

**VINA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY REGULAR
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

January 15, 2025

1. VINA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (GSA) REGULAR BOARD MEETING

1.1. Call To Order

The Vina GSA meeting was called to order by Chair Tuchinsky 5:33 PM

1.2. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Tod Kimmelshue
Katie Hawley
Matt Doyle
Jefferey Rohwer – Vice Chair
Evan Tuchinsky – Chair

Management Committee Members Present:

Dillon Raney – Vina GSA Program Manager
Kamie Loeser – Butte County
David Kehn – City of Chico
Brandon Mortimer – City of Chico

1.3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

ACTION: Board Member Kimmelshue made a motion to nominate Board Member Evan Tuchinsky as Board Chair. Board Member Doyle seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following vote:

AYES: Board Members Kimmelshue, Hawley, Doyle, and Rohwer, and Chair Tuchinsky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

ACTION: Chair Tuchinsky made a motion to nominate Board Member Rohwer as Board Vice Chair. Board Member Hawley seconded that motion.

The motion passed with the following vote:

AYES: Board Members Kimmelshue, Hawley, Doyle, and Rohwer, and Chair Tuchinsky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

2.1. APPROVAL OF THE 12-11-24 VINA GSA BOARD MEETING MINUTES.

REQUESTED ACTION: Approve the Vina GSA meeting minutes.

ACTION: Board Member Doyle made a motion to approve the 12-11-24 Vina GSA Board meeting minutes. Board Member Hawley seconded that motion.

The motion passed with the following vote:

AYES: Board Members Kimmelshue, Hawley, and Doyle, Vice Chair Rohwer, and Chair Tuchinsky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may address the Board at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda; comments are limited to three minutes. The Board cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.

There were no public comments on matters not listed on the agenda.

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1. CONSIDERATION OF A LONG-TERM FUNDING MECHANISM FOR THE VINA GSA

The Board revisited the discussion of selecting a preferred funding mechanism for the Vina GSA's long-term fee structure, tabled at the December 11, 2024, board meeting. The Board selected a funding mechanism to guide Staff and the consultant in finalizing the Fee Study and preparing for implementation. (Report – Catherine Hansford, Hansford Economic Consulting)

REQUESTED ACTION: Select a preferred funding mechanism for the Vina GSA's long-term fee structure and provide direction to Staff and consultants to proceed with drafting the Fee Study and preparing for implementation.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S):

Doug (no last name provided), Aurelia Gonzalez, and Bruce Lopes provided comments on this item.

ACTION: Board Member Kimmelshue made a motion to select Alternative B as the preferred funding mechanism for the Vina GSA's long-term fee structure. Vice Chair Rohwer seconded that motion.

The motion passed with the following vote:

AYES: Board Members Kimmelshue, Hawley, and Doyle, Vice Chair Rohwer, and Chair Tuchinsky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

4.2. UPDATE ON THE DEMAND REDUCTION STRATEGIES PROJECT

The Board received an update on the Demand Reduction Strategies (DRS) project, including recent changes based on feedback from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in late November 2024. The update covered adjustments to the program, ongoing spatial analysis outputs, and budget considerations being reviewed by the Project Manager, Agricultural Groundwater Users of Butte County, and the subcontractor, Land IQ. (**Report – Tovey Giezentanner, Agricultural Groundwater Users of Butte County**)

REQUESTED ACTION: Accept as information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- 1.) Susan Schrader – Comment card received
- 2.) Greg Brislain – Comment card received
- 3.) Aurelia Gonzalez – Comment card received

ACTION: The board accepted the presentation as information and no direction was given.

4.3. CONSIDERATION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE VINA GSA AND ROCK CREEK RECLAMATION DISTRICT GSA AND THE TUSCAN WATER DISTRICT

The Board discussed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Tuscan Water District (TWD) to facilitate coordination and collaboration on groundwater management activities within the Vina Subbasin. The proposed MOU outlines the roles, responsibilities, and areas of cooperation between the Vina GSA, Rock Creek Reclamation District GSA, and TWD to ensure sustainable groundwater management and compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The MOU is a required component of TWD's formation documents, mandating that the district establish a formal government to government working relationship with the GSAs within its boundaries. *(Report – Dillon Raney, GSA Program Manager)*

REQUESTED ACTION: Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Tuscan Water District and authorize the Board Chair to execute the agreement or provide direction to staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1.) Greg Brislain emailed and provided in person comments on this item.

