

**MINUTES OF THE
VINA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING**

Meeting of

March 13, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Chico City Council Chamber Building, 421 Main Street, Chico CA

IN-PERSON AND ONLINE VIA ZOOM (viewing/listening only)

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 at 5:30 p.m. due to technical difficulties.

1.2. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Evan Tuchinsky

Jeffrey Rohwer

Matt Doyle, Alternate for Raymond Cooper

Kasey Reynolds

Todd Kimmelshue

Board Members Absent: None

Management Committee Members Present:

Christina Buck, Kamie Loeser, and Dillon Raney (Butte County Department of Water & Resource Conservation (BCDWRC), Linda Herman (City of Chico), Jeannie Trizzino (Durham Irrigation District) and Valerie Kincaid (Legal Counsel).

1.3 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Board Member Kimmelshue motioned to appoint Evan Tuchinsky as the Chair of the Vina GSA. The motion was seconded by Board Member Reynolds.

The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Board Members Reynolds, Kimmelshue, Alternate Board Member Doyle, Vice Chair Rohwer, and Chair Tuchinsky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Chair Tuchinsky motioned to appoint Jeff Rohwer as the Vice Chair of the Vina GSA. The motion was seconded by Board Member Kimmelshue.

The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Board Members Reynolds, Kimmelshue, Alternate Board Member Doyle, Vice Chair Rohwer, and Chair Tuchinsky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

2.1. APPROVAL OF THE 12/13/23 VINA GSA BOARD MEETING MINUTES.

Action: Approve the Vina GSA 12/13/23 meeting minutes.

Board Member Reynolds motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Board Member Kimmelshue

The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Board Members Reynolds, Kimmelshue, Alternate Board Member Doyle, Vice Chair Rohwer, and Chair Tuchinsky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

3. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT – NONE

4. 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.

Jim Brobeck and provided comments to the Board.

5. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

6. REGULAR AGENDA

6.1. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 11.3 and Appendix A of the JPA, an Advisory Committee consisting of ten (10) Board appointed at-large members representing various stakeholder interests was established to advise the Vina GSA. The recruitment for six (6) Stakeholder members whose terms have or will expire was conducted and the Board considered applications for the following appointments to the Vina GSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC). (**Report – Kamie Loeser**)

RECOMMENDATION: Review the applications and appoint members representing the following Stakeholder positions:

- Agricultural Groundwater User 2 appointments (4-year term)
- Domestic Well User 1 appointment (1-year term)
- Environmental Representative 1 appointment (4-year term)
- Business Association Representative 1 appointment (4-year term)
- Non-irrigated/Rangeland Representative 1 appointment (4-year term)
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Management Committee Member Loeser informed the Board that there were four applications received for the Ag Groundwater User positions, one application for the Domestic Well User, one application for the Environmental Representative, and no applications for the Business and Non-Irrigated/Rangeland Representatives.

Loeser also informed the Board that pursuant to the GSA By-laws no SHAC member shall be party to litigation against the Vina GSA. Therefore, the Board determined Environmental Representative applicant Jim Brobeck is disqualified because he is a Water Policy Analyst for AquaAlliance, which has sued the Vina GSA.

*****Vice-Chair recused and removed himself from the selection of the Agricultural Groundwater User SHAC members due to a conflict.****

There were no public comments on this item.

Board Member Kimmelshue recommended applicants Greg Sohnrey and Samantha Lewis be appointed to the Ag Groundwater User SHAC positions. Board Member Reynolds seconded the motion:

The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Board Members Reynolds, Kimmelshue, Alternate Board Member Doyle, and Chair Tuchinsky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

RECUSED: Vice Chair Rohwer

*****Vice Chair Rohwer returned to the meeting *****

Vice-Chair Rohwer motioned to select Anne Dawson for the Domestic Well User position, which was seconded by Board Member Kimmelshue.

