

Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES
Monday, MARCH 15, 2021, 3:15 p.m.
Meeting held via GoToMeeting
34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, CA 95695

- 1. CALL TO ORDER and DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:** Meeting called to order at 3:17 p.m. by Roger Cornwell, Chair.
Kristin Sicke conducted a roll call and determined a quorum was present.

The following Board members and (alternates) were in attendance:

California American Water, Dunnigan: Evan Jacobs
Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company: Lynnel Pollock
City of Davis: Josh Chapman
City of Winters: Jesse Loren, (Kurt Balasek)
City of Woodland: Mayra Vega
Dunnigan Water District: David Schaad, (Bill Vanderwaal)
Environmental Representative: Ann Brice
Esparto Community Service District (CSD): Charles Schaupp
Reclamation District (RD) 108: Hilary Reinhard, (Bill Vanderwaal)
RD 150: Warren Bogle
RD 307: James Johas
RD 537: Tom Ramos
RD 730: Jim Heidrick
RD 765: David Dickson
RD 787: Roger Cornwell, Board Chair
RD 1600: Michele Clark
RD 2035: (Mike Hall)
University of California Davis (UCD): Camille Kirk
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation: Emily Drewek
Yolo County: Gary Sandy
Yolo County Farm Bureau: Stan Lester (Item 5)
Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (YCFC&WCD): Tom Barth

Absent: City of West Sacramento, Madison CSD

- 2. APPROVE AGENDA**

The Board approved the March 15, 2021 agenda as posted. Motioned by Yolo County to approve the agenda, seconded by the City of Woodland, and unanimously approved. (Roll Call attached).

Absent: City of West Sacramento, Madison CSD, Yolo County Farm Bureau

- 3. PUBLIC FORUM**

No comments.

4. CONSIDERATION: CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Approved January 11, 2021 Board of Directors' meeting minutes
- b. Received Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Financial Statements: December 2020-February 2021
- c. Received minutes of Executive Committee: 12/16/20

Motioned by the City of Winters to approve all consent items, seconded by Yolo County, and unanimously approved. (Roll call attached).

Absent: City of West Sacramento, Madison CSD, Yolo County Farm Bureau

5. UPDATE ON WATER LEGISLATION, REGULATORY & DELTA ISSUES

Adam Robin, former Northern California Water Association (NCWA) Legislative Affairs Director, gave the following updates below related to water and groundwater. Adam is transitioning to a new position with Yuba Water Agency, and this will be his last update to the Board. The Board members expressed their gratitude for Adam's insights.

- The legislative session began in January. With the exception of wildfire, water issues have not been a top priority for the legislature, which is focused on mitigating COVID impacts. A common theme of the groundwater policies that have (appeared) so far is a focus on critically overdrafted basins (COD basins), with little funding available for high and medium priority basins. The following budget and bond proposals are being considered:
- The Governor proposed \$60 million in spending over the next two years for planning and implementation of GSP's; this is limited to COD basins
- SB 45: a bond proposal that does not distinguish between COD and other basins
- AB 1500: a bond proposal that sets aside a significant portion of funding for only COD basins
- AB 252: a policy proposal that would give the Department of Conservation the authority and funding to incentivize strategic land retirement

6. WATER CONDITIONS UPDATE, Member Agencies

- a. *Tim Busch, Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency:* The Agency has two different water rights: one from SWRCB that is usable year-round but subject to Term 91 curtailment, and one purchased from the Central Valley Project (CVP) that is usable from April to October of each year. This year has been assessed a critical year, meaning CVP allotments are reduced by 25%. In addition, due to low reservoir conditions, the Agency predicts Term 91 curtailment to start as early as April this year, and possibly lasting into November and December. The Agency predicts their summer supply will be about 60% of what it was last year. They are in negotiations to buy additional water for the summer and November/December.
- b. *Roger Cornwell, Reclamation District 787 (River Garden Farms):* The District's settlement contract with the Bureau of Reclamation has been reduced by 25%. They are working with the National Marine Fisheries Service to preserve the cold-water temperatures of the four unique salmon runs along the Sacramento River.
- c. *Bill Vanderwaal, Dunnigan Water District:* Dunnigan Water District holds a service contract with the Bureau of Reclamation, meaning they have a Junior water right. They have been

provided a 5% allocation for the year to start with. The District also has some smaller water transfers in place with settlement contractors; in total; they predict they will have 20-25% of their normal water supply available this year.

- d. *Kristin Sicke, YCFC&WCD:* The District's entitlement for water from Clear Lake Reservoir begins when the water level reaches 3.22 feet – water levels are currently at 1.15 feet, so there will likely be zero water available from Clear Lake this year. The District anticipates selling about 25,000-30,000 acre-feet of water from Indian Valley Reservoir. They are planning for an allocated irrigation season of about 0.30 AF/acre for only six to eight weeks. Groundwater levels in the District service area are significantly lower than in March 2020, but still higher than in March 2015.
- e. *Charles Schaupp, Esparto Community Service District:* Charlie expects two to three of the District's eight agricultural wells to go dry this summer. Speaking for his farming operations, are changing crop patterns to account for the limited water available in YCFC&WCD's Hungry Hollow Canal.

The Board agreed that quarterly water conditions updates should be added to future agendas.

7. REPORT OF THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Chair Cornwell recognized Donna Gentile's help and expressed gratitude for her dedicated service to the YSGA. Kristin announced there was an Ad Hoc Committee meeting in January to discuss the YSGA voting structure and financing mechanisms. She is researching how other GSA's incorporated SGMA implementation with IRWM planning and will be meeting with Kevin O'Brien to discuss the legal constraints of this process. In addition, there have been two Technical Advisory Committee meetings and one Working Group meeting about the land subsidence and surface water depletion sustainable management criteria.

8. UPDATE ON GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (GSP) DEVELOPMENT, Kristin Sicke, YSGA Executive Officer, highlighted information from her written GSP update included with the March Board agenda.

The Draft Basin Setting Chapter and associated technical appendices are now posted on the YSGA website. The YSGA is soliciting public comments on the chapter until April 12, 2021. The next chapter posted will be the Representative Monitoring Network, followed by the Sustainable Management Criteria. The technical team is still crafting the criteria for land subsidence and the depletion of interconnected surface waters, and will return to the Working Group with proposed methodology in April. On March 22, there is a focused meeting scheduled for the North Yolo Management Area about land subsidence in the area; additional focused meetings can be scheduled as necessary. The technical team also met with The Nature Conservancy and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to discuss groundwater dependent ecosystems and the technical team is planning to reach out to the Audubon Society and the Yolo Habitat Conservancy. The next item for the GSP is Projects and Management Actions; the YSGA will circulate a draft list of projects and solicit feedback from Working Group members.

9. MEMBERS' REPORTS and FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No comments.

10. NEXT MEETING – Monday, June 21, 2021

11. ADJOURNMENT – Chair Cornwell adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Sicke, Executive Officer