

# Board Meeting

## Sonoma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency

---

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: August 27, 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 4:00 pm, and noted that a quorum of the board was present, consisting of the following Directors: David Cook, Susan Gorin, Mark Heneveld, Vicki Mulas and David Rabbitt.

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

None.

**3. Consent Calendar**

**a. Approve Minutes of June 25, 2018**

**b. Approve Final Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2017-2018**

No public comment.

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

**4. Director/Subcommittee Reports**

**a. No report at this time.**

## 5. Advisory Committee Report

**Ann DuBay**, Administrator, provided a short review of Advisory Committee activities in August. The Advisory Committee next meets again in October.

No public comment.

## 6. Information Item – Basin Reprioritization Comment Letter

**Ann DuBay**, Administrator, provided a short update on basin reprioritization. The Chair submitted a cover letter to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Plan Manager submitted a comment to the same, on behalf of the GSA. Several organizations also submitted comments.

- Question – **Director Gorin** asked if the Department of Water Resources will accept the GSA comments.
  - Response - Staff hope that DWR will consider the comments. ACWA, other organizations and other agencies submitted very similar comments. For Sonoma Valley, changing from medium to high priority doesn't make much difference, but the way the Department of Water Resources developed the ranking wasn't appropriate for the Sonoma Valley Basin. Water quality was a special concern. It's not appropriate to use iron and manganese as metrics for water quality metrics. Groundwater use estimates seem very high. Applied water use for vineyards was much higher than we find locally. Also, DWR showed 6,000-7,000 acres in the southern part of the valley as irrigated, but our data and their previous data doesn't agree with this.
- Question - **Director Gorin** questioned if DWR asked us for local data.
  - Response - Staff said they met with DWR several times and provided them with technical studies. DWR used it to some degree. The issues of greater concern are where they provided statewide, uniform rankings. Staff understands why they did this, but the locals are doing the work so local data should count.

## 7. Action Items

### a. Basin Reprioritization Comment Letter and adoption of a Resolution for a possible Basin Boundary Modification request.

Marcus Trotta provided a staff report on Basin Boundary Modifications regarding the discrepancy between the basin boundaries and the Sonoma-Napa county line. The goal of a boundary modification would be to align the boundaries so that Napa County residents are in Napa-Sonoma Lowlands basin and that Sonoma County residents are in Sonoma Valley Basin.

- Question – **Director Gorin** asked why the state didn't fix this problem.
  - Response - Staff replied DWR made administrative changes in some areas of the state, in basins that included a description that the "county line" is the basin line, but didn't believe they had the authority to change it in basins that did not use the "county line" as a specific boundary.
- Question – **Director Heneveld** asked how DWR describes the line.
  - Response - It's pretty vague in this area. Generally discusses the watershed area.
- Question – **Director Rabbitt** asked how much money the GSA will have to spend to fix

DWR's problem.

- Response - A dozen hours of staff time; not too expensive.
- Question - **Director Mulas** asked if DWR will change language to include county lines in other areas.
  - Response – Staff mentioned that DWR noted they will be going through this process. Staff will make sure that they consider this for all basins, not just those that have been reprioritized.

**Director Mulas** moved to authorize the Plan Manager to submit a basin boundary modification request to DWR for the purpose of aligning the basin lines to the Sonoma-Napa County line, **Director Heneveld** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**b. Update on the Agency funding options with possible Board action regarding ongoing member agency contributions.**

**Ann DuBay**, Administrator, reported that member agency staff met in July to discuss ongoing member agency contributions. Staff agreed on principles for ongoing contributions, as follows:

- ❖ The Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency) will increase its contribution to \$125,000 annually.
- ❖ NBWD and Sonoma RCD will contribute \$10,000 annually.
- ❖ The City of Sonoma and VOMWD would be held constant at \$25,000, annually.
- ❖ The County would cover the remaining Agency costs.
- ❖ If Agency costs decrease from the projected budget, County and Water Agency contributions would decrease proportionally until they hit \$25,000.
- ❖ The amount of member agency contributions would be discussed as part of the annual budget process and would require a unanimous vote of all member agencies.
- Comment – **Director Rabbitt** noted the Petaluma Valley GSA Board voted unanimously for ongoing member agency contributions and agreed to discuss (as part of the budget process) the specific numbers and the amount of funding that should be held in reserve. It's expected that this would happen in Sonoma Valley, too.
- Question - **Director Cook** asked which agencies are participating in more than one basin.
  - Response – North Bay Water District (NBWD) is participating in two GSAs. The County, Sonoma Water, and Sonoma RCD are participating in three GSAs.
- Question - **Director Sangiacomo** asked if this will be the allocation methodology for the next four years.
  - Response – Staff said it will be the method used for the next three fiscal years (after 2018-19). When the Groundwater Sustainability Plan is nearing completion, the Board will need to relook at funding issues. Future funding for Phase 2 will be funded through a rate/fee study that will be conducted in FY 2021-22. There is money built into the budget to do this.
- Question - **Director Heneveld** asked when we will know what the GSP will say.
  - Response – Staff replied it would probably be four years. They are interested in moving the plan along and getting it done early, there is a lot of adaptive work that needs to be

done.

