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MOUND BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

held on Monday, March 21, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom and
at the City of Ventura, Assembly Conference Room
336 Sanjon Road, Ventura, CA 93002

MINUTES

DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE

Catherine Keeling, Chair
Elizabeth (Betsy) Cooper, Vice-chair/Secretary (via Zoom)
Arne Anselm, Treasurer (via Zoom)
James (Jim) Chambers
Conner Everts

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Bryan Bondy, Executive Director
Alex Dominguez, Legal Counsel
Jackie Lozano, Clerk of the Board

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Amanda DeLeon, City of Ventura
Kathleen Kuepper, UWCD
John Lindquist, UWCD
Ed Reese, UWCD
Daryl Smith, UWCD
Steven Smith
Ambry Tibay, UWCD
Jennifer Tribo, City of Ventura

CALL TO ORDER 10:02 a.m.

Vice-chair Betsy Cooper called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-chair Cooper led the participants in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS ROLL CALL

The Clerk of the Board called roll. All five Directors were present (Anselm, Chambers, Cooper, Everts, Keeling). Directors Anselm and Cooper participated virtually, and appropriate notification was provided to the Board of Directors in accordance with the new teleconference rules under AB 2449 "just cause" (item, B. contagious illness). This was the first request by either Director.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

Vice-chair Cooper asked if there were any public comments. None were offered.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Director Everts moved for Agenda approval; Seconded by Director Chambers. Roll call vote: Five ayes (Anselm, Chambers, Cooper, Everts, Keeling); none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 5/0.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member pulls an item from the Calendar. Pulled items will be discussed and acted on separately by the Board. Members of the public who want to comment on a Consent Calendar item should do so under Public Comments. (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED)

5a. Approval of Minutes

Motion

The Board will consider approving the Minutes from the January 23, 2023, Regular Board of Directors meeting. A meeting cancelation notice was emailed to the Board of Directors and interested parties list as well as posted on the Mound Basin GSA website regarding the February 27, 2023, Regular Board of Directors meeting.

5b. Approval of Warrants

Motion

The Board will review the warrant payment registry for previously paid invoices and consider approving payment of outstanding vendor invoices.

5c. Monthly Financial Reports

Information Item

The Board will receive monthly profit and loss statements and balance sheets for the months of January and February 2023.

Motion to approve Consent Calendar items, Director Everts; Seconded by Director Anselm. Roll call vote: Five ayes (Anselm, Chambers, Cooper, Everts, Keeling); none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 5/0.

6. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Chambers summarized outreach efforts he made to a landowner in the vicinity of the proposed monitoring well location. The landowner is willing to work with MBGSA. Executive Director Bondy will follow up with Director Chambers. Director Everts mentioned the Groundwater Resources Association of California will be hosting their Annual SGMA Implementation Summit and Workshop in June. He has attended in the past and would share the information, if interested. Executive Director Bondy suggested that any information from the conference be sent to Clerk of the Board Lozano for dissemination to ensure Brown Act compliance.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Information Item

Executive Director Bondy summarized the written staff report concerning Agency activities since the last Regular Board of Directors meeting of January 23, 2023. Director Chambers asked if the wet winter caused artesian conditions in the Basin. Executive Director Bondy said the new monitoring well was not artesian when it was drilled but will have seen what the groundwater levels are more recently.

Informational item. No further questions or comments from the Directors.

No comments or questions from the public.

8. MOTION ITEMS

8a. Board Appointment of United Water Conservation District Representative Catherine P. Keeling

Motion

Vice-chair Cooper welcomed newly appointed Board member Director Catherine Keeling as did the other Directors. There were no questions from the Directors. No comments or questions were offered by the public.

Motion to approve and accept United Water Conservation District's appointment of Catherine P. Keeling as its member Director to the Mound Basin GSA Board of Directors to fulfill the remainder of the two-year term through June 13, 2024, Director Everts; Seconded by Director Chambers. Roll call vote: Four ayes (Anselm, Chambers, Cooper, Everts); none opposed; one abstained (Keeling). Motion carries 4/0/1.

