

PASO ROBLES GROUNDWATER BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE:
PASO ROBLES CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

January 22, 2015
Meeting Minutes

An audio recording of the meeting and materials submitted during public comment are available online at www.PasoBasin.org

Approximately 2:00 pm the meeting is called to order

1. Introductions and determination of a Quorum- Quorum established.
2. Approve November Meeting Minutes- The December 18, 2014, Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee was reviewed. One amendment was made to correct language of the last sentence in 3.a. Member Luft moves to approve the December meeting minutes, as amended, with a Second by Alternate Member Brown. (19-0-2-3) The January 12, 2015 Management Subcommittee special meeting minutes were reviewed. Member Luft moves to approve the special meeting minutes with a second by Alternate Member Cunha. (15-0-6-3)
3. County Efforts (see staff report)-
 - a. AB 2453 Paso Basin Water District Formation Process Update- John Diodati, Public Works, responds to questions from the Committee regarding the process and informs the Committee regarding staff's recommendation that the proposed water district boundaries align with Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118 boundaries with a negative sphere of influence depicting the areas that would detach if the Bulletin 118 boundaries were modified to reflect the 2002 Basin Study boundaries (Fugro boundary). Mr. Diodati also notes the timeline and process for pursuing a revision to the Bulletin 118 boundaries to match local studies.
 - b. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update- Courtney Howard, County Public Works, notes Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) will be unique to each basin and will be developed by its respective Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) or Agencies.
 - c. Computer Model Update- Ms. Howard announced the Board of Supervisors' approval to proceed with additional model runs and refinements; including an additional run to model releases from Salinas Reservoir. The Committee determines that the In- Basin Projects and Computer Model Update subcommittees will jointly participate in the project at key milestones.
 - d. Supplemental Water Supply Options Study Update- No discussion.

- e. Countywide Water Conservation Program Development Update- Ms. Howard announces that the Board of Supervisors will be discussing long- term programs and/or ordinances on February 3.
 - f. Draft Ordinance Regulating the Exportation of Groundwater Update-No discussion.
 - g. Consider advising the Board of Supervisors regarding County efforts- Member Luft suggests sending a letter to the Board supporting staff’s efforts associated with the Water District Formation Process. Discussion ensues on content of the letter and whether a draft letter or a more specific action on the agenda is required to take an action. Upon a motion by Member Sinton, a second by Alternate Member Halley, and discussion to refine the proposed language to act on the specific issue of boundaries separately, the Committee votes to indicate to the Board of Supervisors that “the [Committee] appreciates the regular updates by County Staff regarding the water district formation application. [The Committee] supports the staff’s efforts and believe they are pursuing the correct course.” (21-1-0-2) Discussion ensues on the whether it is more appropriate to recommend that the proposed water district boundaries be consistent with the Bulletin 118 boundary or the Fugro boundary and whether the Committee has had enough time to consider the issue and make a recommendation. The Committee discussed whether using the Fugro boundary will save time or create problems. Upon a motion by Member Sinton with a second by Alternate Member Halley, the Committee votes to indicate to the Board of Supervisors that the Committee “supports the County’s proposal to utilize Bulletin 118 groundwater basin boundaries with the understanding that those areas outside of the Fugro boundary will be removed from the district boundary when allowed to do so by the Department of Water Resources.” (18-3-1-2) Brief discussion ensues regarding the potential for management of watersheds surrounding the basin as a part of overall basin management efforts.
4. Approach to Replacing Rural Resident Member (Steve Crouch) and Alternate Member (currently William Frost) (see staff report)- Ms. Howard informs the Committee that Steve Crouch has resigned and that his alternate, William Frost, would like to be the regular member. Ms. Howard suggests the Committee consider a “first right refusal to the alternate” principle. She mentions if the Committee supports Alternate Member Frost’s interest in taking over the member role, she would notice the vacancies and recommend that the Board of Supervisors appoint Mr. Frost as member. Then the vacant position to fill would be a new alternate rural resident member. After a brief discussion, a motion by Alternate Member Cunha and second by Member Spencer, the Committee votes to recommend that the Board of Supervisors appoint William Frost as the Rural Resident at-large member to replace Steve Crouch (22-0-0-2). A suggestion is made to contact interested parties whom were not initially awarded a seat to inquire whether they are still interested in being a part of the Committee. The Outreach and Education Subcommittee is tasked with developing proposed at-large member qualifications criteria

to use when considering new Committee members and developing recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

5. Subcommittee Reports/ Recommended PBAC Actions-

- a. Approach to Replacing Subcommittee Vacancies (see staff report)- Ms. Howard informs the Committee that Steve Crouch has resigned and that his alternate, William Frost, would like to be the regular member of the Management Subcommittee and resign his seat on the Conservation Subcommittee. Ms. Howard suggests the Committee consider a “first right refusal to the alternate” principle. Alternate Member Halley, chair of the Management Subcommittee, notes that others were also interested in participating on the Management Subcommittee. After a brief discussion, a motion by Alternate Member Cunha and second by Member Spencer, the Committee votes to appoint William Frost as the regular member of the Management Subcommittee, replacing Steve Crouch (22-0-0-2). The Outreach and Education Subcommittee is tasked with developing proposed qualifications criteria to use when considering new subcommittee appointments and it is noted that the Conservation Subcommittee now has a vacancy.
 - b. Computer Model Update- No report.
 - c. Conservation- The subcommittee continues to develop a list of best conservation practices.
 - d. In-Basin Projects- The subcommittee last met on January 7, and is focusing on stream retention opportunities during its next meeting on February 5, 2015.
 - e. Management- The next subcommittee meeting will be on February 2, 2015 and will be advertised as a special meeting in anticipation of a Committee quorum being present. Topics include the water district formation process, SGMA, and supplemental water projects.
 - f. Outreach and Education- The subcommittee continues to provide feedback on website improvements, the approach to outreach associated with the water district formation process and other outreach approaches regarding the Committee’s efforts. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2015.
 - g. Supply Options- The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2015.
6. Public Comment- Alternate Member Freidman requests that the Prop 218 process and opportunities for public input be clarified. Cindy Steinbeck speaks to the quiet title litigation, and adjudication and its relationship to SGMA provisions. Mr. Diodati explains that only basins that have been adjudicated as listed in the SGMA are exempt. Wayne Montgomery speaks to the findings of his research on adjudication outcomes. Alternate Member Halley speaks to the need to focus on finding a way to stabilize groundwater levels.
7. Future meeting topics/ Committee comments- The percolation study to be conducted by the Upper Salinas – Las Tablas RCD and Outreach and Education Subcommittee efforts are added to the future items list.

Meeting adjourned approximately 4:00 pm.

The Paso Robles Advisory Committee approved these minutes on February 19, 2015.

/s/ Courtney Howard

COURTNEY HOWARD

Public Works Staff
