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**MOUND BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**  
**REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

held on Monday, June 26, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., via Zoom and  
at the City of Ventura Public Works Facility, Assembly Conference Room  
336 San Jon Road, Ventura, CA 93002

**MINUTES**

**DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE**

Catherine Keeling, Chair  
Elizabeth (Betsy) Cooper, Vice-Chair/Secretary  
Arne Anselm, Treasurer  
James (Jim) Chambers

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

Conner Everts

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Bryan Bondy, Executive Director  
Joe Hughes, Legal Counsel  
Kris Sofley, substitute Clerk of the Board

**PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE**

Heidy Gonzalez, Reiter Bros.  
Burt Handy  
Mohammed Hasan, UWCD  
Kathleen Kuepper, UWCD  
John Lindquist, UWCD  
Ed Reese, UWCD

**CALL TO ORDER 1:02 p.m.**

Chair Catherine Keeling called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Keeling led the participants in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS ROLL CALL**

The Clerk of the Board called roll. Four Directors were present (Anselm, Chambers, Cooper, Keeling). Director Everts was absent.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA**

Chair Keeling asked if there were any public comments. None were offered.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion**

Director Chambers moved for approval of the Agenda; seconded by Director Anselm. Voice vote: Four ayes (Anselm, Chambers, Cooper, Keeling); none opposed; one absent (Everts). Motion carries unanimously 4/0/1.

**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 Consent 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 May 22, 2023, Regular Board of Directors meeting.

**5b. Approval of Warrants**

**Motion**

The Board will consider approving payment of outstanding vendor invoices:

|                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Bondy Groundwater Consulting, Inc. | \$4,266.85 |
| United Water Conservation District | 705.43     |

**5c. Monthly Financial Reports**

**Information Item**

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

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar items, Director Cooper; seconded by Director Chambers. Roll call vote: four ayes (Anselm, Chambers, Cooper, Keeling); none opposed; one absent (Everts). Motion carries unanimously 4//0/1.

**6. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Keeling asked if there were any announcements from the Board members. None were offered.

**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 May 22, 2023. Mr. Bondy stated that to date, all semi-annual groundwater statements had been paid, and he reminded the Directors of Motion item No. 9b, requesting the waiver of penalties and interest for late payments.

Mr. Bondy reported that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has accepted the Agency's grant closeout report and that checks totaling approximately \$181,000 for the final grant invoice and retention are outstanding. He also reported that he had not received any updates from the Small GSA Coalition but would check with others and reminded the Board that the Agency was not selected for an implementation grant. He stated that DWR is closing out the monitoring well project and is in the process of transferring custody of the wells to the Agency. UWCD staff will also be adding the monitoring wells to its monitoring schedule going forward.

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

No comments or questions from the public.

**8. New Monitoring Well Briefing**

**Information Item**

Executive Director Bondy explained that Director Chambers had requested an update on the new monitoring well. Mr. Bondy reviewed the staff report and attachments which provided a summary of the new monitoring well construction and initial water quality sampling results. Mr. Bondy provided background on the purpose of the monitoring well and explained the purpose of the two other monitoring wells proposed in the groundwater sustainability plan (GSP). Construction of the new monitoring well was completed in July 2022. Water quality samples were collected in August 202 and seawater was not detected in the samples collected from the principal aquifers. He explained that the new monitoring well will be incorporated into United Water Conservation District's monitoring network.

Director Chambers asked about the MBGSA's cost for the monitoring well. Mr. Bondy stated that the project was funded by the State, with DWR providing the driller. MBGSA obtained an access agreement from the City of Ventura and obtained a Coastal Development permit. He estimated those activities cost around \$25,000 to \$30,000. Mr. Bondy said that had MBGSA had to pay for the project itself, it would have cost around \$1 million dollars.

Chair Keeling asked if there were any additional questions or comments. None were offered.

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

No comments or questions from the public

**9. MOTION ITEMS**

**9a. Member Director Appointment Process and Board Reappointment of the County of Ventura Representative Arne Anselm**

**Motion**

Executive Director Bondy explained that the terms for the three member Directors (City of Ventura, County of Ventura and UWCD) were set forth in the initial JPA agreement, with each member Director serving a two-year term, with the City and UWCD terms expiring in June of even years and the County term expiring in June of odd years.

