

# Board Meeting

## Sonoma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: October 22, 2018

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Valley of the Moon Water District, Board Room

Address: 19039 Bay Street, Sonoma, CA 95476

<http://www.sonomacountygroundwater.org/sv>

<b>Member Agency</b>	<b>Directors</b>	<b>Alternates</b>
City of Sonoma	David Cook	Gary Edwards
County of Sonoma	Susan Gorin	James Gore
North Bay Water District	Mike Sangiacomo	Carolyn Wasem
Sonoma County Water Agency	David Rabbit	James Gore
Sonoma Resource Conservation District	Vicki Mulas	Bruce Abelli-Amen
Valley of the Moon Water District	Mark Heneveld	Bruce Adams

### Agenda

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call**

**Director Susan Gorin**, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm, and noted that a quorum of the board was present, consisting of the following Directors: Susan Gorin, Mark Heneveld, Vicki Mulas and David Rabbitt. Director David Cook was absent.

**2. Public Employee Performance Evaluation (GC § 54957) Title: Legal Counsel**

The closed session started at 4.04 p.m. and the regular meeting then reconvened at 4:33 p.m.

**3. Public comment on matters not listed on the agenda but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the board.**

**Mike Martini**, Sonoma Alliance for Vineyards & Environment, noted that farmers, primarily in Santa Rosa Plain, are doing recharge and monitoring wells. They want to use dollars to create solutions, not bureaucracy. They want to be part of the solution.

The Board agreed they would like to include this topic at their next meeting and discuss what this proposal would mean to Sonoma Valley.

**4. Consent Calendar**

**a. Approve Minutes of August 27, 2018**

**b. Approve Year-to-Date Financial Report**

**c. Approve Year-to-Date Member Agency Contributions**

No public comment.

**Director Mulas** moved to approve the consent calendar as presented, **Director Heneveld** seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Director/Subcommittee Reports**

**Director Rabbitt** spoke to the SCFC Water Committee about water overall, and inter-connectedness. There are a lot of items in flux: Potter Valley Project, the Russian River Biological Opinion, recycled water, SGMA. Resiliency is as important now as water quality/quantity was in 1970s. People need to get something for their fee: resiliency. It's about building reliable, sustainable water for the next generation.

**6. Advisory Committee Report**

**Ann DuBay** mentioned the Permit Sonoma staff presentation and said staff will be meeting with Permit Sonoma and bringing a conceptual proposal back to the Advisory Committee for discussion. If the Advisory Committee recommends it, the proposal will be brought to the Board for discussion.

No public comment.

**7. Information Item**

**a. Basin Boundary Modification Update**

**Jay Jasperse**, Plan Manager, gave a report on the Basin Boundary Modification (BBM) to align the basin line with the county line in the Napa-Sonoma area.

- Question – Napa Valley chose a different way of complying with SGMA, so how is the BBM relevant?
  - Napa has two basins: Upper basin (doing an alternative plan). The lower basin has been reprioritized, and this is why the county line issue has become important.
- Question - Do the Napa-Sonoma lowlands have the same saline water issues and declining GW levels?
  - It's a little tricky, it's not clear whether they have enough data.
- Question - Are the boundary-straddling parcel issues resolved?
  - No.

The Board requested a future update on the Napa-Sonoma Lowlands.

**b. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update**

**Marcus Trotta**, Sonoma Water, gave an update on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Sonoma Water is in the finishing stages of developing the final agreement with DWR (awaiting signature). Costs going back to June 2017 will be reimbursable. Marcus reviewed the work plan and annotated outline and noted there will be a public workshop in the March/April timeframe.

- Question – is there a timeline for the plan?

- Working through the plan in pieces. Will be working with the Advisory Committee section by section. Draft sections are available on the Advisory Committee meeting website.
- Question - Will the GSP elements be broken out in more manageable chunks?
  - Yes, staff can provide information as detailed **as the Board wants**.

## 8. Action Items

### a. **Contract with Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water); Consider authorization to enter into a contract with Sonoma Water through June 30, 2022 to provide technical, outreach, and grant administration services to the GSA.**

- Question - What is reimbursable?
  - **About 85 percent of the technical, outreach and facilitation work is reimbursable. The grant administration is not reimbursable.**

No public comment.

