



1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Sheehan called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Regional Water Authority/Sacramento Groundwater Authority office. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

Board Members

George Leidy, Carmichael Water District
Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
Linda Dorn, County of Sacramento
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company
John Wingerter, Orange Vale Water Company
Mary Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Rob Swartz, Nancy Marrier, Cecilia Partridge, Monica Garcia and Chris Sanders, legal counsel

Others in Attendance

Joe Duran, Tom Gray, Greg Zlotnick, Laura Byrd, Trevor Joseph, NC Doyel, Alan Vail, Bob Reisig, Ali Taghavi, Matti Siltanen, Hilary Straus, David Gordon and Alan Driscoll.

A quorum was not present at this meeting; therefore, no actions could be taken.

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Ewart moved, with a second by Mr. Yasutake, to continue with the information items on the agenda. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

The minutes of the August 8, 2019 meeting.

A quorum was not present at this meeting; therefore, no action was taken on this agenda item.

4. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT AND GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (GSP) DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Mr. Swartz said that progress continues on activities related to developing a GSP for the North American Subbasin (NASb). A summary table of activities related to the scope of work for the NASb relative to the DWR Proposition Sustainable Groundwater Planning (SGWP) grant was enclosed in the packet. Also enclosed was a summary of the budget with respect to the NASb SGWP grant activities.

All monitoring wells have been constructed and equipped with pressure transducers that measure the pressure being exerted on top of the transducers. This data can be converted to determine water elevation levels in the well. At this time, measurements are being taken four times a day to provide a continuous record of each well. Staff is sampling a series of additional monitoring wells in the basin for water quality. These are wells that have been constructed by other agencies. Staff is beginning to draft some of the chapters of the sustainability plan with background information. The most controversial future item will be the water budget.

The grant program budget that was included in the packet reflects the funding that staff is managing on behalf of the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs). Additional items have been identified that need to be completed. A website has been developed, www.NASbgroundwater.org where the public can access information on who to contact if they are in a certain area within the subbasin. The website is also an opportunity to sign up as a stakeholder to receive meeting notifications.

5: SACRAMENTO REGIONAL WATER BANK

Mr. Swartz provided an overview of how the proposed Sacramento Regional Water Bank (Water Bank) would work and the remaining planning needed to have an operational Water Bank by 2022. The Water Bank is being developed through the Regional Water Authority (RWA).

Related to planning for the Water Bank, RWA successfully applied for funding assistance through the United Bureau of Reclamation's Basin Study – Water Management Options Pilot Program. RWA has been awarded \$650,400 that will be used to conduct operations modeling with Reclamation to ensure that the Water Bank does not impact Central Valley Project operations. The operations model is of surface water operations related to reservoirs and rivers, and it would need to be linked to the regional integrated water flow model (IWFM); a groundwater model currently being developed in the region to evaluate the Water Bank. The IWFM model development is being used to meet the local cost share requirement for the Reclamation funding support. Because SGA is managing the development of the IWFM model for the North American Subbasin (NASb), SGA would need to be a part

of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) currently being developed between RWA and Reclamation. This would allow the funds being used for the NASb IWFM to be counted as local cost share.

Mr. Swartz reported that conjunctive use has been successful in stabilizing groundwater levels in the region, but we expect the hydrology to change significantly in the future. Developing a Water Bank can help incentivize expanding conjunctive use and ensure future sustainability. Following groundwater banking guidelines can help ensure future success under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). A 2018 pilot proved our ability to work together and understand many of the mechanisms of the Water Bank. The 2018 pilot showed the positive results of agencies working together with the baseline groundwater use, total pumped and transfer credited for each agency. It is anticipated to finish planning the Water Bank and to become fully operational in 2022. Additional facilities could expand on operational capacity as funding becomes available.

The Water Bank is ultimately storage, putting water in the system in wet years and a recovery program in dry years. The Water Bank would have an accounting system to ensure that we are operating sustainably. The Bureau of Reclamation has recognized other water banks, which are required from the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. This act committed 700,000 acre-feet of water to the environment, resulting in impacts to those who had Central Valley Project contracts. To help mitigate the impacts, Bureau of Reclamation was directed to allow for the establishment of groundwater banks so that in a wet year, if there was no need to take the water, it could be banked for recovery in a future dry year. There are allowances for multi-year storage. Water has to be stored before it can be recovered.

A quorum was not present at this meeting; therefore, no action was taken on this agenda item.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Finance and Administrative Services Manager Recruitment – Ms. Josette Reina-Luken started on October 8th as the new Finance and Administrative Services Manager.

