



AGRICULTURAL WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023

A special meeting of the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee was held on January 9, 2023, at Santa Clara Valley Water District, Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose CA 95118.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Committee Chair Jan Garrod called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Members in attendance were:

Jurisdiction

District 1

District 2

District 4

District 5

District 6

Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District

Representative

Mitchell Mariani

James Provenzano

Sheila Barry

Brent Bonino

Jan Garrod

Trevor Garrod

Tim Chiala

Robert Long

Peter Van Dyke

Board members in attendance were: Director Nai Hsueh (District 5), Board Alternate, Director Richard P. Santos (District 3), and Director John L. Varela (District 1), Board Representatives.

Staff members in attendance were Jennifer Abadilla, Aaron Baker, Neeta Bijoor, Glenna Brambill, Luan Buckley, Justin Burks, Vanessa De La Piedra, Vincent Gin, Samantha Greene, Jason Gurdak, Cindy Kao, Bassam Kassab, Candice Kwok-Smith, Carmen Narayanan, Michael Potter, Metra Richert, Don Rocha, Ashley Shannon, Kirsten Struve, and Darin Taylor.

Guests in attendance were: Nick Santos and Jon (UC Merced).

Public in attendance was: Hon. Jim Beall (Valley Board Member-District 4), Ryan Castillo, Hon. Rebecca Eisenberg (Valley Board Member-District 7), Rosemary Feldman, Dhruv Khanna, Julie Morris (Ag Liaison), Shariar Moghadam (Valley Oak Farm) and David Vanni.

2. TIME OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON AGENDA

Dhruv Khanna reported on:

1. Early December he attended the Farm Bureau's meeting in Monterey (CA Wine) one of the themes was carbon sequestration. The only form of human civilized activity that involves carbon sequestration is farming; orchards (cherry/walnuts/trees and vineyards) engage daily of cleansing the air of carbon pollution and storing it in their carbon in the wood. The other form of human existence such as cement, asphalt, commutes and airlines involves the generation of carbon to the extent that climate change is being driven by human activity and carbon pollution and agriculture is the only form that sequesters carbon.
2. His New Year's Eve was spent keeping the rain gutters free of tanbark so storm systems would not back-up, silt is slippery, flooding issues and the role for farming in Palo Alto upstream of San Francisquito Creek (Stanford's golf course and polo grounds-natural places for flooding) if they paid farmers to farm that area this would help with flood control problems.

3. SPECIAL RECOGNITION PRESENTATION

Director Richard P. Santos recognized his two outgoing representatives William Cilker and David Vanni for their long-time service to the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee. David Vanni attended in-person and was presented with a plaque and was appreciative of being recognized.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Peter Van Dyke, second by Robert Long and carried by unanimous vote approved the November 14, 2022, Agricultural Water Advisory Committee special meeting minutes, as presented.

5. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

5.1 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Committee Chair Jan Garrod reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda.

The Committee Vice Chair Peter Van Dyke opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Mitchell Mariani nominated Jan Garrod and no other nominees were received. The Committee unanimously elected Jan Garrod as Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Chair

The Committee Chair Jan Garrod opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Tim Chiala nominated Peter Van Dyke and no other nominees were received. The Committee unanimously elected Peter Van Dyke as the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Vice Chair.

5.2 REVIEW AND APPROVE 2022 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT FOR PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD (COMMITTEE CHAIR

Committee Chair Jan Garrod reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee took the following action:
It was moved by Peter Van Dyke, second by Robert Long and carried by unanimous vote to approve the 2022 Annual Accomplishments Report.

5.3 REVIEW AND PROVIDE COMMENT TO THE BOARD ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 PRELIMINARY PROPOSED GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION CHARGES

Carmen Narayanan reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee discussed the following: keeping the rates low, open space funding, farming's future/crops, and the study of comparison of agricultural rates.

Darin Taylor was available to answer questions.

Public Comment:

Dhruv Khanna noted the following concerns:
problem projects, looking at policies, associated costs, and flood control.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee took the following action:
It was moved by Peter Van Dyke, second by Robert Long and carried by unanimous vote approving the Committee forming a subcommittee to discuss the rates and comparison data from other agencies regarding farming.

The Board representatives and staff will be willing to have the meeting with the subcommittee to discuss the myriad of issues and concerns with production charges.

5.4 DROUGHT EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

Neeta Bijoor reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee discussed the following: Water Use Report.

Kirsten Struve was available to answer questions.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee took no action.

5.5 AGRICULTURAL WATER USE BASELINE STUDY

Ashley Shannon and Nick Santos (UC Merced) reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee discussed the following: favorable study, pasture information, site reviewed, and field crops.

Public Comment:

Dhruv Khanna noted increasing water surcharge and a group that focuses on farmlands,

Kirsten Struve and Samantha Greene were available to answer questions.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee took no action.

5.6 INFORMATION ON PROPOSAL TO UPDATE THE UNTREATED SURFACE WATER PROGRAM

Bassam Kassab reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee discussed the following: program expansion, use of surface water for fire protection, use of recycled water, storm water recharge, central valley, and statewide subsidence.

Kirsten Struve, Jon (UC Merced), and Aaron Baker were available to answer questions.

Public Comment:

Dhruv Khanna questioned specific location of the program.

Valley Oak Farm commented on surface water users.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee took no action.

5.7 REVIEW AGRICULTURAL WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN, THE OUTCOMES OF BOARD ACTION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS; AND THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Glenna Brambill reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee took no action, however, the committee would like to receive some information on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

6. INFORMATION ITEMS:

6.1 STANDING ITEMS REPORT

Glenna Brambill reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee took no action.

7. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS TO THE BOARD

Glenna Brambill reported there was 2 actions for Board consideration:

5.2 The Committee approved the Accomplishments Report.

5.3 The Committee approved forming a subcommittee to discuss the rates and comparison data from other agencies regarding farming.

8. REPORTS

8.1 Director's Report

Director Richard P. Santos, thanked everyone for the conversation at today's meeting

Director Nai Hsueh reported on the 2 new Board Members:

- Director Jim Beall (District 4)

- Director Rebecca Eisenberg (District 7)

8.2 Manager's Report

Aaron Baker also thanked everyone for the conversation at today's meeting.

8.3 Committee Member Reports

Member from the Committee would like a tour of the Anderson dam project.

8.4 Informational Link Reports

Links were provided in the Committee's agenda packet.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Jan Garrod adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m. to the regular meeting on Monday, April 3, 2023, at 1:30 p. m.

Glenna Brambill
Board Committee Liaison
Office of the Clerk of the Board

Approved: 4-3-2023