

# MEETING MINUTES

## **Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors June 26, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WMA GSA) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Road, Lompoc, California.

Directors Present: Jeremy Ball, Chris Brooks, Myron Heavin, and Steve Jordan

Non-Voting Directors Present (Teleconference): Meighan Dietenhofer (Acting Alternate)

Alternate Directors Present: Mike Garner, Ron Stassi and Kristin Worthley

Others Present (In Person): Cynthia Allen, Bill Buelow, Brian Horenberger,  
Legal Counsel Isaac St. Lawrence, Amber Thompson, and Charlie Witt

Others Present (Teleconference): Ken Domako, John Fio (EKI), Karen Kistler, Steve Torigiani (Young Wooldridge), and Matt Young

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

WMA GSA Chair Ball called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Ms. Thompson called roll. Four Directors were present providing a quorum. Two Alternate Directors were also present. One non-voting Acting Alternate Director participated by teleconference.

### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by WMA GSA Chair Ball.

### **3. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **4. Review and consider approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 22, 2024**

The minutes of the WMA GSA Board meeting of May 22, 2024, were presented for Board consideration.

Director Brooks made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the WMA GSA Board meeting of May 22, 2024, as presented. Discussion followed. Director Jordan seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**5. Receive and consider approval updated organizational chart**

Mr. St. Lawrence presented an updated organizational chart incorporating the revisions requested by the Board during the May 22, 2024, meeting. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Director Ball made a MOTION to approve the Organizational Chart, as presented. Director Jordan seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**6. Receive update from JPA member agency counsel and consider approval of Administrative Services Contract with SYRWCD**

Mr. St. Lawrence presented the Administrative Services Contract between the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District and the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“Contract”). Discussion followed.

The Board requested the following revisions be made to the Contract:

- In the third WHEREAS, replace “as an accommodation” with “in lieu of GSA hiring own employee”
- In Section 3, replace “continue indefinitely” with “end December 31, 2024 or”
- In Section 4, replace "one-hundred and eighty (180) days” with “thirty (30) days”

Mr. Torigiani, Legal Counsel for Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, agreed that the requested changes could be made to the Contract. Public comment was received.

Director Brooks made a MOTION to approve the Administrative Services Contract between the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District and the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, as amended with in the third WHEREAS, replace “as an accommodation” with “in lieu of GSA hiring own employee”, in Section 3, replace “continue indefinitely” with “end December 31, 2024 or”, in Section 4, replace "one-hundred and eighty (180) days” with “thirty (30) days”. Director Heavin seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**7. Receive update on request for WMA GSA Written Verification for APN 099-100-041, 1906 Gypsy Canyon Rd., Lompoc (Joanna Garrick)**

Mr. Buelow provided an update on the Review of Well Application for APN: 099-100-041 (EH-LUA-23-000039), Joanna Garrick, dated May 7, 2024, by GSI Water Solutions, Inc. He reported that the additional deposit required for the additional review, per the Board’s request at the last meeting, was quoted by GSI at \$1,800. He read public comments that were received by email regarding this well verification including clarification as to

expected water use and decreased expected groundwater production from 168 acre-feet per year to 66 acre-feet per year. Discussion followed and public comments were received.

Director Heavin requested staff develop a policy to require all new wells have meters installed. After discussion, the Board agreed that staff, legal counsel, and consultants should work on drafting a policy regarding well verification approvals.

Director Jordan made a MOTION to approve issuing the well verification for APN 099-100-041 with the condition to require a meter based on specifications acceptable to WMA GSA and directed staff and legal counsel to develop a policy for well verification approvals. Director Brooks seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Director Heavin requested an amendment to the motion to add a limit to groundwater production of 65 acre-feet per year. Public comments were received. Further discussion followed. The requested amendment to the motion failed for lack of a second. The original motion passed by the following voice vote:

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

NO = 1: Heavin (Mission Hills CSD – 1)

**8. Receive update and consider possible action on the following SGM Implementation Grant items**

a. Consider endorsing proposed draft Prop 68 Grant funding allocation budget

Mr. Buelow presented “Exhibit B to the Subgrant Agreement for Implementation of Grant Agreement Number 4600015265 Between the State of California Department of Water Resources and Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Grant Agreement Project Components Budget Allocation”. He reported that member agency staff from the three GSAs in the Santa Ynez Basin collaborated on the budget allocations. Mr. Torigiani reported that a Draft Subgrant Agreement has been reviewed by legal counsels of member agencies and will be distributed to the GSAs soon. Mr. Buelow reported on the DWR requirement to provide a rank by importance for each Grant Component. Components 2 through 5 were important to all GSAs, in that order, while Components 6 through 8 were specifically requested by only the WMA GSA and no other GSA requested any other components to be included in the grant application. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Director Brooks made a MOTION to endorse the proposed Draft “Exhibit B to the Subgrant Agreement for Implementation of Grant Agreement Number 4600015265 Between the State of California Department of Water Resources and Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Grant Agreement Project Components Budget Allocation”, as presented. Director Heavin seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Director Heavin made a MOTION to approve the Program Manager to contact consultants for grant component projects. Director Brooks seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Director Brooks withdrew his seconding of the motion. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

Discussion followed. The Board directed staff to prepare Requests for Proposals and Scopes of work for the grant component projects.