- Question - **Director Heneveld** asked why Santa Rosa Plain is going in a different direction on funding.
  - Response – Staff said cities are philosophically concerned about continuing member agency contributions. Costs in Santa Rosa Plain per ratepayer are much lower [because there are many more potential ratepayers].

No public comment.

**Director Rabbitt** moved to approve the allocation methodology and discontinue the rate study, **Director Cook** seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**c. Contract for Auditor: Consider authorization to enter into a three-year contract for an annual audit with Piseni & Brinker, LLP.**

**Ann DuBay**, Administrator, reported that two firms had replied to the Request for Proposals for auditing services. Staff recommended that the Board accept the proposal from Piseni & Brinker, LLC.

No public comment.

**Director Rabbitt** moved that the Board authorize the administrator to negotiate a contract with Piseni & Brinker, LLP for a financial audit for Fiscal Years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$13,650, **Director Mulas** seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**8. Administrator & Plan Manager Reports**

**Marcus Trotta**, Sonoma Water, gave the Plan Manager's report. He noted that DWR is now requiring some cost share for the Proposition 1 grant. Historical costs from GSA formation and technical work done in Sonoma Valley will provide the match. Trotta is hoping to have the grant agreement in place within the next couple of weeks. Once it is in place, he will bring the amended agreement to GSA Board for Sonoma Water. The Plan Manager is also working on GSP and working with USGS on refining technical data.

- Question - **Director Cook** noted that the City of Sonoma allows for water connections, but outside of the City, no new connections. Is the GSA going to be exploring future pipelines to the eastern part of the basin?
  - Response- At some point the GSA will likely need to look at this.
- Question - **Director Gorin** noted she is having discussions with property owners at 8<sup>th</sup> Street East about this issue. There are needs for additional water along 8<sup>th</sup> Street East, and some jurisdictions have excess water. Can a water market play a role? A plan will point out the demand. Is there a way to form appropriate legislative fixes?
  - Response – The GSA would definitely have some role in this type of opportunity. Could be water banking; storm water capture; and sharing surface water. All of these options will be looked at as they do the GSP.
- Comment - **Director Gorin** noted that it's not just math. It is how do we get the water from one place to another? It will require the City, County, Sonoma Water, and the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to work together.
- Question - **Director Rabbit** asked what role the Board will have in drafting a plan.

- Response – They envision bringing materials to the Advisory Committee and developing draft sections that are generally agreed upon by Advisory Committee and then bringing it to the Board. The Board will need to provide guidance on key policy questions.

**Ann DuBay**, Administrator, noted her report is provided in the agenda packet. Ideally the Board will meet on the fourth Monday of October (10/22/18) rather than the fourth Monday of November. She will poll members and send a revised Outlook.

**9. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.**

Special Accommodations: If you have a disability which requires an accommodation, an alternative format, or requires another person to assist you while attending this meeting, please contact Ann DuBay (707) 524-8378, as soon as possible to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

Public Transit Access to the meeting location: For transit information call (707) 576-RIDE or 1-800-345-RIDE or visit or <http://www.sctransit.com/>

Public Comment: Any member of the audience desiring to address the Board on a matter on the agenda: please complete a Speaker Card and hand it to the Clerk of the Board at the beginning of the meeting or prior to the time the Board Chair closes public comment on the item about which you wish to speak. When called by the Chair, please walk to the podium, state your name and make your comments. The public may comment on closed session items prior to the Board adjourning to closed session. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the subject under discussion. Each person is usually granted 3 minutes to speak; time limitations are at the discretion of the Chair. While members of the public are welcome to address the Board, under the Brown Act Board members may not deliberate or take action on items not on the agenda, and generally may only listen.

Meeting Documents: The associated documentation will be available at least 72 hours prior to this Board Meeting at the offices of the local agencies listed above and on the website at: <http://www.sonomacountygroundwater.org>.

Any changes to the date of the hearing, or any other updates will be noticed at the website listed above. For more information, please contact Ann DuBay [Ann.DuBay@SCWA.ca.gov](mailto:Ann.DuBay@SCWA.ca.gov), (707) 524-8378.