

**Paso Basin Cooperative Committee  
Minutes (Approved) – July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**The following members or alternates were present:**

**Debbie Arnold**, Chair, County of San Luis Obispo  
**Matt Turrentine**, Vice Chair, Shandon-San Juan WD  
**John Hamon**, Treasurer, City of Paso Robles  
**Kelly Dodds**, Secretary, San Miguel CSD

<p><b>1. Call to Order</b></p>	<p>Chair Arnold: calls the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.</p>
<p><b>2. Pledge of Allegiance</b></p>	<p>Chair Arnold: leads the Pledge of Allegiance.</p>
<p><b>3. Roll call</b></p>	<p>County Staff, Angela Ford: calls roll.</p>
<p><b>4. Public Comment – items not on Agenda</b></p>	<p><i>Meeting Audio: Item start ~ 00:02:11</i>            Chair Arnold: opens the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Greg Grewal: comments on letters from DWR that outline issues with the GSP, GSA staff communications with DWR and involvement with consultant recommendations/contracting, and Montgomery &amp; Associates involvement with developing a passing GSP in Santa Cruz Mid-County.</p> <p>Chair Arnold: closes the public comment period.</p>
<p><b>5. Continued Item (from July 21, 2021) Receive update on DWR’s Initial Assessment of Paso Basin GSP and approve approach and budget for addressing deficiencies</b></p>	<p><i>Meeting Audio: Item start ~ 00:07:30</i>            Chair Arnold: opens discussion for Agenda Item 5 – Continued Item (from July 21, 2021) Receive update on DWR’s Initial Assessment of Paso Basin GSP and approve approach and budget for addressing deficiencies.</p> <p>County Staff, Angela Ford: presents on DWR’s Initial Assessment of the Paso Basin GSP, last week’s Committee discussion regarding consultant procurement options, and next steps should the Committee choose the option to recommend GSA staff solicit proposals from qualified consultants and appoint a Committee Member to participate in the selection of a recommendation to bring back to the Committee at a future meeting.</p> <p>Chair Arnold: comments that during last week’s meeting, there was uncertainty regarding Montgomery &amp; Associates’ (M&amp;A) contract; asks for Committee input regarding consultant selection options.</p> <p>Treasurer Hamon: comments that time is of the essence; motions to move forward with a sole source contract.</p> <p>Secretary Dodds: expresses concern regarding the sole source option without having a consultant in mind.</p> <p>City Staff, Christopher Alakel: comments that there have been discussions with Todd Groundwater and that they are willing to assist with correcting the deficiencies identified in the GSP.</p>

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Chair Arnold: opens the floor to public comment.

Greg Grewal, Patricia Wilmore, Jerry Ray, and Cody Ferguson: speak.

**Motion by:** John Hamon

**Second by:** Debbie Arnold

**Motion:** The Committee moves to direct staff to proceed with a sole source contract to correct the Paso Basin GSP deficiencies.

Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Recuse
Debbie Arnold (Chair)	X			
Matt Turrentine (Vice Chair)	X			
John Hamon (Treasurer)	X			
Kelly Dodds (Secretary)	X			

The motion passes.

Chair Arnold: opens discussion on which consultant to select for sole source.

Treasurer Hamon: asks City Staff to provide information on available consultants to sole source with.

City Staff, Christopher Alakel: comments on City Staff discussion with M&A over GSP contract and M&A’s refusal to meet with DWR to discuss work required to address GSP deficiencies without a new contract; states M&A has not satisfied the condition that they provide a DWR compliant GSP and the City is evaluating options to seek legal remedies; explains that the City Attorney recommends engaging a consultant other than M&A at this time; City has spoken with GSI Water Solutions and Todd Groundwater, both are both are qualified and willing to address deficiencies.

Treasurer Hamon: asks which deficiency (groundwater levels or interconnected surface water) does M&A have “liability” to address.

City Staff, Christopher Alakel: M&A flagged interconnected surface water (ISW) in a March 4<sup>th</sup> letter.

Treasurer Hamon: asks if M&A can do the ISW and Todd Groundwater can do groundwater levels.

City Staff, Christopher Alakel: responds that he does not believe it is wise to have two different consultants working on deficiencies.

Vice Chair Turrentine: agrees with Treasurer Hamon’s comments, reiterates the need to move quickly with GSI or Todd Groundwater. Believes GSI is most up to speed, but he’d be happy to consider both consultants

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Secretary Dodds: agrees with Vice Chair Turrentine that both GSI and Todd Groundwater would work, believes that Todd Groundwater might be preferable to avoid a perceived conflict of interest.

Vice Chair Turrentine: states that he does not believe there is an actual conflict of interest with GSI; moves to direct Staff to proceed with sole sourcing GSI Water Solutions to address GSP deficiencies.

Secretary Dodds: asks if staff has asked GSI if they would be interested in addressing deficiencies

City Staff, Christopher Alakel: responds that he has not had that discussion with GSI; suggests option to allow the Committee to choose GSI as the first choice and Todd Groundwater as the second choice.