The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Board Members Reynolds, Kimmelshue, Alternate Board Member Doyle, Vice Chair Rohwer, and Chair Tuchinsky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

6.2 UPDATE ON 2024 FEE STUDY

On July 26, 2023, the Vina GSA Board approved a Uniform Fee (cost per acre) to cover GSA operations, GSP implementation, and SGMA compliance activities. The Board approved the Uniform Fee with the condition that an updated Fee Study would be prepared taking into consideration the various beneficial users within the Subbasin. On November 9, 2023 the Vina GSA issued a Request for Proposals for an Updated Fee Study. Proposals were due on December 13, 2023. The Board reviewed and considered a contract with Hansford Economic Consulting to develop and implement an updated fee study and funding mechanism process as per the identified scope of work for the amount of \$225,000. (**Report – Kamie Loeser**)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the contract with Hansford Economic Consulting or provide direction to the Management Committee.

Anne Dawson provided comments on this item.

Chair Tuchinsky motioned to approve the contract with Hansford Economic Consulting to conduct the new fee study and funding mechanism process. Motion was seconded by Board Member Kimmelshue.

The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Board Members Reynolds, Kimmelshue, Alternate Board Member Doyle, Vice Chair Rohwer, and Chair Tuchinsky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

6.3 CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACTS AND SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENTS TO IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS

Staff provided an update on the status of the SGM Grant award, and the Board reviewed and considered approval of consultant and subrecipient contract agreements related to implementation of the grant-funded projects and activities. **(Report –Christina Buck)**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Approve and authorize the Chair to sign Subrecipient Agreement with Butte County or provide direction to the Management Committee.
- B. Approve and authorize the Chair to sign Subrecipient Agreement with Agricultural Groundwater Users of Butte County or provide direction to the Management Committee.
- C. Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Contract with Larry Walker Associates or provide direction to the Management Committee.
- D. Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Contract with Geosyntec or provide direction to the Management Committee.

Jim Brobeck provided comments on this item.

Board Member Kimmelshue motioned to approve recommendations A through D, which was seconded by Board Member Reynolds.

The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Board Members Reynolds, Kimmelshue, Alternate Board Member Doyle, Vice Chair Rohwer, and Chair Tuchinsky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

6.4 CONSIDERATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

The Board considered proposed Fiscal Year 2023/2024 budget adjustments incorporating anticipated revenue and expenditures associated with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program award. **(Report – Kamie Loeser)**

RECOMMENDATION: Review and approve the budget adjustments or provide direction to the Management Committee.

There were no public comments on this item.

Vice Chair Rohwer motioned to approve the proposed budget adjustment, which was seconded by Board Member Reynolds.

The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Board Members Reynolds, Kimmelshue, Alternate Board Member Doyle, Vice Chair Rohwer, and Chair Tuchinsky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Management Committee Members Loeser and Buck provided updates on the following items:

- 7.1. Update and possible direction to Staff regarding State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET) block grants in Butte County (**Verbal Report – Christina Buck**)
 - 7.2. Update on Butte County Board of Supervisors Adopted [Recharge Action Plan](#) (**Verbal Report – Christina Buck**)
 - 7.3. Update on Status of SGM Annual Report (**Verbal Report – Christina Buck**)
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Jim Brobeck provided comments on Item 7.2.

8. REGULAR MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

The Vina GSA Regular Board meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m. to a Vina GSA Closed Session in Conference Room 2 in the Chico Council Chamber Building.

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 minutes, or time limit as determined by the chair.

There were no Board disqualifications or comments from the Public on the Closed Session.

2. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION:

3. CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

3.1 PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(d)(1) - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL

COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – Butte County Superior Court #23CV02789.

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

4. CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Chair Tuchinsky announced that no action was taken, or direction given on either of these items. .

7 CLOSED SESSION ADJOURNMENT:

The Vina GSA Board Closed Session meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. to a Vina GSA Regular Board Meeting on **April 10, 2024** at the Chico City Council Chamber Building at 421 Main Street., Chico, CA and online via Zoom for viewing only.