

**SOQUEL APTOS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SAGMC)
MEETING MINUTES**

November 12, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

Tom Lahue called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Voting Committee Members Present:

Bruce Jaffe, Chair, Soquel Creek Water District (arrived at 7:08 p.m.)

Tom LaHue, Soquel Creek Water District

John Benich, Central Water District

Bob Postle, Central Water District

Zach Friend, County of Santa Cruz

John Leopold, County of Santa Cruz

Cynthia Mathews, City of Santa Cruz

Micah Posner, City of Santa Cruz (arrived at 7:07 p.m.)

Curt Abramson, Private Well Owner Representative

Jim Kerr, Private Well Owner Representative

Jon Kennedy, Private Well Owner Representative

Others Present:

John Ricker, County of Santa Cruz

Rosemary Menard, City of Santa Cruz

Ron Duncan, Soquel Creek Water District

Julia Townsend, Regional Water Management Foundation

Cameron Tana, HydroMetrics WRI

Sierra Ryan, County of Santa Cruz

Matt Orbach, Soquel Creek Water District

Marci DuPraw, Center for Collaborative Policy, CSU Sacramento

Charles Baughman, San Lorenzo Valley Water District

Brian Lockwood, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of September 17, 2015

MOTION: Cynthia Mathews; Second; John Leopold: To approve the minutes of September 17, 2015. Motion carried unanimously. Zach Friend abstained.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (*items not on the Agenda*)

None mentioned

5. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

5.1 Accept Quarterly Monitoring Report

Cameron Tana presented the Quarterly Monitoring Report, and discussed historic and current levels of seawater intrusion at well sites. Although freshwater levels are rising in the Purisima due to conservation, they are not yet at adequate elevations to prevent long term seawater intrusion. Ron Duncan added that decreased demand has allowed water levels to rise, but the lack of rainfall and subsequent lack of recharge will result in a delayed decrease. He reported on a recent event at Stanford that had related coastal intrusion graphics. John Ricker added that the data should be tied to coastal monitoring. Jon Kennedy wondered how anticipated sea level rise (SLR) will impact the freshwater interface over the next ten years. Cameron Tana reported that current research points to SLR as less of a concern with respect to confined aquifers than one might think. He continued that the Purisima is more confined and the effect may be mitigated over the long term. Additionally, the effect in unconfined aquifers is highly theoretical at the present moment. He closed by suggesting that pumping goals be the focus rather than SLR, and that lower recharge over the long term would be a greater factor.

MOTION: John Leopold; Second: Bruce Jaffe; To accept the Quarterly Monitoring Report. Motion carried unanimously.

5.2 Review Basin Boundary Modification and Approve Resolution 15-01

Cameron Tana presented the draft boundary modifications, local basin units, and priority levels. He reported that boundary regulations are to be adopted next week. Mr. Tana explained that the Department of Water Resources defines a basin as a stacked series of aquifers that create a shared resource, and that in this area they are stacked and tilted. He commented that external and internal modifications require different information in the state submittal, and discussed potential scientific and jurisdictional modifications.

The group discussed when and how small basins outside of the boundary would be incorporated. John Ricker suggested that one option would be to prevent conflict by stating that if a site is on the line they are outside of the boundary. Cameron Tana acknowledged that he needs to correct the basins attributed to the locations listed in Table 1. The group discussed different scenarios depending on how the smaller basins end up being classified. Mr. Tana reported that he worked with Ralph Bracamonte to incorporate the Central Water District's position since last meeting. They do not want to be in more than one GSA or be managed by the state. Micah Posner suggested that if the proposal is not accepted as written, the group do the paperwork to bring the rest of the West Santa Cruz Terrace basin into the picture.

MOTION: Cynthia Mathews; Second: Jon Kennedy; To accept the basin boundary modification and approve resolution 15-01. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Cynthia Mathews; Second: Micah Posner; To continue to monitor WSCT basin status, and revisit the boundaries if it changes. Motion carried unanimously.

John Ricker said he would circulate a model letter of support. Rosemary Menard suggested that the letters accompany the state submittal. The group discussed basin naming options. Cynthia Mathews asked to have the minutes show that staff should take this resolution back to their respective agencies.

MOTION: Bruce Jaffe; Second: Tom LaHue; To have Cameron Tana vet the name Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin and Agency with the Department of Water Resources and adopt it officially if acceptable. Motion carried unanimously.

5.3 Receive Information Pertaining to the Department of Water Resource's Sustainable Groundwater Planning (SGWP) Grant for Counties with Stressed Basins and Approve Support for Santa Cruz County to Apply

John Ricker summarized the guidelines that were released recently related to the \$250,000 available, and reported that the work plan and budget are still being developed. The focus will most likely be the Soquel-Aptos basin, and the grant will address short term overdraft. Components include: public outreach, technical assistance to private well owners, and information on how private well usage affects the basin. Bob Postle asked about the grant/match split, and John replied that the match for this grant cannot come from other sources.

Cynthia Mathews reported that the Water Supply Advisory Committee has presented their final recommendations and that the city of Santa Cruz will take formal action at their next meeting. For the next stage it would be helpful to fund a model from HydroMetrics. Micah Posner suggested that the grant include how successful county-level voluntary conservation actions have been. Bruce Jaffe arrived at 7:08 p.m., and asked about the match details. John Ricker mentioned that the budget for this group for this year is \$500,000.

MOTION: John Leopold; Micah Posner Second; To approve support for Santa Cruz County to apply for the SGWP Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

5.4 Provide Direction on Draft Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)

Ron Duncan reported back from the GSA Formation Subcommittee which met last week. Jon Kennedy (Subcommittee Chair) reviewed the work of the Subcommittee over the past eight months. They have agreed on the GSA scope and structure, reviewed legal issues, met with legal counsel regarding the JPA, reviewed the draft JPA, and requested that members take draft JPA back to agencies for suggestions.

