

**Sonoma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Advisory Committee Meeting
MEETING SUMMARY DRAFT**

Meeting date/time: January 9, 2018 | 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Valley of the Moon Water District Office, 19039 Bay Street, El Verano

Contact: Dan Muelrath, Valley of the Moon Water District General Manager (Interim GSA Administrator)

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MEETING RECAP

- Dan Muelrath, Sonoma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVGSA) Interim Administrator conducted a Roll Call, and Tim Parker, Facilitator for SVGSA Advisory Committee welcomed all attendees and kicked off the third SVGSA Advisory Committee meeting. No public comments were received at the meeting start.
- Advisory Committee Members received updates from Dan Muelrath, Interim Administrator on the Sonoma Valley GSA activities, Jay Jasperse, Plan Manager on recent technical activities of the Sonoma Valley GSA, and Tim Parker gave an update on statewide legislative and administration activities.
- The Advisory Committee unanimously selected Fred Allebach as Chair and Caitlin Cornwall as the Vice Chair.
- Previous meeting summaries for October and November 2017 were approved to finalize and post.
- The Advisory Committee reviewed and approved the draft Work Plan and Schedule.
- Jay Jasperse and Marcus Trotta, Sonoma County Water Agency provided a presentation on the state Basin Boundary Modification Process, regulatory requirements and local basin considerations. The Advisory Committee discussed possible options and areas for the Sonoma Valley groundwater basin and some Advisory Committee members came to the preliminary conclusion that because of additional data needs and the lack of a budget to prepare the necessary documentation, it may be appropriate to defer modification to basin boundaries to a later date.
- Ann DuBay of the Water Agency briefed the Advisory Committee on the updated draft Community Engagement Plan, which the Advisory Committee subsequently recommended that the SVGSA Board adopt.
- Orientation to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Regulations was deferred to the next Advisory Committee meeting due to a lack of time.

Summary of Action Items

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
Email Legislative Update to Advisory Committee	Dan Muelrath	January 2018
Distribute final Meeting Summaries to Advisory Committee	Dan Muelrath	January 2018
Form 700 & Ethics Training	Advisory Committee Members	January 2018
Provide link to better online mapping tool for Basin Boundary Discussion	Marcus Trotta	January 2018

Next Meeting: February 13, 2018, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Valley of the Moon Water District

Sonoma County Groundwater Website: <http://www.sonomagroundwater.org/pv/>

MEETING SUMMARY

Roll Call, Agenda Review

Dan Muelrath, General Manager of the Valley of the Moon Water District, opened the meeting by conducting a roll call of Advisory Committee members. Tim Parker, Senior Facilitator and Principal with Parker Groundwater then reviewed the meeting agenda.

The public was provided an opportunity for comment at the beginning of the meeting – none were received. The Facilitator noted that the SVGSA Board and Advisory Committee indicated their strong desire to have community input at these meetings through public comment, and commitment that the public be given the opportunity to comment on each item, as well at the beginning and end of the meeting.

Selection of Advisory Committee Chair and Vice Chair

The Advisory Committee reviewed the Chair and Vice Chair roles and opened the discussion for expressions of interest for the positions. Fred Allebach indicated his interest in the Chair position and his background and experience in working with committees and Caitlin Cornwall indicated her interest in Vice Chair, as she did not feel she currently would have time to consider the Chair position. The Advisory Committee unanimously selected Fred as the Chair and Caitlin as Vice Chair.

Approval of Previous Meeting Summaries

The Advisory Committee unanimously approved the October and November meeting summaries as final posting on the website.

Updates

Dan Muelrath reported that the SVGSA Board has not met since the last AC meeting and that the main activity has been to engage the rate study consultant. He reminded everyone to complete their Ethics Training if they have not already, and to fill out the Form 700 once the 2018 version form becomes available.

Jay Jasperse provided an update on the technical activities of the SVGSA and indicated that one of the main technical activities, consideration of basin boundary modifications, would be presented on at this meeting. He also noted that staff continues to help Sonoma County GSAs become more familiar with Groundwater Sustainability Plan Regulations in preparation of initiating development of GSPs for the three SGMA basins in Sonoma County. Jay also reviewed the Department of Water Resources SGMA basin reprioritization process, that depletion of interconnected surface water will be added as criteria and that this reprioritization could possibly result in other basins being added to the SGMA prioritization list in the late winter/early spring 2018 timeframe.

