

**Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, March 16, 2020, 3:15 p.m.**  
**Meeting held via Teleconference**  
Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District,  
34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, CA 95695

- 1. CALL TO ORDER and DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:** Meeting called to order at 3:15 p.m. by Roger Cornwell, Chair.  
Kristin Sicke (in person) conducted a roll call and determined a quorum was present.

The following Board members and (alternates) were in attendance (those attending in person notated, otherwise attended via teleconference):

California American Water, Dunnigan: Evan Jacobs  
City of West Sacramento: Martha Guerrero  
City of Winters: Jesse Loren, Vice-Chair, (Kurt Balasek)  
City of Woodland: Xóchitl Rodriguez (arrived at Item #8)  
Environmental Representative: Ann Brice (arrived at Item #5)  
Esparto Community Service District (CSD): (Steve Knightley)  
Reclamation District (RD)108: (Bill Vanderwaal)  
RD 307: James Johas  
RD 537: Tom Ramos  
RD 765: David Dickson  
RD 787: Roger Cornwell, Board Chair (in person)  
RD 2035: (Mike Hall)  
University of California Davis (UCD): Camille Kirk  
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation: Emily Drewek (arrived at Item #7)  
Yolo County Farm Bureau (YCFB): Stan Lester (Denise Sagara)  
Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (YCFC&WCD): Tom Barth,  
(Tim O'Halloran – in person)

Absent: City of Davis, Dunnigan Water District, RD 730, RD 785, RD 827, RD 1600, Yolo County, and Colusa Drain MWC

- 2. APPROVE AGENDA:** The Board approved the March 16, 2020 agenda as posted. Motioned by YCFC&WCD to approve the agenda, seconded by City of West Sacramento and unanimously approved.

Absent: City of Davis, Dunnigan Water District, RD 730, RD 785, RD 827, RD 1600, Yolo County, and Colusa Drain MWC

- 3. PUBLIC FORUM:** No comments from the public.
- 4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR and EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Chair Cornwell reported that the re-designed YSGA website created by Streamline is now accessible. Donna explained how she attended a Get Streamline webinar offered through Yolo County LAFCO a year ago. A quick

demonstration was done to showcase easy of accessibility, improved organization, and transparency of information on the website. If anyone has any questions or recommendations for information that they want to see added to the site, please contact Donna at [dgentile@yolosga.org](mailto:dgentile@yolosga.org).

Kristin Sicke gave a summary of the update included in the Executive Officer's written report. She elaborated on current groundwater conditions.

- 5. RE-APPOINT POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Tim O'Halloran explained it seemed a natural fit to appoint Kristin Sicke to the Executive Officer position due to his recent health issues. She has been very involved in the entire process including the DWR grant administration. Roger concurred that Kristin is the most likely candidate for taking on these responsibilities. The Board had no further discussion or questions.

Motioned by the UC Davis to approve re-appointment of the Executive Officer position to Kristin Sicke, seconded by YCFC&WCD and unanimously approved.

*Absent:* City of Davis, Dunnigan Water District, RD 730, RD 785, RD 827, RD 1600, Yolo County, and Colusa Drain MWC

**6. CONSENT ITEMS:**

- a. Approved September 16, 2019 Board of Directors meeting minutes
- b. Received Fiscal Year End 2019-2020 Financial Statements: September 2019 to February 2020
- c. Approved FY2019-2020 Budget Amendment #1
- d. Received minutes of Executive Committee: 9/5, 10/15, 11/7, 12/10/19 and 2/18/20

Motioned by the City of Winters to approve all consent items, seconded by UC Davis and unanimously approved.

*Absent:* City of Davis, Dunnigan Water District, RD 730, RD 785, RD 827, RD 1600, Yolo County, and Colusa Drain MWC

**7. UPDATE ON WATER LEGISLATION, REGULATORY & DELTA ISSUES,**

Adam Robin, Legislative Affairs Director and President, David Guy, of the Northern California Water Association, gave updates on the following pertinent legislative and regulatory issues related to water and groundwater.

David Guy gave the following updates:

Water Supply

- The Sacramento River Settlement Contractors (RD787, RD108, RD2035 and Woodland-Davis) received a 100% allocation notification several weeks ago, however the Bureau of Reclamation indicated that may need to be reduced to 75% pending the amount of rain received this spring.
- The Water Service Contractors (Dunnigan Water District) was allocated 50% of supply which is normal, but more rain would be beneficial.
- YCFC&WCD reported that Indian Valley Reservoir currently has enough supply for a 100% allocation and Clear Lake for a 20% allocation, but this would leave zero percent carryover available for next year.

