

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: May 12, 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 not 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 February 2020 Minutes.

Director Stornetta made the motion to approve the February 2002 Minutes. Director Jacobsen seconded the motion. The Minutes for the February 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

Chair Mulas then asked for approval of the April 2020 Minutes. Director Stornetta made the motion to approve the February 2002 Minutes. Director Jacobsen seconded the motion. The Minutes for the April 2020 were unanimously approved.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Item 1. Report by Director Sangiacomo, Sonoma Valley GSA

The Sonoma Valley GSA had not met since the last meeting of the North Bay Water District (NBWD). The next GSA meeting will be held on June 1, 2020.

However, since the last NBWD meeting, Director Sangiacomo shared that he had met with Ann Dubay, Administrator for the Sonoma Valley GSA, re: land subsidence and salt-water intrusion. Both issues are potential challenges for the Sonoma Valley Basin.

The development of Sustainable Management Criteria for saltwater intrusion was a major topic at the May Advisory Committee meeting. Members of the Advisory Committee discussed a staff-proposed strawman for minimum thresholds i.e., the worst-case scenario for seawater intrusion and measurable objectives, and where we would like seawater intrusion measurements to be. The Sonoma Water/consultants to Sonoma Water selection of 150 mg/L chloride for the measurable objective was questioned by Committee members. Currently, Marcus Trotter is leading the plan for addressing saltwater intrusion.

The Committee also discussed criteria for land subsidence directly related to groundwater pumping. Committee members spent quite a bit of time discussing the proposed minimum thresholds and the measurable objectives. The Committee will be using the Department of Water Rights'

(DWR) satellite-based data to measure subsidence and setting subsidence tolerance at zero.

Item 2. Report by Director Carolyn Wasem, Petaluma Valley GSA

The last Petaluma Valley GSA meeting was held on April 23, 2020. The GSA has plenty of cash on hand with close to \$200,000 in a carry-forward. The GSA also received \$56,000 from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for Prop 1 funding. As of the April GSA meeting, NBWD still had an outstanding invoice for participation in the amount of the \$3,166.

The Directors of the GSA were informed that the Advisory Committee met on March 11th. The Committee focused its discussions on the following:

- Landowner agreements for measuring groundwater levels - Adobe Creek is one of the areas where there is a data gap and of some concern. The GSA needs to understand if there is enough water in the wells and if groundwater levels are enough to meet beneficial use demands.
- A minimal threshold exceedance needs to be established and subsequently remediation steps identified.

The GSA Directors were also notified that in March, that DWR awarded the Petaluma Valley GSA \$1,000,000 in Proposition 68 funding. The grant is for the purpose of implementing a wide array of projects related to the basin's GSP.

The agriculture community needs to discuss with Sonoma Water the availability of those funds for implementing projects identified in the Agriculture Farm Plan. In the presentation specific to those funds, Ann DuBay, informed the Directors that the money would be spent on land-use planning (city/county planners); and agriculture water use. The projection for agriculture water use will be determined by representatives from the Sonoma County Agriculture Commissioner's office, UCCE and farmers.

In addition to City/County staff and agriculture representatives, representatives from the natural resource community will also part of the project discussions. Regional Water, National Marine Fisheries Service, the California Fish and Wildlife Service and Laguna/Sonoma Ecology non-profits (not all-inclusive list) will also have a role.

In terms of timeline: GSA staff are developing a workplan and hope to have groups formed by May/June 2020.

Additionally, the GSA staff informed the Directors that better estimates for agriculture groundwater use is needed. This is where Dr. Roger Boulton can play a role. SAVE will need to coordinate with the Agriculture Commissioner and the GSA staff to participate in the workplan development that is anticipated to take place in the summer of 2020. Additionally, participation in this effort will allow SAVE/NBWD/Agriculture Commissioner's Office input in the procedures and protocols currently under development by Permit Sonoma, specific to groundwater use: areas where monitoring needs to occur and the well registration program.

Sonoma Water has identified tentative well locations for purposes of better understanding groundwater levels. They (Sonoma Water) will need to work with DWR and landowners for easements associated with permitting and drilling of well locations. Director Wasem further suggested that the Agriculture Commissioner's office, working through SAVE/NBWD should be involved as well. The GSA staff indicated that a pilot project will be implemented, using geophysical technology to map and monitor brackish/saline groundwater.

The Directors also approved a contract with the City of Petaluma to monitor groundwater levels in the Petaluma Valley sub-basin. Finally, the Directors approved a budget for next year. There is a projected \$440,000 in revenues (\$318,750) (County/Sonoma Water) with member agency contributions (\$41,800). Sonoma Water and the Sonoma RCD will make an in-kind contribution (\$74,000). The budget for the next fiscal year was unanimously adopted.

There is, on the Petaluma GSA website, a menu item for the 20-year draft plan that Director Wasem suggests the Board look at in detail. Guest Martini, as the Executive Director of SAVE, needs to look at the Plan to discern where SAVE's Agriculture Farm Plan can fit into that draft.

Director Wasem also suggested that vineyards should track water use, have the numbers third-party certified as opposed to spending money on well meters. That is a discussion that we need to have with the GSA and incorporate into the Farm Plan.

Item 3. Report by Advisor Eugene Comozzi - Advisor was not present.

Item 4. Report by Advisor Jim Bundschu – Advisor was not present.

Item 5. Guest Mike Martini shared that he continues to work with Dr. Boulton to develop a groundwater management plan. Dr. Boulton is putting together the framework and has created a very impressive set of criteria specific to addressing the concerns stated by the State Water Board, relative to threats to sustainable groundwater.

Ann DuBay shared with Mike Martini that Sonoma Water is waiting for data. There is a way that we (the agriculture community) can feed the information to them. This will allow us to move forward. Timing is important. The agriculture community needs to get deeply involved in the process before the plan is completely drafted. Dr. Boulton has done very, good sound work and should provide us the opportunity to insert our plan into the larger regional plan.

Director Stornetta suggested that the isolines associated with groundwater data are being used to better understand groundwater flow direction and gradients. This is not an unusual method and the information will be used to help determine thresholds.

Director Sangiacomo asked guest Martini: When do we engage to get this in the Plan?

Director Stornetta expressed his concern that Sonoma Water continues to push forward with their approach. This means that we must be very active in developing a robust plan and pushing it forward for incorporation into the regional plan.

Item 6. Counselor Richard Idell

Discussion of Resolution 20-3, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REQUESTING THE COUNTY OF SONOMA TO CONDUCT NORTH BAY WATER DISTRICT'S 2020 GENERAL ELECTION. This Resolution was passed at the April NBWD meeting, but a signature from the Secretary of North Bay Water District is needed.

Counselor Richard Idell informed Director Wasem that he would forward the Resolution to her attention for affixing a signature.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no other business, Director Wasem made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Sangiacomo seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 9th.