Mr. Peifer announced that Jack DeWit, long-time SGA Board AG representative, has passed away.

SCGA Request - The Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) recently adopted a strategic plan. A goal of the SCGA plan states the SCGA will “Determine the most appropriate governance structure that effectively represents the diverse stakeholders and executes the mission of the SCGA.”

Two objectives associated with this goal include: “...model SCGA after the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA), or other measures to most effectively

and efficiently govern” and “create new governance to foster independence, transparency, accountability, and cost efficiency as it relates to the long-term management of the basin.”

The RWA has received a request from the SCGA to brief the SCGA board on the RWA staffing relationship with the SGA and the feasibility of providing staff to SCGA in a similar method. SCGA has requested the RWA staff review the details and feasibility of providing staff to SCGA and present the findings to the SCGA at a future board meeting. A copy of the letter making the request was included in the packet.

SGA Outreach – Mr. Peifer submitted an application to serve on the Association of California Water Agencies’ Groundwater Committee.

Mr. Peifer and Mr. Swartz met with Ms. Terrie Mitchell on October 3rd from the Sacramento Regional Sanitation District, Dave Richardson from Woodard & Curran, and Erik Ringleberg from the Freshwater Trust to discuss the Sacramento Regional Water Bank and the South County Ag Project.

Jim Peifer participated on a panel on Urban, Rural and Agricultural Supplies at the State Water Resources Control Board on September 23rd. The panel discussion was part of a larger drought panel discussion to inform the Water Resilience Portfolio Initiative.

Rob Swartz presented on the Sacramento Regional Water Bank to the Groundwater Resources Association of California’s Western Groundwater Congress on September 19th and to the City of Sacramento Water Committee on September 24th.

Water Resilience Portfolio Initiative – On April 29, 2019, Governor Newsom signed an executive order directing his administration to develop a comprehensive strategy to build a climate-resilient water system. The order directs the secretaries of the California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Food and Agriculture to identify and assess a suite of complementary actions to ensure safe and resilient water supplies, flood protection and healthy waterways for the state’s communities, economy and environment.

The RWA has sent a comment letter with recommendations to inform the Governor’s Water Resilience Portfolio initiative, which will partly focus on successful groundwater management and future opportunities resulting from it, such as the Sacramento Regional Water Bank.

Water Forum Update – The Water Forum recently completed a 7.5 acre gravel spawning project near Sailor Bar on the American River. See attached press release and FAQ.

Water Forum staff continue to provide support to the Voluntary Agreement (VA) effort. The VAs would provide an alternative to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff proposed update to the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan which would substantially modify flows into the Delta. The VAs provide flow and habitat, and for this region, a version of the American River Flow Management Standard. The VA proposal is currently being evaluated by the SWRCB to determine if it provides equivalent benefits to the staff proposal.

Other efforts include facilitation of SGMA efforts south of the American River and the planning/permitting of habitat projects.

An article on PFAS has been written in the LA Times with information provided by Cal Am. The article may be of immediate interest in our region. Mr. Peifer handed out key messages on new PFAS monitoring requirements. The Regional Contamination Issues Committee will meet on Oct 24th at 9:30 a.m. This is a quarterly meeting that is attended mostly by staff. Anyone needing further information was asked to contact Rob Swartz.

Mr. Swartz said that items discussed at the meetings include updates on McClellan and Aerojet contamination, with updates on the status of remediation operations and any issues that have come up since the last meeting. Staff receives agency updates on projects they are working on to deal with contamination issues. It is expected that there will be discussion on PFAS and the results of the required testing that has been done.

The 2019 RWA Holiday Social is scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2019 at North Ridge Country Club.

7. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Ewart said that the City of Sacramento has just completed sending all the water back to Sacramento Suburban Water District to complete their water transfer. They will be continuing to send water to SSWD for the coming year.

Ms. Harris introduced Bob Reisig as the new SGA alternate representative for Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District. Jerry Wickham, long time Board Member, has passed away.

Mr. Yasutake said that the Folsom City Council authorized staff to issue Prop 218 Notices for rate increases for water, waste water and soft waste. The notices are expected to be mailed next week. A public workshop is scheduled for November 6th with a public hearing on December 10th.

Mr. Peifer noted that because there was not a quorum present that he will decide if a special meeting is needed or if the items will be placed on the December SGA board meeting agenda.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, Vice Chair Sheehan adjourned the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Nancy Marrier, Finance and Administrative Services Manager