are natural.

Advisor Comozzi again suggested that we (in agriculture) need to understand baseline. We cannot get back to a number that was not historically achieved.

Item 6. Counselor Richard Idell shared that NBWD is trying to get a letter into the County asking that that NBWD's bylaws be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Counselor Idell said that he will send an email to Board of Supervisors Chair, Susan Gorin, and get on the Consent Calendar for that purpose. He is also working with County on election cost.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no other business, Director Wasem made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Stornetta seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 14th.