



Board Meeting Sonoma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Regular Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Date: May 20, 2019

Time: 3:30p.m.

Location: Valley of the Moon Water District, Board Room

Address: 19039 Bay Street, Sonoma, CA 95476

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

Member Agency	Directors	Alternates
City of Sonoma	Rachel Hundley	Logan Harvey
County of Sonoma	Susan Gorin	James Gore
North Bay Water District	Mike Sangiacomo	Carolyn Wasem
Sonoma County Water Agency	David Rabbitt	James Gore
Sonoma Resource Conservation District	Vicki Mulas	Bruce Abelli-Amen
Valley of the Moon Water District	Ron Prushko	Steve Rogers

Agenda

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

Director Susan Gorin, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 3.35 p.m., and noted that a quorum of the Board was present consisting of the following Directors: **Susan Gorin, Vicki Mulas, Mike Sangiacomo, David Rabbitt**, and **Ron Prushko**. **Director Hundley** was absent. Also present were Ann DuBay, Sonoma Valley GSA Administrator, Jay Jasperse, Plan Manager, and Marcus Trotta, Sonoma Water.

2. Public comment on matters not listed on the agenda but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board.

None.

3. Consent Calendar

Questions/Comments: None

Director Rabbitt moved to approve the consent calendar as presented, **Director Mulas** seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Vote: 5-0-1 (**Director Hundley** absent)

4. Directors/Subcommittee Report

Chair Gorin announced that Helge Bruckner resigned from the Advisory Committee because of health reasons. The Board discussed their thoughts on filling the vacancy representing business owners, especially the 8th Street East corridor.

Comments:

- **Director Sangiacomo:** It would be preferable to find someone with similar background and qualifications.
- **Director Mulas:** Ideally, someone would fill the seat who has a similar capacity/role as Helge in 8th street corridor.
- **Chair Gorin:** Echoed the prior comments. The GSA will generate a conversation with property managers/ business owners who have an interest in filling the role. The GSA should look to the past implementation team for suggestions.

Staff will review past applications, and if needed will put out a call for applications. Board members should let potential applicants know to contact Ann DuBay.

5. Advisory Committee Report

No verbal update, the report is included in the packet.

6a. Technical Support Services

Marcus Trotta, Sonoma Water, gave a short presentation on the California Department of Water Resources' Technical Support Services.

The GSA applied for and received from DWR agreement to install up to six shallow monitoring wells. The GSA will incur some costs for permits for wells and support services for construction of wells. These costs are already built into the budget and into Sonoma Water's technical services agreement with the GSA. The GSA has also asked for TSS for deep wells, depending on funding availability.

The item is asking for authorization for the administrator to enter into agreement with DWR.

Board Comments/Questions

- **Director Prushko:** How many wells?
 - Five or six wells at 50 feet deep. Near streams and near stream gauges to monitor interactions.
- **Director Mulas:** How much is the cost?
 - The wells each cost around \$10,000-\$15,000 to drill, including permitting and site work. DWR will drill the wells, and the GSA will pay for the rest. The contract is for service, and will have the cost worked out.
- **Chair Gorin:** How do you select where well monitors go? Why would property owner want a well on their property?
 - The wells are located in areas where there are data shortages and near existing stream gages. Well owners often like the opportunity to learn what is happening to the groundwater levels on their property. These dedicated monitoring wells provide important information.
- **Director Mulas:** Is some of the monitoring occurring with wells in the voluntary program?
 - No, these are separate, dedicated monitoring wells. They aren't used to pump water for irrigation or homes.

- **Director Sangiacomo:** Some shallow wells are at 200 feet and others are at 50 feet. Why are these at 50 feet?
 - The purpose of these wells is to look at groundwater and surface water interaction, which is one the SGMA undesirable results. The wells will also provide information on water temperature, which can be helpful to learn about the aquifer.
- **Director Prushko:** Are we monitoring Felder Creek/Rogers Creek?
 - Nothing is currently scoped for that area, but we can look at this.

No public comment.

Director Mulas moved to execute a contract with Department of Water Resources for technical support services, **Director Rabbitt** seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Vote 5-0-1 (**Director Hundley** absent)

7. [Legal Counsel, Plan Manger and Administrator report](#)

None.

8. [Information Item: Field Visit to Gundlach-Bundschu Winery](#)

Chairman Gorin thanked Jim Bundschu for hosting the field visit, and noted the importance of getting outside and seeing actual conditions.

Marcus Trotta used a series of maps to point out the geographical and geological features of the landscape, as viewed from the site.

Features include Arrowhead Mountain (named for an old landslide that could be viewed from the valley and which looked like an arrowhead), the Huichica Formation (which is a specific type of low-water yielding rock that characterizes the Carneros area), Sonoma volcanics (which can be seen on Arrowhead Mountain), the Eastside Fault (which may serve as a barrier to groundwater flow and a conduit for poor quality water), Arroyo Seco Creek (which is a major feature in the southeast area of the basin, and which historically went dry in the summer with separated pools of water) and the Rodgers Creek Fault.

Trotta also discussed land uses in the immediate area of southeast Sonoma Valley (a lot of agriculture, combined with significant numbers of rural residential properties outside water service areas). Colleen Ferguson, City of Sonoma, discussed a map showing city water service, which extends outside the city boundaries to the east, incorporating two small, former water service areas.

Jim Bundschu, Gundlach-Bundschu Winery and Advisory Committee member, noted that his property has been farmed for grapes for 161 years and that the landscape has remained almost unchanged (no erosion or other issues). He also noted that the property had an artesian well that has been in operation for 161 years, and well levels have dropped to about 25 feet in the spring and to 48 feet in the fall. This is why he is involved in the GSA – he wants to make sure that water is available in the future for his grandchildren. He pointed out that planting a vineyard is a 30-year investment, so grape growers need to be assured that the vines planted today will have water in 30 years. Finally, Bundschu described the investments Gundlach-Bundschu has made in water-conserving irrigation, ‘green’ wastewater treatment, and solar power (including floating solar panels).

Members of the Board, Advisory Committee, and public made several comments including:

- The railroad and now 8th Street East form a 'berm' that confines the movement of surface run-off within a relatively small area.
- Groundwater is highly variable within the basin and the watershed, due to the complex geology.
- The southeast area is a relatively small sub-watershed, creating additional challenges.
- Fred Allebach (Advisory Committee chairman) noted that his well went dry for five months (he lives on 8th Street East). The well periodically goes dry during long dry spells.

After leaving Gundlach-Bundschu, several people took a van drive on 8th Street East, over Arroyo Seco and through the Castle Road/Lovall Valley Road area to see business and rural residential developments.