The County of Ventura appointed Director Anselm in June 2022, which was in the middle of the term expiring June 2023. Recently, Executive Bondy requested a new appointment for the term of June 2023 through June 2025. Director Anselm advised Executive Director Bondy that the County's view is that his appointment is still valid. Executive Director Bondy noted that neither County Resolution No. 22-074 nor the County Public Works Director's appointment letter identified a term or provided an end date of the appointment. Based on this he concluded that it seems reasonable to assume that the intent was for Director Anselm to continue serving on the MBGSA Board after June 2023. He added that he hopes the County can align its appointment timing with the JPA terms in 2025.

Executive Director Bondy explained that mismatches between Member Agency director appointments and the terms established pursuant to the JPA Agreement have been a recurring issue. He requested that the member Directors work with their agencies to ensure that appointments are made consistent with the MBGSA Joint Powers of Authority Agreement.

Chair Keeling asked if there were any additional questions or comments. None were offered.

Motion to approve the recommendation to direct Member Directors to work with their agencies to ensure that appointments are made consistent with the MBGSA Joint Powers of Authority Agreement and to acknowledge Director Anselm's continued service as the County's Member Director through June 13, 2025, or until changed by Ventura County, Director Cooper; seconded by Chair Keeling. Roll call vote: three approved (Chambers, Cooper, Keeling); none opposed; one abstained (Anselm); one absent (Everts). Motion carries 3/0/1/1.

**9b. Review of Past Due Extraction Fees and Waiver of Penalties and Interest**

**Motion**

Executive Director Bondy explained that over time some extraction fees have been paid late. In those cases, staff have periodically sent statements showing late penalties and interest. Some of the penalties and interest have been paid and some remained unpaid. He referred to the table in the staff report detailing the unpaid penalties and interest for late payments, totaling \$14,566.15. Many of the late payments were isolated incidents. Four of the late payments are associated with the latest batch of invoices for the 2022-2 semi-annual period, which constitute 87% of the total outstanding penalties and interest. Several well owners reported that they did not receive the original 2022-2 invoice and have requested a waiver of late fees and interest. Staff suspects there was a mailing issue with the 2022-1 invoices. Due to the suspected mailing issue and the fact that the cost of recovering the other penalty and interest amounts would likely cost more than the amounts due, staff recommended waiving all penalties and interest that are currently on the books. He added that MBGSA does not include penalties and interest in the budget, so this would have no fiscal impact.

Director Anselm stated that the Agency shouldn't be dependent on late fees and interest charges as neither were factored into the budget or operating costs.

Chair Keeling asked if there were any additional questions or comments. None were offered.

Motion to waive fees and interest resulting from late payments of extraction fees, Director Chambers; seconded by Director Anselm. Roll call vote: three approved (Chambers, Anselm, Keeling); none opposed; one abstained (Cooper); one absent (Everts). Motion carries 3/0/1/1.

**9c. Adjusting the Starting Time for the Remainder of the 2023 Mound Basin GSA Board of Directors Regular Meetings**

**Motion**

Executive Director Bondy reported that, based on unanimous feedback from the Board, staff is proposing the Agency consider approving a new regular meeting start time of 1:00 p.m., confirming that the meeting date of the fourth Monday of each month would remain in place. Several examples were cited as to why this would be an efficient change, including two Directors traveling long distances to attend meetings and by holding them earlier in the day, it would reduce the amount of traffic those Directors would have to contend with. Director Cooper reminded the Directors and public that parking in the lot at the City Public Works building was permissible, as long as the person was attending meetings in the building.

Chair Keeling asked if there were any additional questions or comments. None were offered.

Motion to adjust the starting time of the Mound Basin GSA Board meetings to 1:00p.m. for the remainder of the 2023 Regular Board of Directors meetings, Director Anselm; seconded by Director Chambers. Roll call vote: four approved (Anselm, Chambers, Cooper, Keeling); none opposed; one absent (Everts). Motion carries 4/0/1.

Director Chambers stated that he believed Director Everts may still have a conflict on Mondays, but he would direct him to speak with the Clerk of the Board to address that if it was still an issue.

**9d. Fiscal Year 2021-22 and Fiscal Year 2022-23 Biennial Audit**

**Motion**

Executive Director Bondy stated that the engagement letter from Rogers, Anderson, Malody & Scott (RAMS) was very cost effective and basically the same arrangements that the Agency had entered into previously in May of 2019, which included a provision for renewal of the contract for another two-year audit period.

Chair Keeling asked if there were any additional questions or comments. None were offered.

Motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute an engagement letter with Rogers, Anderson, Malody & Scott, LLP to perform the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 biennial financial audit and prepare the associated annual State Controller's Reports for an amount not-to-exceed \$10,120, Director Cooper; seconded by Director Chambers. Roll call vote: four approved (Anselm, Chambers, Cooper, Keeling); none opposed; one absent (Everts). Motion carries 4/0/1.

**9e. Monitoring Well A Induction Log for Baseline Seawater Intrusion Monitoring**

**Motion**

Executive Director Bondy recommended approving an initial induction log of Monitoring Well A to provide a baseline for seawater intrusion monitoring. Induction logs measure the electrical properties of the aquifer and groundwater around the well and can be used to understand the vertical distribution of salinity in the aquifer in the event seawater intrusion is ever detected at the well. Changes in the induction log profile from future logs can be compared against baseline indicate the vertical zones in which salinity increased. He recommended using Pacific Surveys to complete the induction log because they are performing this same type of work for Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD), so they understand that purpose and data needs. There may be opportunities for MBGSA to partner with CVWD to reduce mobilization costs by coordinating future surveys.

Chair Keeling asked about the logging frequency. Executive Director Bondy said he would recommend performing the logs every five years unless seawater intrusion is suspected. He also clarified that MBGSA did not commit to a specific induction logging frequency in the GSP.

Chair Keeling asked if there were any additional questions or comments. None were offered.

Motion to approve hiring Pacific Surveys, LLC, for professional services in creating a baseline induction log of Monitoring Well A located at the Ventura Water Reclamation Facility in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,231 and \$269 contingency to be authorized at the discretion of the Executive Director (\$2,500 total authorization), Director Anselm; seconded by Director Cooper. Roll call vote: four approved (Anselm, Chambers, Cooper, Keeling); none opposed; one absent (Everts). Motion carries 4/0/1.

**9f. PUBLIC HEARING**

**Resolution 2023-03 a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Determining and Establishing a Groundwater Extraction Fee Against All Persons Operating Groundwater Extraction Facilities Within the Mound Basin for the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Semiannual Billing Periods (July-December 2023 and January-June 24).**

**Motion**

Chair Keeling opened the PUBLIC HEARING at 1:39p.m. to discuss potential extraction fees, based on the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget and the updated five-year financial projection posted on the Agency's website.

The Chair asked if the Clerk had received any written testimony, any online comments, or requests to address the Board from virtual participants. None were reported. Chair Keeling asked if there were any members from the public that wished to offer comment or testimony regarding the proposed groundwater extraction fees. None were offered.

Chair Keeling, having received no request to provide public comment or testimony, closed the PUBLIC HEARING at 1:40p.m. She then asked for a motion.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-03 establishing the proposed groundwater extraction fee within the Mound Basin for the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> semiannual billing periods (July-December 2023 and January-June 2024), Director Cooper; seconded by Director Chambers. Roll call vote: four approved (Anselm, Chambers, Cooper, Keeling); none opposed; one absent (Everts). Motion carries 4/0/1.

Director Chambers noted three things that could improve the approved groundwater extraction fee: another wet season, a better price on monitoring and keeping the door open on grant funding. Mr. Bondy said it was unclear at this time whether there will be additional rounds of SGMA grants. Mr. Bondy said it may be possible to spread some costs out over a longer period. Mr. Chambers said that maybe the GSP could overlap in areas with other agencies to share costs.


**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

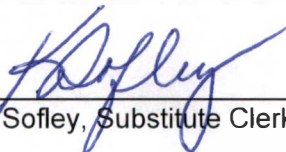
Chair Keeling asked if there were any suggest issues and/or topics the Board would like to address at future meetings. None were offered.

**ADJOURNMENT 1:45p.m.**

Chair Keeling adjourned the meeting at 1:45p.m. to the next Regular Board of Directors Meeting scheduled for Monday, July 24, 2023, 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 June 26, 2023.

ATTEST:   
Jennifer Tribo, Vice-chair/Secretary

ATTEST:   
Kris Sofley, Substitute Clerk of the Board



# MoundBasin

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

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## MOUND BASIN GSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Monday, June 26, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Name: JAMES CAMPBELL

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: 558 204-7680

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Heidy Gonzalez

Organization: Reiter Brothers

Phone: 805-385 8735

E-mail: heidy.gonzalez@berry.net

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Kathleen Kuepper

Organization: UWCD

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: kathleenk@unitedwater.org

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Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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