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

Mr. Buelow reported that no cost share agreement is currently in place for the WMA GSA and one is needed to clarify member agency contributions to the WMA GSA as being temporary loans to be paid back to the member agency by the GSA.

Director Jordan made a MOTION directing legal counsel to draft a cost share agreement for the WMA GSA that includes reimbursement to member agencies from grant funds. Director Ball seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The cost share agreement will be presented to the Board for approval once it is drafted.

c. Review DWR Grant Invoice #2 transmittal

Mr. Buelow presented the Component Summary Table and Backup Documentation Summary Tables submitted to DWR on May 30, 2024, with Invoice #2 requesting reimbursement of \$129,626.37. He reported that this was for information only and that Invoice #2 included grant reimbursable invoices for GSP implementation efforts done January 1 through March 31, 2024. There was no discussion, public comment, or action taken.

d. Consider authorizing a contract with EKI for Component Management Services on behalf of the Santa Ynez Basin. Consider authorizing Plan Manager or Board President to sign same

Mr. Buelow reported that the joint GSAs member agencies staff recommend that one of the Basin's GSAs enter into a contract with one consultant for Component Management Services on behalf of the three GSAs in the Basin so that the consultant can create one deliverable for the Basin to DWR. Staff recommended that the WMA GSA contract with John Fio at EKI to manage Grant Components 2 and 5 for the Basin. Discussion followed. Mr. Torigiani, legal counsel for the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, emphasized the importance of having the Subgrant Agreement in place to establish the grant funding reimbursements to the GSAs.

Director Brooks made a MOTION authorizing the development of a contract with EKI for Component Management Services on behalf of the Santa Ynez Basin and directed staff to bring the contract back to Board for consideration. Director Ball seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

e. Review WMA Annual Report Comment Letter from DWR

Mr. Buelow reviewed the May 31, 2024, letter received from the California Department of Water Resources, Sustainable Groundwater Management Office regarding Review of Annual Report for the Western Management Area GSP, Santa Ynez River Valley Basin, Water Year 2023. DWR requires additional information be submitted in future annual reports to include groundwater extraction data that corresponds to the water year reporting period. DWR also noted the following few minor issues that should be addressed in future annual report submittals:

- The data submitted to the SGMA Portal needs to be aggregated for the entire basin, rather than separate data submittals for each GSA.
- The basin point of contact should submit one annual report for the entire Subbasin each year with the additional GSA specific information included as appendices, as necessary. The one coordinated annual report should document the aggregated data for the entire Subbasin that was submitted to the SGMA Portal while also presenting the GSA specific data and information in tabular form.

There was no discussion, public comment or action.

**9. Review draft 5-year Budget and rate study for WMA GSA**

Mr. Buelow presented a Draft 5-Year Budget for the Western Management Area GSA. The Board reviewed and discussed the Draft 5-Year Budget. The Board agreed that action to approve the 5-Year Budget should be delayed until next month's meeting to give sufficient time for review by Board Members. Ms. Worthley stated that the City of Lompoc requires an invoice for any cost contribution requests. Ms. Worthley asked if the USGS Lompoc Monitoring project should be transferred to the WMA GSA. Discussion followed. There was no public comment and no action.

**10. Receive update from legal counsel on the addition of an Agricultural Representative**

Mr. St. Lawrence provided an update on options to add an Agricultural Representative as a member of to the JPA. Mr. St. Lawrence reported that to add a non-voting "Associate Member" position, an amendment to the JPA would be required. It was further reported that the non-voting Associate Member would be the most appropriate manner of adding an agricultural representative to the Board in compliance with direction from DWR regarding non-public entity GSA members. Discussion followed.

Director Jordan made a MOTION directing Legal Counsel to draft an Amendment to the JPA to add an Associate non-voting member as an Agricultural Representative to be considered at the next Board meeting. Director Ball seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**11. Discuss tentative date of August 16, 2024, for Basin-wide Joint-GSAs Meeting**

Mr. Buelow announced that a Basin-wide Joint-GSAs meeting will not be scheduled for August 16, 2024, because the CMA GSA Board does not have a quorum available on that date. Discussion followed.

**12. Next Regular WMA GSA Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 24, 2024**

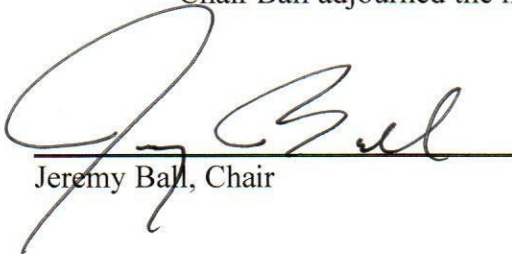
The next scheduled WMA GSA Board Regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Rd., Lompoc, California.

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

There were no reports or requests for future agenda items.

**14. Adjournment**

Chair Ball adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.



Jeremy Ball, Chair



Amber Thompson, Secretary