ACTION:

Board Member Kimmelshue made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Tuscan Water District as presented and to authorize the Board Chair to execute the agreement. Vice Chair Rohwer seconded that motion.

Board Member Hawley made a substitute motion to amend the Memorandum of Understanding with the Tuscan Water District to include a four-year expiration term instead of the originally proposed five-year term and to authorize the Board Chair to execute the amended agreement. Chair Tuchinsky seconded the substitute motion.

The substitute motion failed with the following vote:

AYES: Board Members Hawley and Doyle

NOES: Board Member Kimmelshue, Vice Chair Rohwer, and Chair Tuchinsky

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The initial motion made by Board Member Kimmelshue passed with the following vote:

AYES: Board Member Kimmelshue, Vice Chair Rohwer, and Chair Tuchinsky

NOES: Board Members Hawley and Doyle

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

4.4. CONSIDERATION OF STREAMING AND RECORDING VINA GSA MEETINGS

The Board considered whether to continue streaming and recording Vina GSA meetings. Consistent technical issues have impacted the reliability of streaming and recording, raising questions about the feasibility and effectiveness of continuing these services. The Board discussed the benefits, challenges, and potential alternatives to ensure transparency and accessibility in public meetings. **(Report – Dillon Raney, GSA Program Manager)**

REQUESTED ACTION: Provide direction to Staff on whether to continue streaming and recording Vina GSA meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1.) Greg Brislain provided comments on this item.

ACTION: The Board unanimously agreed to continue to stream and record Board and Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC) meetings whenever possible, with participation remaining in person only and streaming provided for viewing purposes only. The board directed staff to update the disclaimer to reflect this on meeting agendas and to note that streaming and recording are subject to discontinuance if technical or other issues prevent effective meeting proceedings.

4.5. DISCUSSION ON INCLUDING A STANDING ITEM FOR BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS

The Board discussed initiating a process to include a standing agenda item at future meetings that allows Board Members to propose topics, projects, or issues for future agendas. This discussion focused on the benefits, process, and considerations for adding such a standing item to support effective planning and decision-making. **(Report – Dillon Raney, GSA Program Manager)**

REQUESTED ACTION: Provide direction to Staff on whether to include a standing agenda item in future meetings for Board Members to propose topics for future agendas.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments given on this agenda item.

ACTION: Chair Tuchinsky made a motion to establish a standing agenda item allowing board members to propose topics for inclusion on a future agenda. For an item to be added, the proposal must be made by one board member and seconded by another. Vice Chair Rohwer seconded that motion.

The motion passed with the following vote:

AYES: Board Members Kimmelshue, Hawley, and Doyle, Vice Chair Rohwer, and Chair Tuchinsky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

- 5.1. Program Manager’s Report **(Information Only - Dillon Raney, GSA Program Manager)**

6. ADJOURNMENT:

The Vina GSA Regular Board meeting adjourned to Closed Session in Conference Room 1.

1. CLOSED SESSION PUBLIC COMMENTS OR BOARD DISQUALIFICATIONS:

Members of the public may address the board at this time on the closed session item only; comments are limited to three (3) minutes, or time limit as determined by the chair.

2. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION:

3. CLOSED SESSION

3.1 Call to Order

4. CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

4.1 PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(d)(4) - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

4.2 PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(d)(1) - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – Butte County Superior Court #23CV02789.

4.3 PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(d)(1) - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – Butte County Superior Court #22CV00321.

5. CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Chair Tuchinsky reported all Board Members were present at the Closed Session. No action was taken on the above items and direction was given to legal counsel on Closed Session item 4.2.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

The Vina GSA Closed Session adjourned to a Vina GSA Regular Board Meeting on February 12, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at the Chico City Council Chamber Building at 421 Main Street., Chico, CA and online via Zoom for viewing only.