### Bay-Delta

- Biological Opinions were formally adopted about a month ago by the Department of Interior which was beneficial for the Sacramento River Settlement and Water Service Contractors for their water supply reliability. The State's Voluntary Agreement framework has been presented after 7 years of effort, hopefully the State's Biological Opinions lawsuit will be resolved so the Agreements can move forward allowing the State and Federal agencies to work together.

### Groundwater

- DWR is in the process of reviewing the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) from critically over-drafted basins submitted by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Any Plans that are designated with a probationary status will need to be reviewed by further by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

### NCWA Annual Meeting and 2020 Priorities

- Denise Sagara, Yolo County Farm Bureau, was awarded NCWA's Crystal Clear Award to acknowledge her efforts to address agricultural water quality.
- NCWA had adopted its 2020 Priorities. He will forward that document to Donna for distribution to the YSGA Board.

Adam Robin gave the following 2020 legislative updates:

### Groundwater and water-related bills

- There are still several groundwater spot bills that are placeholders for potential bill proposals. There are several bills related to land conversion in critically overdrafted basins that do not affect the Sacramento Valley, but it is a significant groundwater-related dynamic to be monitored. One bill to watch is AB 2502 that would require Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) to account for impacts to manage wetlands in their GSA plans. This bill is likely to be significantly amended even though it is already in print. This is the type of bill that is being proposed this year.
- SB 971 (Hertzberg) would require small water suppliers and counties to comply with several relatively significant new planning requirements for dry years and drought conditions, specifically related to drinking water impact. These new requirements are very detailed and NCWA is working with a statewide coalition of parties to develop a response to the proposed legislation.
- Two NCWA sponsored bills: SB 807 removes a hydropower authorization sunset date that is currently held by Reclamation District 108. SB 1171 (Nielsen) would allow reclamation districts to form improvement districts similarly to the way other irrigation districts, county water districts and water agencies are already able to do. It is prudent to give reclamation districts these same voluntary authorities.
- SB 946 is a SAFCA sponsored bill that would establish a Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership Multi-Benefit Program. This Program would codify State support for the Yolo Bypass Partnership in memorandum of the understanding that was signed in 2016.

### Bonds and Future Funding Opportunities

- There is a lot of conversation around a "climate resilience bond" that would have some water components.
- There are proposals for the next round of grant funding. The Newsom Administration has proposed \$395 million for SGMA implementation funding. It is not clear whether this would be grants or low-interest loans or another funding mechanism. The key policy point is whether that funding will be made available to critically overdrafted basins or for all high and medium priority basins.

#### Other News:

- **State Budget:** There are over 500 budget change proposals (BCP) that have been submitted by various departments to the legislature. Two of the more significant BCPs for our area are the Department of Water Resources (DWR) \$96 million appropriation for Proposition 1 and 68 funding for five projects in the Sacramento Valley, including three in Yolo County: Yolo Bypass Phase 1 continued work on the old bypass, the Knights Landing Outfall Gates and DWR's work on the Cache Creek Settling Basin. The second BCP more relevant to the GSAs is \$40 million to create 37 new positions within DWR to evaluate acceptability of the GSPs and to provide technical assistance. The funding would be \$40 million this year and \$10 million for ongoing funding. Also \$30 million in one-time funding for economic mitigation planning and/or implementation projects in critically overdrafted basins.
- **State Water Resources Control Board's development of a new MCL for hexavalent chromium to protect human health:** There were two significant developments in March. The SWRCB released an economic analysis White Paper. The White Paper lays out how the SWRCB wants to assess the economic feasibility MCL question raised by the California Department of Public Health. Three workshops were planned for April, but it is unclear whether they will be able to hold them given the Governor's recent Executive Order. The next step after the White Paper will be a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for an actual MCL. They anticipate having something available by spring 2021. After the proposed Rulemaking has been issued the Board has up to one year to adopt a new MCL by early 2022.

#### **8. UPDATE ON GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (GSP) DEVELOPMENT, Chair**

Cornwell informed that although the last two Board meetings were not held, he has continued to meet with YSGA staff and consultants regarding the GSP development. Kristin Sicke, YCFC&WCD, gave an update on the following items.

