

**NORTHERN DELTA
GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

**Minutes of Wednesday June 28, 2023
Northern Delta Groundwater Sustainability Agency Meeting**

Walnut Grove Library, 14177 Market Street, Walnut Grove, CA 95690

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:36 a.m. by Chair Van Loben Sels.

2. Roll Call

NDGSA Members Representatives:

RD 744 – Brad Van Loben Sels, Chair

RD 501 – Craig Nakahara, Vice-Chair

RD 1002 – Jeff McCormack,

Secretary/Treasurer

RD 813 – Matt Frank

RD 369 – Topher Chan

Franklin Drainage – Richard Elliot Sr.

Osha Meserve, General Counsel

Soluri Meserve

Erik Ringelberg, Regional VP,

The Freshwater Trust

Chris Thomas, Policy Specialist,

The Freshwater Trust

Anna Swenson, Outreach Coordinator,

The Freshwater Trust

Quorum established with six Members (ten total votes) present throughout the meeting.

3. Public Comments

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) North Central Region Representative provided an update about DWR's data collection efforts, the availability of translation services for GSAs, and potential grant opportunities.

4. Review & Approve 5/25/2022 Board Meeting Minutes

Action – Motion to approve the 5/25/2022 Minutes by Secretary McCormack, seconded by Member Chan. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Chair, Vice-Chair & Treasurer/Secretary Reports

No other reports from the Chair, Vice-Chair, or Secretary/Treasurer.

Action – None.

6. Associate Member Agency Activities

GSA-RD 551 South American Subbasin Participation and Proposed MOU

Discussion – Staff informed the Board that GSA-RD 551 has made the financial contributions per the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GSA-RD 551 and the NDGSA.

GSA-RD 551 has expressed a desire to remain an Associate Member and continue having NDGSA Staff represent it in South American Subbasin SGMA activities.

Action – None.

Staten Island in Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin Planning

Discussion – Staff updated the Board about the status of Associate Member RD 38 – Staten Island and activities in the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin.

Action – None.

7. Subbasin GSP Implementation

South American Subbasin Status

Discussion – Staff updated the Board on the status of planning efforts in the South American Subbasin. In particular, the MOU between the GSAs in the Subbasin continues to guide the collaborative efforts to implement the GSP, which is expected to have a final determination from DWR in January 2024.

Action – None.

Solano Subbasin Planning and Proposed MOU

Discussion – Staff updated the Board on activities in the Solano Subbasin. The GSP implementation MOU was executed in 2022. A final determination on the Solano Subbasin GSP is expected from DWR in January 2024.

Action – None.

8. SGMA Regulatory Developments

Groundwater Well Consistency Determinations

Discussion – Staff discussed the process to determine whether a proposed groundwater well is consistent with groundwater sustainability, including the processes used by other GSAs in the region.

Action – None.

Groundwater Recharge

Discussion – Staff explained Executive Order N-4-23, which streamlines the process for diverting peak flows for groundwater recharge purposes. Staff also appraised the Board about a coalition of stakeholders have formed to investigate how floodwater could be better controlled to improve shallow groundwater in the portions of the South American Subbasin in the Cosumnes Watershed.

Action – None.

Ongoing NDGSA Water-Related Planning

Discussion – Staff updated the Board about recent watershed planning activities in the area that could impact groundwater sustainability. Staff will continue to monitor these developments and engage in the planning processes as appropriate.

Action – None.

9. Financial Updates

Discussion – Staff presented the results of the financial audit for the 2021-22 fiscal year, which was completed by the accounting firm Boden, Klein & Sneesby. The audit concluded that the NDGSA's financial statements appear accurate and correct and do not show any indication of material misstatement. Staff also provided an update on the status of the current fiscal year budget.

Action – Members directed staff to retain Boden Klein & Sneesby for the next audit.

10. Upcoming 2023-24 Fiscal Year Budget & Fees

Discussion – Staff presented a proposed budget for the upcoming 2023-2024 fiscal year to the Board and explained each line item in the proposed budget—the majority of the individual line-item projections were carried over from the previous year without change. The proposed budget is conservative in that it does not consider Associate Member contributions. The total proposed budget equates to \$2.41 per-acre, a decrease from the current fiscal year. As with past years, funds would be collected by the Counties upon Board approval.

Action – Member Elliot moved to adopt Resolution 2023-001 Adopting 2023-24 Fiscal Year Budget, seconded by Secretary McCormack. Motion passed unanimously.

Action – Vice-Chair Nakahara moves to adopt Resolution 2023-002 Adopting 2023-24 Fiscal Year Property-based Fees, seconded by Secretary McCormack. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Consultant Agreement and Scope of Work

Discussion – Staff explained that the NDGSA contracted with The Freshwater Trust in 2018 to provide consulting services, as outlined in two separate scopes of work. The contract needs to be extended and a new scope executed in order to retain The Freshwater Trust's services.

Action – Secretary McCormack moves to adopt Resolution 2023-003 Authorizing Chair to Execute Amendment and Third Scope of Work, seconded by Member Elliot. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Staff Report

Staff explained the need to complete a Form 700 for the Agency's records to the Board Members.

13. Agenda Proposals, Time and Place of Next Board Meeting

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 16, 2024, at 9 am at the Walnut Grove Library.

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am by Chair Van Loben Sels.

Respectfully submitted by Anna Swenson