

**MOUND BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
DRAFT MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 21, 2017**

Directors present were: Kevin Brown, Glenn Shephard, and Mike Mobley. Also present was: Interim Executive Director Jennifer Tribo. Public present were Debra Martinez, Tony Morgan, Jim Chambers, Joe McDermott, and Neal Maguire.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** - Chair Mobley called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Chair Mobley.
- 3. DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

As of Monday, September 18, 2017, Kevin Brown is the Ventura Water General Manager. Per the City’s Resolution (2017-022), Kevin Brown will now be the City’s Director for the Mound Basin GSA.
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA**

Tony Morgan, United Water Conservation District (UWCD), provided the Directors with a summary of safe yield estimates for the Mound Basin developed by UWCD staff in 2015 (attached).
- 5. CONSENT ITEMS**
  - a. Approve Minutes from August 17, 2017 Regular Meeting.**

Director Shephard moved to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2017 meeting. Seconded by Director Brown. Chair Mobley called a voice vote. Three ayes. None opposed.
- 6. ACTION ITEMS**
  - a. Appointment of Agricultural Stakeholder Director**

The Board discussed the nomination submitted by the Mound Basin Ag Water Group (MBAWG) for James Chambers to replace Allen Camp as the Agricultural Stakeholder Director. Mr. Chambers introduced himself to the Board and summarized his background and qualifications.

Director Brown moved to appoint Mr. Chambers as the Agricultural Stakeholder Director. Seconded by Director Shephard. Chair Mobley called a voice vote. Three ayes. None opposed.

Mr. Chambers was sworn in by Interim Executive Director Jennifer Tribo.
  - b. Election of Officers**

Director Mobley called for nominations for Chair of the Board. Director Shephard nominated Director Mobley to serve as Chair. Director Chambers seconded the nomination. Director Mobley called a voice vote. Four ayes. None opposed.

Chair Mobley nominated Director Brown to serve as Vice Chair/Secretary. Seconded by Director Shephard. Chair Mobley called a voice vote. Four ayes. None opposed.

### **c. Budget Discussion**

Jennifer Tribo summarized the staff report. Additional handouts (attached) were provided to the Directors and members of the public. Ms. Tribo walked through Option 1 and Option 2 for the annual budget. Major differences are whether or not the agency hires staff and rents office space.

Joe McDermott added that the City of Ventura can continue to provide office space and staff to serve as the interim executive director through the fiscal year. The Directors agreed that they would revisit hiring a permanent executive director in January 2018.

Chair Mobley asked how the DWR grant fit into the budget. Ms. Tribo replied that the current budget does not include grant preparation or any GSP preparation in the first fiscal year. He directed staff to evaluate the information and work necessary to prepare a grant application before the deadline, so that the Board can consider whether to pursue preparing an application at the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Director Shephard pointed out that the draft budget presumes that the County will serve as the Treasurer/Auditor. The Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (UVRGA) is now reconsidering whether or not that is the best option. The Mound Basin GSA will need to decide whether or not the County is a viable option to serve as the treasurer.

Chair Mobley indicated that several of these items will require expenditures in the short-term and the Agency needs the ability to generate revenue from the member agencies and pay bills. Ms. Tribo stated that the UVRGA had a similar problem and one of the member agencies served as the fiscal agent through an MOU.

Director Brown added that the City of Ventura can likely serve as the interim fiscal agent for the Agency. Ms. Tribo will confirm and draft an MOU for the next meeting.

#### **Public Comments:**

Neal Maguire, Mound Basin Ag Water Group (MBAWG), suggested that the Board should evaluate the cost of hiring staff versus providing agency staff and being reimbursed for costs later.

Director Brown responded that the long-term goal of the Agency would be to have independent staff, but may need to rely on member agency staff in the short-term.

Staff will revise the draft budget per the Board discussion and bring a final budget for approval to the October 19, 2017 meeting.

### **d. Basin Boundary Modification**

Jennifer Tribo summarized the staff report and invited Tony Morgan, United Water Conservation District to provide additional details.

Tony Morgan reviewed the need for basin boundary modifications for the Mound Basin and briefed the Directors on previous discussions on this topic during the JPA development. Mr. Morgan explained that filing the notice of intent now just reserves the

ability of the Agency to make changes to the basin boundary during the January–March 2018 basin boundary modification submission period. Further Board discussion and a stakeholder workshop will be necessary before submitting the basin boundary modification.

**Public Comments:**

Neal Maguire, MBAWG, added that the Board should look at the wells potentially impacted by a modification to the boundaries.

Mr. Morgan responded that he did not expect there to be many wells impacted by the boundary change, but that it would be analyzed before final submission to DWR.

Director Brown moved to file a NOTICE OF INTENT with CA DWR of the Agency's expectation to submit a Basin Boundary Modification application. Seconded by Director Shephard. Chair Mobley called a voice vote. Five ayes. None opposed.

The Board declined to establish an ad hoc committee, and will continue the Board discussion on basin boundary modifications at future meetings. The Agency will plan to hold a stakeholder and Board of Directors workshop in mid-January 2018 to gather input on possible basin boundary modifications.

**e. Liability Insurance**

Jennifer Tribo summarized the staff report, and added that she was working to obtain a quote from the same firm that provides insurance for OBGMA and likely to UVRGA. The current estimate was \$2,400 per year.

Director Shephard suggested that staff look for additional quotes and bring them to the next meeting.

**Public Comment:**

Tony Morgan, UWCD, added that Kris Sofley with his staff had done research for the Fillmore-Piru GSA and could be consulted for information.

The Board directed staff to explore other options for liability insurance, and bring them back to the Board for the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**f. Conflict of Interest Code**

Jennifer Tribo summarized the staff report. The conflict of Interest Code must be submitted to the County Board of Supervisors by December 6, 2017.

Director Chambers asked for additional clarification on when he would need to recuse himself due to potential financial gain.

**Public Comment:**

Neal Maguire, MBAWG, requested more guidance on the financial gain issue and when the agricultural stakeholder director cannot vote.

Tony Morgan, United Water Conservation District, offered the litmus test that a Director would only have a conflict of interest if he/she received a benefit from a Board action above that of the general public.

Mr. Maguire stated that MBAWG would prefer it be spelled out in the conflict of interest code and requested that City of Ventura legal Counsel provide guidance.

Director Brown responded that City legal counsel would contact Mr. Maguire to discuss this issue further.

There was no action taken on this item, and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

**7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- a. County Survey** – Ms. Tribo announced that she had received a three-year review survey from the County Clerk of the Board that is due October 1, 2017 and she will respond on behalf of the agency.

**8. ADJOURNMENT – 11:20 A.M.**