

# Board Meeting

## Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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Regular Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2018

1:00 pm

City of Santa Rosa, Utilities Field Office

35 Stony Point Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

<http://www.sonomacountygroundwater.org>

### **Directors**

Susan Harvey

Pam Stafford

Tom Schwedhelm

Shirlee Zane

Joe Dutton

Evan Jacobs

Lynda Hopkins

John Nagle

Mark Millan

### **Alternates**

Mark Landman

Jake Mackenzie

Chris Rogers

Susan Gorin

Mel Sanchietti

Michael Spielman

Susan Gorin

Walt Ryan

Debora Fudge

*City of Cotati*

*City of Rohnert Park*

*City of Santa Rosa*

*County of Sonoma*

*Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District*

*Independent Water Systems*

*Sonoma County Water Agency*

*Sonoma Resource Conservation District*

*Town of Windsor*

### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

**Lynda Hopkins**, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm and noted that a quorum of the board was present, consisting of the following Directors: Mel Sanchietti (for Joe Dutton), Susan Harvey, Lynda Hopkins, Mark Millan, John Nagle, Tom Schwedhelm, Evan Jacobs, Pam Stafford and Shirley Zane. Staff present included Ann DuBay of the Sonoma County Water Agency, Interim Administrator; Simone Peters, GSA Administrative Assistant; Jay Jasperse and Marcus Trotta of the Sonoma County Water Agency; Sally Van Etten, Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc.; Scott Morris, Legal Counsel.

Director Hopkins said thank you to all City Council members and RCD partners at the meeting for their hard work on the GSA.

Director Zane remembered Carl Morrison from the Sonoma County Water Agency who died in a plane crash the previous week.

### **2. Public comments on matters not listed on the agenda but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the board**

A representative from Well-Intell – Developers of a water level monitoring technology which consists of an automated network of sensors and monitors aquifers. He would eventually like to make a business offer but was attending this meeting to listen and learn.

### 3. Consent Calendar

#### a. Approve Minutes of February 8, 2018

Public Comments: None

**Director Harvey** moved to approve the February 8 minutes as presented, **Director Millan** seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### b. Approve Financial Report

Ann DuBay presented the Financial Report.

Public comments: None

**Director Harvey** moved to approve the Financial Report, **Director Zane** seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### c. Approve Report on In-kind Contribution Status

Ann presented the In-kind Contribution status.

Public comments: None

**Director Millan** moved to approve the report on in-kind Contribution Status, **Director Stafford** seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### d. Approve Resolution SRP-18-001 for Conflict of Interest Code per government Code section 87300

Scott Morris, Legal Counsel presented the item with an amendment of the resolution date.

Public Comments: None

**Director Stafford** moved to approve the Conflict of Interest Code with a resolution date change, **Director Harvey** seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### 4. Directors/Subcommittee Report

**Director Hopkins, Director Millan and Director Nagle** provided an update on the Ad-hoc Committee Funding Options report. They have had two conference calls as a committee to discuss options. So far, they have not reached a recommendation and have no solution to present, but they do have a better understanding of legal nuances of funding options. They still have more questions than answers and admit finding a solution will be a challenge.

Public comments were received from Sebastian Bertsch.

No action was taken.

### 5. Advisory Committee Report

**Rue Furch**, Advisory Committee Vice Chair, reported that the Advisory Committee has met twice since the last Board meeting. She acknowledged there is growing awareness as well as concern.

Community outreach remains very important, and Rue noted there must be a balance between obtaining more data and less costs. Lastly, she recognized the time, energy and expertise of GSA staff.

Public comments were received from Sebastian Bertsch

Action – More clarity needed on San Buenaventura court decision about ramifications of decisions on how broadly the benefit of groundwater is and able to be billed, and what ramifications it has on notions here. Possibly a monthly update on rate/fee study progress?

## **6. Informational Item**

### **a. Funding Options Study Update**

Ann DuBay provided a background of the Funding Options’ Study Update and suggested it was a good opportunity for the Board to provide feedback to the staff on key issues and to review pros and cons of funding options.

Sally Van Etten, Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. gave an overview of the discussed options:

1) parcel fee, 2) combination fee and fee-based groundwater use , 3) parcel tax 4) fee on extraction only, 5) hybrid methodology, 6) continued contribution by the agencies and, 6) State intervention.

Jay Jasperse, Sonoma County Water Agency, provided a description of three considered options. The first two options fit under the framework of Proposition 26 that fit under case law: 1) fee on extraction - estimating groundwater use either through estimates or actual meter data for each of the properties, about 80,000 in basin. Would have to be some regulation on de-minimis users such as a well registration program, consideration for re-charge, etc. 2) based on groundwater extraction but adds more flexibility based on actual data allocation between sub-user groups, probably easier to implement.

The third option would be continued contribution by the member agencies, which would be easy to implement, would meet funding needs for years 3-5, but agencies wouldn’t be reimbursed for years one and two.

Public comments were received from Paul Brophy and Bill Pasqueretta.

Requested actions from the Board members included a) show detailed information behind recommendations, don’t only present recommendations, b) look at property protection as a benefit of protecting against subsidence, c) change the presentation from “staff recommendation” to “staff perspective”, d) provide visuals/show the Board members various options of where the boundaries are and where the stops are so we can understand the flow of thinking.

### **b. Briefing on Groundwater Sustainability Plan initiation**

**Marcus Trotta**, Sonoma County Water Agency, provided an overview of Groundwater Sustainability Plan Initiation including process and next steps.

Public Comments: None  
No action was taken

## 7. Action Items

### a. Basin Boundary Modifications

**Marcus Trotta** presented the proposed modifications for Eastern and Western boundaries and recommended not making changes at this time.

Public Comments: None

**Director Jacobs** moved to approve the item as presented and **Director Stafford** seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### b. Future GSA Administrative Staffing

Staff thinks there would be more efficiency in having one GSA Administrator rather than three. Seeks Board direction on future staffing options. Board agreed that Chair Hopkins should explore joint staffing opportunities with the other two Sonoma County GSAs.

Public Comments: None

## 8. Administrator & Plan Manager Report

**Ann DuBay** mentioned the Outreach program is developing a logo and it will be presented at the June Board meeting.

**Jay Jasperse** presented the Plan Manager update.

Public Comments: None

No action was taken.

## 9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.