

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Board Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2022

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance & Safety Announcement/Roll Call

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Board Teleconference meeting convened, and Chairman Chuck Winn called the meeting to order, via the online Microsoft Teams Meeting platform, at 9:09 a.m. on February 9, 2022. The meeting was Teleconference only.

Chairman Winn led the agenda.

Mrs. Kristy Smith with San Joaquin County conducted the roll call.

In attendance were Chairman Chuck Winn; Vice Chairman Mel Panizza; Secretary Kris Balaji; Directors Jeremiah Mecham, Alan Nakanishi, Myron Blanton, Mike Henry, Tom Flinn, Eric Thorburn, John Herrick, Robert Holmes; Alternate Directors Dante Nomellini, Reid Roberts, Mel Lytle.

II. Workshop

The Workshop portion of the meeting was conducted and led by Mr. Matt Zidar of San Joaquin County Public Works. The Workshop was recorded and made available on the ESJGroundwater.org website. Mr. Zidar provided an overview of the workshop topics, schedule, and presenters.

A. ESJ Integrated Water Flow Model (IWFM) – Future Baseline and GSA Water Budgets

Dr. Ali Taghavi with Woodard & Curran led the workshop presentation providing the Model Update background, work completed, progress made, and next steps. Dr. Taghavi used slides and graphing to provide information on the Model Calibration Updates, Land and Water Use Budget, Projected Hydrology, Water Budget, and Water Accounting Framework.

B. Water Accounting Framework (WAF) Strategy Development

Ms. Emily Finnegan and Mr. Craig Moyle with Stantec led the WAF presentation portion of the Workshop. Ms. Finnegan provided details on the WAF Roles and Processes, Timeline, Key Documents Used, Workshops, and Next Steps. Ms. Finnegan provided an overview of the Survey results and discussed the next steps of Focus Groups and Potential Interview Questions. It was requested by the attendees, that the survey results be packaged up in a summary document for distribution to the GSAs.

C. Funding & Financing Strategy Development – Basic Tools for the GWA and GSAs

Mr. Zidar led the Workshop presentation related to Funding and Financing Strategy Development. Mr. Zidar provided information on the authorities who are eligible to apply the different funding authorities, projects being funded now and in the future, and potential funding mechanisms.

III. Business Meeting and Scheduled Items

A. Discussion/Action Items:

1. Approval of the December 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Winn called for the approval of minutes of the meeting on December 8, 2021. There were no comments by the GWA Board members and no comments by the public.

Motion:

Director Robert Holmes moved, and Director John Herrick second, approval of the December 8, 2021 minutes.

Roll Call Vote was conducted, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and Possible Action to Adopt Resolution R-22-XX Determining to Conduct Meetings Using Teleconferencing Pursuant to Government Code 54953 as Amended by AB 361

Chairman Winn asked for a motion to approve the Resolution Determining to Conduct Meetings Using Teleconferencing Pursuant to Government Code 54953 as Amended by AB 361.

Motion:

Director Robert Holmes moved, and Director Eric Thorburn second, adoption of the resolution R-22-XX. Roll Call Vote was conducted, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Resolution Approving Submittal of a Grant Application and Spending Plan to the Department of Water Resources for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation Grant Under the Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program

Mr. Zidar provided a review of the grant opportunity and status, noting the application due date of 2/28/22. Mr. Zidar provided the group with an overview of the resolution and requested action by the Board. Ms. Kincaid questioned who the grant applicant would be, and Ms. Mary Elizabeth, member of the public, questioned the budget plan for the grant application and if included. Mr. Zidar noted that the GWA is the applicant and that all documents related to the application have been provided previously and could be provided again if needed.

Chairman Winn asked for a motion to approve the Resolution Approving Submittal of a Grant Application and Spending Plan to the Department of Water Resources for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation Grant Under the Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program.

Motion:

Director Mike Henry moved, Director Tom Flinn second, approval of the resolution R-22-XX. Roll Call Vote was conducted, the motion passed unanimously.

4. DWR GSP Comments and Response Plan

Mr. Zidar provided a brief overview of the history and timeline of the DWR GSP Comments, noting the unofficial comments received and possible response matrix, the official comments received, and draft response matrix developed. Mr. Zidar provided an overview of the proposed DWR Comment Response Plan developed and submitted by several of the GSAs.

Mr. Zidar asked, as part of the proposed plan, the Board approve the following.

- The creation of a Legal Ad-Hoc Committee, to be composed of volunteers appointed by the Chairman.
- The expansion of the TAC Group membership.
- The creation of a DWR Coordination Team, comprised of TAC members who will discuss issues and/or questions with DWR.

- Authorize the GWA Secretary to allocate funds budgeted in the 21/22 FY Budget, to Woodard & Curran task order to support the coordination of work groups and preparation of response.

Mr. Zidar noted that the groups would meet bi-weekly and all requests, nominations, appointments to these groups should be submitted to staff for the Chairman's review.

Discussion was had on the formation of the Ad-Hoc Groups, noting that they were not legislative bodies under Brown Act and therefore do not fall under Brown Act guidelines and member count must be kept under the GWA quorum.

Ms. Mary Elizabeth, member of the public, commented that the TAC is posted on the website as having a regular meeting time. Ms. Elizabeth additionally read a written comment on the proposed DWR Comment Responses. Mr. Zidar requested that the written comment be submitted to staff for full inclusion in the meeting minutes.

Chairman Winn asked for a motion to approve and move forward with the proposed DWR Response Process as presented by staff.

Motion:

Director Robert Holmes moved, Director Jon Herrick second, approval and moving forward with the DWR Response Process as presented.

Roll Call Vote was conducted, the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Staff and DWR Reports

A. Staff Report

None Provided.

B. DWR Report

Ms. Chelsea Spier with DWR provided an items of interest update to the group, noting the following items.

- The 2022 GSPs have been posted and DWR has 20 days for completion check.
- There is currently a Department of Conservation grant opportunity for land repurposing projects, with a submittal date of 4/1/22.
- The final date to comment on the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan is 2/10/22.
- The public website for the California Water Plan 2023 has been launched.
- The DWR River Stewardship Program grant is currently open.

Mr. Zidar requested that Ms. Spier obtain and provide additional details on the Department of Conservation Grant guidelines.

V. Directors' Comments

Director Robert Holmes commented that the group is at a crossroads and needs to stay focused, get the Ad-Hoc Committees set, and address DWR's comments. Need to get this done for the Basin. There was discussion of GWA priorities, and it was a consensus that responding to DWR and gaining approval for the GSP was the primary goal, and that pushing on the Basin Accounting Framework at this time may be a distraction for the available time and resources.

Chairman Winn requested that any interest in participating in the Ad-Hoc Committees be submitted by close of business Friday, February 11, 2022.

VI. Public Comment

Ms. Mary Elizabeth provided comments regarding the ESJGroundwater.org website, noting the website should include more information and links, the Groundwater Reports are not posted up to date, Annual Reports posted to SGMA website are not included on GWA website, and that presentations and audio/video recordings should be posted. Ms. Elizabeth added comments regarding the public comment agenda item being included on all agendas and outreach status and need. Ms. Elizabeth read a written statement for many of the items commented on. Mr. Zidar requested that the written comment be submitted to staff for full inclusion in the meeting minutes.

Mr. John Lambie, member of the public, questioned who was eligible to be on an Ad-Hoc Committee. It was advised that elected officials/members of the GWA would be appropriate members, and that they can request or appoint others to join.

VII. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates:

None Provided.

VIII. Adjournment:

Chairman Winn adjourned the February 9, 2022 meeting at 11:53 a.m.

Next Regular Meeting:

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Location TBD