



AGRICULTURAL WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023

A regular meeting of the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee was held on April 3, 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 1:34 p.m.

Members in attendance were:

Jurisdiction

District 1

District 2

District 4

District 5

District 6

Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District

Santa Clara County Farm Bureau

Representative

Erin Gil

Mitchell Mariani

James Provenzano

Sheila Barry

Brent Bonino

Jan Garrod

Trevor Garrod

Robert Long

Peter Van Dyke

Dhruv Khanna

Board members in attendance were: Director Jim Beall (District 4), Board Alternate, Director Richard P. Santos (District 3), and Director John L. Varela (District 1), Board Representatives.

Staff members in attendance were Jennifer Abadilla, Gina Adriano, Aaron Baker, Glenna Brambill, Justin Burks, Usha Chatwani, Vanessa De La Piedra, Paola Giles, Vincent Gin, Jason Gurdak, Cindy Kao, Candice Kwok-Smith, Carmen Narayanan, Don Rocha, Ashley Shannon, Kirsten Struve, Darin Taylor, and Greg Williams

Public in attendance was: Hon. Rebecca Eisenberg (Valley Board Member-District 7).

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

Dhruv Khanna noted that Silicon Valley Bank being bailed out by the government, shows him that government could come up with a plan to assist farmers/agriculture.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Peter Van Dyke, second by Sheila Barry, and carried by unanimous vote approved the January 9, 2023, Agricultural Water Advisory Committee meeting minutes, as presented.

4. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

4.1 REVIEW PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION CHARGES AND RECEIVE COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

Carmen Narayanan reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee discussed the following: water master charges and their increased fees, affordable rates, climate change impacts, carbon sequestration, open space credit, project delays vs actual costs, eco systems, benefits of agriculture recharge, bringing water back to the aquifers, and fresh food and produce.

Darin Taylor was available to answer questions.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee took the following actions:

1. It was moved by Dhruv Khanna, second by Peter Van Dyke, and carried by unanimous vote approved to continue keeping the groundwater production charges (rates) low.
2. It was moved by Dhruv Khanna, second by Robert Long, and carried by unanimous vote approved to have Vice Chair Peter Van Dyke of the subcommittee write a letter to the Board on behalf of the full committee regarding suggestions for keeping rates low and explaining the benefits of agriculture (farming).

4.2 DROUGHT EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

Kirsten Struve reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda.

Vincent Gin and Aaron Baker were available to answer questions on semi tropic water.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee took no action.

4.3 PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO THE BOARD POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE ON THE COMMITTEE'S PURPOSE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SUGGEST AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

Glenna Brambill reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda, along with Committee Vice Chair Peter Van Dyke.

Aaron Baker was available to answer questions on Mobile Irrigation Lab Program and water storage during summertime.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee took no action

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

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

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee took no action; however, they would like the following items to be considered on a future agenda: Injection wells, carbon sequestration presentation, mobile lab updates, recharge/percolation ponds, and an update on the Agricultural Water Use Baseline Study. Kirsten Struve advised that the study has been completed.

The Committee took the following action:

It was moved by Peter Van Dyke, seconded by Robert Long to have a special meeting in August since July's meeting has been canceled, it carried unanimously to have a special meeting August 7, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

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

Glenna Brambill reported there was 3 actions for Board consideration:

Agenda Items:

Agenda Item 4.1:

1. The Committee by unanimous vote approved to continue keeping the groundwater production charges (rates) low.
2. The Committee by unanimous vote approved, have Vice Chair Peter Van Dyke of the subcommittee write a letter to the Board on behalf of the full committee regarding suggestions for keeping rates low and explaining the benefits of agriculture (farming).

Agenda Item 4.4:

The Committee unanimously approved having a special meeting Monday, August 7, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

6. REPORTS

6.1 Director's Report

Director Richard P. Santos, thanked the committee for the actions taken regarding the rates.

Director Jim Beall reported on:

- He supports Valley Water utilizing their surplus lands for farm workers' housing.

6.2 Manager's Report

Aaron Baker also thanked everyone for the discussion and input on the rates.

6.3 Committee Member Reports

Peter Van Dyke shared some important articles on water.

Glenna Brambill gave an update on working to schedule the tour to Anderson Dam.

6.4 Informational Link Reports

Links were provided in the Committee's agenda packet.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Jan Garrod adjourned the meeting at 3:36 p.m. to the special meeting on Monday, August 7, 2023, at 1:30 p. m.

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

Approved: 8-7-2023