8b. Agency Officer Appointments and Required Bond

Motion

Executive Director Bondy summarized the motion to the Board for their consideration of approval. Action on this item was deferred from the January 23, 2023, Board of Directors meeting pending Director Keeling's appointment. Director Chambers stated, on behalf of the agricultural stakeholder group, he would like to nominate Director Keeling as chairperson. Director Keeling accepted the nomination. Director Anselm stated he would be happy to continue as Treasurer. Director Cooper also stated she would be happy to continue as Vice-Chair/Secretary. Additionally, the Board of Directors agreed the treasurer's bond coverage is sufficient and there would be no need to modify the bond at this time.

There were no further comments or questions from the Directors. No comments or questions from the public.

Motion to approve the Agency Officer appointments for calendar year 2023 (Director Catherine Keeling as Chair, Director Betsy Cooper as Vice-Chair/Secretary, and Director Arne Anselm as Treasurer) Director Everts; Seconded by Director Chambers. Roll call vote: Five ayes (Anselm, Chambers, Cooper, Everts, Keeling); none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 5/0.

Motion to approve the renewal of the current bond for an additional three years with no modifications, Director Everts. Roll call vote: Five ayes (Anselm, Chambers, Cooper, Everts, Keeling); none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 5/0.

8c. Resolution 2023-01 Approving an Amendment to the Agency's List of Authorized Signers for the Bank of the Sierra Account

Motion

Executive Director Bondy summarized this motion to the Board for approval. No questions or comments from the Directors. No comments or questions from the public.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-01 approving an amendment to the Agency's list of authorized signers for the Bank of the Sierra account, Director Everts; Seconded by Vice-Chair Cooper. Roll call vote: Five ayes (Anselm, Chambers, Cooper, Everts, Keeling); none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 5/0.

8d. Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Mid-year Budget Report

Motion

Executive Director Bondy summarized this motion to the Board for approval. There were no questions or comments from the Directors. No comments or questions from the public.

Motion to approve and file the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Mid-year Budget Report and mid-year budget modifications as noted on Attachment A of the staff report, Director Everts; Seconded by Director Anselm. Roll call vote: Five ayes (Anselm, Chambers, Cooper, Everts, Keeling); none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 5/0.

8e. Small Groundwater Sustainability Agency Coalition Participation

Motion

Executive Director Bondy summarized this motion to the Board for their consideration. After hearing the summary, Director Keeling felt there would be no reason why the Agency shouldn't participate. Director Chambers also inquired how much Executive Director involvement would be necessary and Mr. Bondy mentioned it would be low on his part. Also, any monetary or political requests from the Small Groundwater GSA Coalition would be discussed ahead of any decision making.

No further questions or comments from the Directors. No comments or questions were offered by the public.

Motion to approve Mound Basin GSA's participation in the Small Groundwater Sustainability Agency Coalition, Director Everts; Seconded by Director Chambers. Roll call vote: Five ayes (Anselm, Chambers, Cooper, Everts, Keeling); none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 5/0.

8f. Annual Report for Water Year 2021/2022

Motion

Executive Director Bondy summarized this motion for the Board for their approval. A website link to the report was embedded in the staff report for public review. Directors Everts and Keeling thanked Mr. Bondy for all the time he put into preparing the report.

No questions or further comments from the Directors. No comments or questions were from the public.

Motion to approve the Annual Report for Water Year 2021/2022 and its submittal to the CA Department of Water Resources, Director Everts; Seconded by Director Keeling. Roll call vote: Five ayes (Anselm, Chambers, Cooper, Everts, Keeling); none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 5/0.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Vice-Chair Cooper polled the Directors for any future agenda items.


- Director Everts mentioned he would continue to report to the Agency information of interest from the NGO Groundwater Collaborative group.
- Director Chambers wanted to discuss terms of engagement of testing-well site. Executive Director Bondy recommended a field visit to make sure the site works from a drilling standpoint.
- Director Chambers requested a resolution of appreciation for former Director Michael Mobley.

ADJOURNMENT 10:38 a.m.

Vice-Chair Cooper adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m. to the next Regular Board of Directors meeting on April 24, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. or call of the chair.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Board of Directors meeting of March 21, 2023.

ATTEST: 
Elizabeth (Betsy) Cooper, Vice-chair/Secretary

ATTEST: 
Jackie Lozano, Clerk of the Board