Tim Parker provided a legislative and policy update including (handout):

- Proposition 1 GSP grant applications - 78 applications were submitted requesting \$86.4M in total grant funds between Category 1 (\$16.8M) and Category 2 (\$69.6M), on a total of \$86.3M available with \$10M set aside for Severely Disadvantaged Communities projects – which is it likely means that most grant applications will be fulfilled.
- Legislative Update – not much to report as the Legislature just reconvened on January 3rd
 - Since second year of two year session, the last day for policy committees to hear/report to fiscal committees fiscal bills introduced in their house in the odd-numbered year is next Friday January 12th

- Following Friday January 19th is the last day for any committee to hear and report to the floor bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year
- Feb 16th is the last day to introduce new bills in 2018
- AB 1427 Eggman (from last session) - groundwater replenishment as a beneficial use - this would be a heavy lift to get through the Legislature due to opposition
- SB 623 Monning (from last session) - Water Quality: Safe and Affordable Drinking Water – involves public good charge for water (fee) – sure to hear more debate this session
- Governor
 - January 10th the Governor will introduce the 2018-2019 budget
 - January 25th Governor’s final state of the state where he will state his 2018 priorities
 - Look for more funding for Oroville Dam repair in the Governor’s budget
 - Possible funding and bills on drought issues
 - Recharge as an issue also likely to be debate
- Department of Water Resources
 - December was one of the driest on record - below average Snowpack reported -
 - Independent Forensic Team report on Oroville Dam Spillway Incident – January 5, 2018
- Prop 218 issues and outcomes - California Supreme Court ruled December 4, 2017 that groundwater pumping charges levied to fund a basin-wide conservation and management program were not property-related fees subject to Proposition 218 (*City of San Buenaventura v. United Water Conservation District* (Cal. Supreme Court Case No. S226036))

Marcus Trotta walked the Advisory Committee through the Work Plan & Schedule (handout), noting the main discussion topics for the February, March and April/May meetings will be focused on finance (rate study) and the Groundwater Sustainability Plan development. Dan Muelrath noted that there is interest on the part of the SVGSA Board in having a public meeting in February to start informing the public and receiving input on the rate study being conducted. The Advisory Committee unanimously approved the Work Plan and Schedule noting that a public meeting may be added in February either as part of or separate from the February Advisory Committee meeting.

Overview of Basin Boundary Modification Process, Regulations, and Local Basin Conditions

Jay Jasperse and Marcus Trotta provided the presentation on Basin Boundary Modifications to the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee is being asked to provide recommendations to the SVGSA Board by the February meeting on whether to move forward with proposed basin boundary modifications for the Sonoma Valley groundwater basin. Local public agencies may submit requests for basin boundary modifications to DWR by June 30, 2018. There was a previous opportunity to submit modifications, and an additional opportunity will occur in 2023.

The presentation included the following main points:

- Types of Basin Boundary Issues
 - Smaller Scale: Parcel-Level (these smaller scale issues can’t be addressed through DWR’s Basin Modification Process, but will need to be considered by the Advisory Committee and GSA Board during the ongoing rate/fee study)
 - Larger Scale: Bulletin 118 Boundaries
- Parcel- Level Boundary Issues
 - Parcels overlapping two SGMA basins
 - Parcels partially in one SGMA basin
- Bulletin 118 Boundary Issues
 - Historical Bulletin 118 boundaries & criteria

- Bulletin 118 contains the legal and technical description of groundwater basins in the state, and groundwater basin aquifer materials are largely limited to alluvial materials (air and water deposited gravel, sand, silts and clay) and in some cases marine sandstone
- Historically, DWR has changed the basin boundaries of the Sonoma Valley - at one time it included the Sonoma Volcanics – however, the current version defines the basin on the basis of alluvial aquifer materials and does not include volcanics – but the basin by definition captures Sonoma Volcanics underlying the basin alluvial materials.
- DWR requirements for modification requests
 - Identification of all affected basins
 - How Sustainable Management exists or likely will be achieved under existing and proposed boundaries
 - How modification could affect ability of adjacent basins to manage sustainably
 - Historical summary of groundwater levels
 - Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model
 - Principal aquifer unit description
 - Description of lateral boundaries (including features and characteristics that significantly impede or impact groundwater flow, key surface water bodies and groundwater divides)
 - Recharge and discharge areas within the basin
 - Technical Studies
 - Demonstrate lateral and vertical extent of aquifers
 - Presence or absence of hydrogeologic barriers Potential impact to State and local Programs
- Options for Sonoma Valley Groundwater Basin Boundary Considerations
 - No changes to existing boundaries at this time
 - Modify northern Sonoma Valley basin boundary to include southern portion of Kenwood Valley groundwater basin
 - Modify southwestern Sonoma Valley basin boundary to include portions of Petaluma Valley groundwater basin that occur within the Sonoma Creek watershed (Tolay Creek drainage)
- Other considerations regarding a possible basin boundary modifications include that the cost of the effort is not currently budgeted, that there may not be jurisdictional support and that there will be future opportunities to make a boundary modification request
- The previous Sonoma Valley Basin Advisory Panel made recommendations in 2017 to the SVGSA Board regarding the hydrologic connection of the contributing watershed areas (largely Sonoma Volcanic where approximately 20 percent of the wells extract water) which included:
 - Support existing monitoring in contributing watershed areas
 - Closely coordinate with the county on potential policies or other actions necessary to ensure sustainable management of the basin
 - Evaluate possible basin boundary modifications based on strong scientific and technical rationale

The Advisory Committee discussed the options presented. For the Kenwood area, groundwater levels provide evidence groundwater in the southern portion of the Kenwood basin flows south into the Sonoma Valley groundwater basin, however there may be insufficient geologic information to demonstrate the interconnection of the two basins. The Kenwood area is growing, and while groundwater levels appear stable and shallow and it is categorized as a low priority basin by DWR, management is desirable to ensure the water balance is maintained. A resident of the Kenwood area commented that it would be good to have the area actively managed, but would need to demonstrate to the community how they would be affected and what the fees would be. One member of the public commented that it seems illogical not to have as much of Sonoma Creek in the groundwater basin as possible, and suggested coordination with the Santa Rosa Plain GSA on whether they were considering

including the north portion of the Kenwood basin. Some Advisory Committee members concluded the discussion by saying generally that they think it may not be the right time to pursue a basin boundary modification with all the other priorities and extent of work to be done, but asked for better information and maps on the Tolay Creek Area. Marcus Trotta indicated that DWR has an online mapping tool and a link will be provided to Advisory Committee members.

Community Engagement

Ann DuBay, Sonoma County Water Agency, provided a brief overview of the modified draft Community Engagement Plan for the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency. The draft Plan was developed to ensure that Sonoma County's diverse people, economy, and ecosystems are considered, and that the community is provided the opportunity to provide input during the preparation and adoption of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Sonoma Valley groundwater basin by the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency. The modifications mostly were to add organizations to Appendix A and B. The Water Agency also recently sent out an information email and conducted a survey monkey poll. There were approximately 300 responses with about 20 percent from Sonoma Valley, and the majority of those were rural domestic well owners with some agricultural and environmental interests as well. Results of the poll indicate that most people:

- Want to be involved but not super engaged
- Prefer to receive email updates
- Not super interested in public meetings
- Like workshops and surveys and social media

The Advisory Committee unanimously approved the modified draft Community Engagement Plan.

Closing Comments

Advisory Committee Chairman Fred Allebach passed along information on AquaShares, a water accounting, cap and trade marketplace online software platform. It is being tried in the Sonoma Valley through a grant, with several people including members of the former Technical Advisory Committee and current Advisory Committee that have received multiple briefings. AquaShares is designed to facilitate and ease water transactions based on a fisheries example. It is not part of the rate study, but AquaShares could include transaction fees in the future.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Advisory Committee Members

Fred Allebach, Sonoma County Water Agency Representative
Helge Bruckner, Business Representative
Jim Bundschu, North Bay Water District Representative
Caitlin Cornwall, Environmental Representative
Norman Gilroy, Rural Well Owner
Ken Johnson, At Large Community Representative
Sue Smith, Sonoma County Resources Conservation district

Staff

Dan Muelrath, Interim Administrator
Ann DuBay, Sonoma County Water Agency
Jay Jasperse, Sonoma County Water Agency
Marcus Trotta, Sonoma County Water Agency
Tim Parker, Parker Groundwater (Facilitator)