Chair Arnold: comments that she has reached out to Todd Groundwater and that there is existing work on ISW and new AEM studies that were not written into the GSP; would support a motion that includes sole sourcing the work to Todd Groundwater.

**Motion by:** Matt Turrentine

**Second by:** Debbie Arnold

**Motion:** Committee moves to direct Staff to proceed with a sole source contract to GSI Water Solutions, Inc. and authorize Todd Groundwater as a backup choice.

Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Recuse
Debbie Arnold (Chair)		X		
Matt Turrentine (Vice Chair)	X			
John Hamon (Treasurer)		X		
Kelly Dodds (Secretary)	X			

The motion does not pass.

Chair Arnold: motions to direct staff to proceed with a sole source contract to Todd Groundwater to address GSP deficiencies.

Treasurer Hamon: seconds motion for discussion; asks Chair Arnold if the motion can be modified to authorize GSI Water Solutions, Inc. as a backup option.

Chair Arnold: does not agree with modification of the motion and reiterates that Todd Groundwater is available and willing to assist with the work

Treasurer Hamon: asks City Staff for more information regarding discussions with Todd Groundwater and whether they will be able to complete the work before the end of the year.

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City Staff, Christopher Alakel: comments that the discussion centered around the nature of the deficiencies, not so much the timing and schedule; they conveyed that they have the bandwidth to do the work and are aware of the deadlines.

Vice Chair Turrentine: asks if proceeding without a backup will put the Committee in bad negotiating position; would support modified motion to proceed with a backup option.

Chair Arnold: comments that if there is a problem with sole sourcing Todd Groundwater there will need to be another special meeting.

**Motion by:** Debbie Arnold

**Second by:** John Hamon

**Motion:** The Committee moves to direct Staff to proceed with a sole source contract with Todd Groundwater to address GSP deficiencies.

Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Recuse
Debbie Arnold (Chair)	X			
Matt Turrentine (Vice Chair)	X			
John Hamon (Treasurer)	X			
Kelly Dodds (Secretary)	X			

Chair Arnold: asks the Committee if they have any additional comments.

Treasurer Hamon: asks about next PBCC meeting.

County Staff, Angela Ford: responds that the next Regular Committee meeting is scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup>; a special meeting may be needed as the consultant is brought on board.

Vice Chair Turrentine: suggests a special meeting be held in three weeks for an update on the process.

Treasurer Hamon: asks City Staff if three weeks is an appropriate amount of time to get consultant on board.

City Staff, Christopher Alakel: responds that three weeks is a reasonable amount of time to notify consultant, for consultant to prepare a proposal, and for City Staff to review the proposal.

Treasurer Hamon: asks if the previous budget from staff will be sent to Todd Groundwater.

City Staff, Christopher Alakel: mentions that it might not be in the Committee's interest to give consultant that as a goal post; if the proposed budget deviates

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	<p>significantly, staff will return to the Committee, adding that when staff receives the proposal from Todd it will be circulated to the GSAs.</p> <p>Chair Arnold: asks staff which day would be ideal for a special meeting.</p> <p>County Staff, Angela Ford: responds that it depends on what the Committee wants for the special meeting, believes that the second week of September would be good if the Committee needs to be updated after some coordination between Todd Groundwater and DWR.</p> <p>Chair Arnold: asks if there will be anything else that needs to be addressed in a special meeting before the scheduled Committee meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>County Staff, Angela Ford: responds that it depends on how the coordination between Todd Groundwater and DWR goes.</p> <p>Chair Arnold: asks if a GSP amendment can be voted on by the Committee.</p> <p>County Staff, Angela Ford: responds that the MOA requires a unanimous approval of amendment and that it would come to the Committee first and then be sent out to the GSAs (and their respective boards/councils) to approve.</p> <p>Chair Arnold: comments that the Board of Supervisors requires a 3-4 week lead time to properly notice for any actions so it is best to get moving on the work quickly; asks if mid-September would be a good time to meet.</p> <p>County Staff, Angela Ford: responds that mid-September would be a good time, notes that DWR has up to January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to finalize designation and if the deficiencies aren't addressed a 180-day clock begins; comments that it'd be best to be flexible with mid-September meeting date.</p> <p>Treasurer Hamon: asks City Staff if Todd Groundwater can be brought on board by August 17<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.</p> <p>City Staff, Christopher Alakel: responds staff can try to accommodate in time for City Council meeting.</p> <p>Chair Arnold: asks Vice Chair Turrentine and Secretary Dodds if they want to schedule a meeting now or if they want to let Staff return later with a date.</p> <p>Vice Chair Turrentine: comments that he is fine with either approach; reiterates need to meet before October.</p> <p>Secretary Dodds: comments that a week notice is sufficient for him</p>
<b>6. Adjourn</b>	Chair Arnold moves to adjourn the meeting at 1:59 p.m.

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*I, Kelly Dodds, Secretary to the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a fair statement of the proceedings of the meeting held on July 27, 2021, by the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee.*

*Kelly Dodds, Secretary of the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee.  
Drafted by: County of San Luis Obispo Water Resources Staff*