Mr. Kennedy acknowledged that the Subcommittee is otherwise ready to adopt the draft JPA, and that the remaining details will be figured out in the GSA development process. The Subcommittee is not recommending weighted voting, and has agreed to one alternative representative per agency. Additionally, the draft JPA includes unanimous consent from all members. The group discussed the pros and cons of different voting options (e.g. proportional voting based on funding contribution, unanimity as a requirement, and weighted voting).

John Ricker added that the difference between this JPA and the existing structure is that decisions are made by the JPA board, and consultation with agencies has to happen prior to the final JPA vote. Bruce Jaffe suggested two voting sessions. Jon Kennedy confirmed that private well representatives will have a seat on the board which allows them to influence the process, but voting on financial decision will be left to the agencies. He added that some aspects are still to be determined through the Sustainability Plan and by-laws (e.g. assessments, etc.). Bruce Jaffe reported that legal counsel has requested feedback on what the JPA would be called.

Jon Kennedy shared that the Subcommittee is suggesting bi-monthly meetings, and will reconvene during the third week in February. Bruce Jaffe asked for comments from those not on the Subcommittee and suggested tabling the name of the JPA for later. Rosemary Menard asked the group to keep in mind during the review process that the JPA might need to be revised during the development of the Sustainability Plan. Ron Duncan reported that the draft JPA is built upon standard existing JPAs and allows MOUs to be created with individual agencies for implementation purposes.

Cynthia Mathews suggested a prologue reflecting Rosemary and Ron's comments so that agency review will focus on more substantive issues. Micah Posner concurred and added that the prologue should include the names and qualifications of the lawyer that drafted it. Bruce Jaffe highlighted that the members do not have to be elected officials and the mantra is to capture broad input. He added that the group needs to discuss which agency will be the procedural parent regarding items not outlined out in the JPA. Mr. Jaffe said that legal counsel has suggested the county or city of Santa Cruz for this role. John Leopold acknowledged the work of the subcommittee in drafting the JPA. Rosemary Menard volunteered to write an introductory paragraph before it goes out for review. The group agreed to review agency comments at the next meeting in January.

MOTION: Cynthia Mathews; Second: Bruce Jaffe; To accept the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency as a working group title. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Micah Posner; Second: Tom LaHue; To accept the draft JPA and have each agency review it and provide comments by January 7th. Motion carried unanimously.

5.5 Approve Scope of Work for Coordination and Outreach Services to Assist with SAGMC Efforts

Ron Duncan reported that the current budget includes \$50,000 for outreach. He continued that Marci DuPraw is currently filling this gap and would like to continue.

MOTION: Cynthia Mathews; Second: John Leopold; To accept the Scope of Work for coordination and outreach services. Motion carried unanimously.

5.6 Update on Public Outreach Efforts

Jim Kerr reported that the website is live, and that John Ricker and Sierra Ryan will manage the website and send postcards to private well owners. Sierra Ryan said she would update the name of the group as appropriate. Micah Posner asked Sierra to tell the group when to refer others to the website. Cynthia Mathews suggested that the names and faces of group representatives be posted online. Sierra Ryan and Matt Orbach reported that they will work on the mailing list as needed.

5.7 Approve 2016 SAGMC Meeting Schedule

Ron Duncan suggested that the group continue meeting bi-monthly until the JPA is finalized then re-assess. If the group continues to meet on the third Thursday of odd months, then January 21st and March 17th are coming up next. The group agreed to send Rosemary Menard agency feedback on the JPA by January 7th. Rosemary committed to compile the feedback by January 17th for a staff report at the January 21st meeting. Bruce Jaffe requested an updated schedule for the next meeting, and Ron said he would update the schedule and ensure that it gets posted online as well.

MOTION: John Leopold; Second: Tom LaHue; To adopt the meeting schedule outlined above. Motion carried unanimously.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Circle of Blue Articles

6.2 ACWA Regulatory Summit (10/14/2015)

6.3 Letter from County Supervisor Designating Alternate SAGMC Representative

6.4 Other Information

Matt Orbach circulated a draft agenda for the December 10th Mid-County Groundwater Stakeholder Group meeting at the Regional Water Management Foundation in Aptos.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Oral – time for any SAGMC member to report out.

John Leopold reported that there will be a “State of Water” event in Santa Cruz County at the end of January focusing on a theme of “connecting the drops”. John Laird will provide the keynote, and there will be a panel highlighting community collaboration and the efforts going on around the county. The tentative date is currently January 28th.

Cynthia Mathews shared that at a chamber of community affairs meeting today, one of their three priorities for the coming year is water. It would be great to engage with them moving forward. John Leopold said that he will be reaching out to chambers and agencies for sponsorships and to get people involved in the “State of Water” event. Cynthia Mathews committed to reach out to chambers regarding the website. John Leopold said he would circulate a handout for the event. Ron Duncan added that sooner is better as far as getting the event posted in agency newsletters.

Micah Posner reported that the Water Supply Advisory Committee’s recommendations have been received and are currently online. He welcomed the group to provide input or support informally, by email, or by attending a meeting. He urged the group to get involved before the next council meeting in two weeks. Mr. Posner closed by saying that he hopes that the committee’s recommendations will be part the work plan of this group.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. The next meeting of the SAGMC will be on Thursday, January 21, 2016.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Julia Townsend, Program Associate
Regional Water Management Foundation

Ron Duncan, Interim General Manager
Soquel Creek Water District