**Director Mulas** moved to approve a Service Agreement with Sonoma County Water Agency for Technical Services, Outreach and Communication, and Grant Writing and Administration, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,074,588, from November 1, 2018 through June 30, 2022. **Director Sangiacomo** seconded. **Director Rabbitt** abstained. The motion passed 4-0-2 (**Director Cook** absent).

### b. **Contract with Parker Groundwater: Consider amendment to contract with Parker Groundwater through October 31, 2019, to provide facilitation services.**

No public comment.

**Director Rabbitt** moved to amend the contract with Parker Groundwater to facilitate Advisory Committee meetings for an amount not to exceed \$32,000, **Director Mulas** seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0-1 (Director Cook absent)

### c. **Contract with Kronick, Moskowitz, Tiedeman and Girard, LLC: Pending outcome of closed session item, consider amending contract for legal services through June 30, 2019.**

No public comment.

**Director Rabbitt** moved to amend the existing contract by adding \$25,000, and extending it through June 30, 2019, **Director Mulas** seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0-1 (Director Cook absent).

### d. **Contract with Sonoma Ecology Center: Consider authorization to enter into a contract with the Sonoma Ecology Center to provide seepage (stream flow) monitoring services to the GSA through November 15, 2019.**

Public Comments

Steve Lee, Sonoma Ecology Center, introduced himself.

- Question - What are the important points to monitor?
  - Streams are the low places in the basin where the groundwater comes to the surface. Where streams dry out, gives indication of where groundwater is drying out. The monitoring will help identify locations where there are problems.
- Question - Where are the sites?

- All over the watershed. Example: Starting in Kenwood Plain (alluvial, water sinking into basin; Morton Warm Springs area (water squeezed out because of bedrock – gaining stream)
- Question - Do you monitor below Highway 121?
  - No, because of interactions with estuarine system.

Jim Bundschu, Advisory Committee, mentioned that he had been given a map at the Advisory Committee meeting of six proposed monitoring wells along Sonoma Creek, but there are other areas that need to be monitored too (El Verano). Need to be sure that resources are spent in other areas as well.

- Question - How fluid will monitoring locations be now and into the future?
  - Seepage runs measure the gain/loss between two areas. It started in 2003-2004, is valley-wide, and is very valuable. Have been working with DWR on technical assistance program to put in shallow wells near Sonoma Creek so we can look at river stage and shallow wells to see if gaining/losing. Can also take temperature of wells and streams and gage interaction. Focusing on Sonoma Creek, because it always has water in it.
- Question - How will this information be incorporated into the GSP?
  - Groundwater-surface water interaction is a required element in the plan. This will help us determine what this looks like.
- Question - Will monitoring wells be put in areas where there isn't always streamflow?
  - Seepage monitoring is valley-wide. Monitoring wells (funded by DWR); about 50 feet, targeting shallow aquifer. May ask them to fund deeper monitoring wells (up to 700 feet to close data gaps). As part of the plan, they will be doing a data gaps assessment to strategically look at areas where they don't have good data.

**Director Rabbitt** moved to authorize the Administrator to execute an agreement with SEC for seepage monitoring for a not-to-exceed amount of \$30,000, through November 15, 2019, **Director Heneveld** seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0-1 (Director Cook absent).

## 9. Legal Counsel, Plan Manager and Administrator Reports

**Scott Morris**, General Counsel, provided an update on the Scott River case, which involved a public trust doctrine.

- Question - When new tributaries are created from floods and run-off, will these be considered new non-navigable waters?
  - It's case by case, because lots of different rules regarding navigable waters. States navigable waters are broader than federal navigable waters. It will likely be larger creeks that dry up when groundwater pumping, versus, creeks that are influenced by primarily rainfall.
- Question - What's ELF?
  - Environmental Law Foundation

Bottom line: GSP should explicitly consider public trust.

**Jay Jasperse** presented the Plan Manager update. He said that GSA staff is coordinating with Permit Sonoma on the Scott River case, as it could impact well permitting (ministerial permits) countywide.

**Ann DuBay** mentioned the Administrator Report is in the packet.

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.