- a. **Water Budget:** Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) has continued working on the water budget and had completed the historical analysis and started working on future scenarios. We will be coordinating a technical working session to start discussing the future land use changes for incorporation into long-term water budget projections. Whether the April 1<sup>st</sup> Working Group meeting will happen is uncertain pending the current health crisis. Work will continue in the background and hopefully we can discuss future scenarios together soon.
- b. **Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model:** Montgomery & Associates was hired to complete the draft of the hydrogeologic conceptual model and groundwater conditions. We will continue to refine those documents for incorporation into the basin settings.
- c. **Stakeholder Communication and Engagement:** We have a draft version of the stakeholder communication engagement plan, which is pending scheduling of the outreach workshops. We were expecting to hold those this spring; however, they will be pushed out to at least early summer due to the current restrictions on holding public meetings.
- d. **Groundwater Monitoring and Report:** As reported at the September 2019 Board meeting, draft representative monitoring wells were selected for the Yolo Subbasin Plan. We are in the process of taking a subset of the wells selected in the water budget analysis for submission to DWR as representative wells. We have been working with the cities of Davis, Woodland and UC Davis to verify their representative wells. Next, we will start working to do the same with individual Reclamation Districts and other entities, in order to have a better idea which wells are the most appropriate representative wells. As a reminder, this information will be used for the sustainability indicators, setting minimum threshold measurable objectives and interim milestones. So, it is important that these are reliable wells that have a history of recorded

information to show in the GSP. We are continuing to refine the figure shown on agenda page 44 with input from the Working Group technical staff.

- e. Surface Water and Groundwater Modeling: The current groundwater model continues to be refined by SEI.
- f. Sustainable Management Criteria: At the September Board meeting, the Executive Committee informed they had approved hiring a consultant to develop the sustainable management criteria. The first workshop was held last May with Capay Valley stakeholders. The workshop went very well and provided a baseline for planning future Management Area workshops. We were hoping to schedule other Area workshops at the beginning of summer. We want to recruit willing participants within each Management Area to provide technical resources to assist us with workshop planning and outreach. All the information gathered from the workshops will be well-documented.

Kristin reaffirmed that the YCFC&WCD wants to continue Project Management coordination for the YSGA and development of the GSP. Staff is ready to accelerate activity with the consultants hired to-date. Discussions with the Executive Committee are on-going to inform them about the need to hire additional consultants to develop key components of the GSP. Consultant assistance is needed to draft GSP text in order to maintain moving forward in a timely manner. Originally the GSP was scheduled to be completed by December 2020; however, that deadline has been updated to June 30, 2021. We are planning to submit our GSP by DWR's January 2022 deadline. As you are all aware, there are global and statewide circumstances out of our control that could still impact our deadlines. Kristin thanked everyone for their patience.

Kristin answered questions from the Board. How will the shelter-in-place mandates affect our deadlines or meeting schedules? The Board and Executive Committee should be able to continue meeting via teleconferencing options. The Working Group could meet in smaller sections, because those discussions would be beneficial to hold in person. We will monitor the safest and best way to conduct all meetings to comply with the Governor's Executive Order. DWR may adjust deadlines and schedules as they assess their own staffing impacts. The Board should contact Kristin or Tim if there are any questions that arise. Kristin informed that there are some new YSGA Board members that have received welcome packets electronically. If any members are interested in any SGMA background information or documents that have been created to-date, she would be happy to provide that information. Staff will update the website to post current draft documents.

Tom Ramos, Reclamation District (RD) 537, reported that three Reclamation Districts in the Lower Elkhorn area are consolidating into one District. RD 785 and RD 827 are merging into RD 537 effective July 1, 2020. The southern portion of RD 537 will be detaching and becoming part of RD 900 under the city of West Sacramento. So as a result, the new district which will be one unit in the Lower Elkhorn will have groundwater acreage of about 6,077 acres.

**9. MEMBERS' REPORTS and FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** – Jesse Loren, City of Winters, informed that Carol Scianna is retiring at the end of the month and it would be beneficial to coordinate well data information for Winters before she leaves. Kristin informed that Max has been in touch with Carol.

- a. "White" Area Annexation
- b. White Paper on Areas of Special Concern

**10. NEXT MEETING** – Monday, June 15, 2020, 3:15 pm

**11. ADJOURNMENT** – Chair Cornwell adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donna L. Gentile", is written over a horizontal line.

Donna L. Gentile  
Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator