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Groundwater Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 23, 2019 1:00-1:55 pm
Boardroom, UWCD G.I. "Irv" Wilde Headquarters
106 N. 8th Street, Santa Paula CA 93060

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Michael Mobley, Chair
Robert Eranio
Ed McFadden (absent)

STAFF ATTENDING

Mauricio Guardado, General Manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer
Dan Detmer, Supervising Hydrogeologist
Dr. Jason Sun, Senior Hydrogeologist/Modeler
John Lindquist, Senior Hydrogeologist
Dr. Zachary Hanson, Asst. Hydrogeologist

PUBLIC PRESENT

Frank Brommenschenkel, Frank B & Associates
Tony Morgan, Daniel B. Stephens & Assoc., Inc.

Open Session 1:00 pm

Chair Mobley called the Groundwater Committee meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

1. Public Comment

Chair Mobley asked if there were any public comments or questions. None were offered.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Mobley asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes were recommended.

Motion to approve the agenda, Director Eranio; Second, Chair Mobley. Voice vote: two ayes (Eranio, Mobley), none opposed. Motion carries 2/0.

3. Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meetings

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2019, Groundwater Committee meeting, Director Eranio; Second, Chair Mobley. Voice vote: two ayes (Eranio, Mobley), none opposed. Motion carries 2/0.

4. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) Update and Agenda Review

Director Eranio reported that staff from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will be giving a presentation at the upcoming FCGMA Board meeting (April 24, 2019). Director Eranio is hoping that DWR staff will answer questions regarding whether declining groundwater levels—by themselves—are an issue of concern under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), or if their effects on users comprise the “undesirable result” under SGMA.

In addition, Director Eranio said that FCGMA staff and their consultant (Dudek) will provide an update on progress made on the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) at tomorrow’s meeting. He noted that some Las Posas Valley basin stakeholders were voicing the opinion that since the Las Posas Valley basin is not in critical overdraft, perhaps the FCGMA should consider delaying completion of the GSP for that basin, which is not required to be submitted to DWR until January 2022. However, Director Eranio was concerned about delaying GSP development considering that at least one water-supply well he knows of in the basin will likely go dry this summer.

Regarding the adjudication process currently underway in Las Posas Valley basin, Director Eranio said that the Court is requiring the parties to attend a mandatory settlement conference in June 2019. He felt that one or more FCGMA Board members would likely be required to attend the settlement conference.

5. Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MBGSA) Update and Agenda Review

Chair Mobley reported that the planned MBGSA Board meeting in April was cancelled, and the next Board meeting is scheduled for May 16. The MBGSA Board of Directors will be considering whether to hire a Proposition-1 auditor to support both the MBGSA and the Upper Ventura River basin GSA, as a cost saving measure. In addition, a Proposition-1-grant kickoff meeting with DWR is scheduled for May.

John Lindquist noted that United staff are assisting one of the MBGSA’s consultants by collecting groundwater samples from several wells this month for isotope analyses, as part of the GSP data collection effort.

6. Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (FPBGSA) Update and Agenda Review

In Director McFadden’s absence, Dan Detmer reported that the FPBGSA held a Board meeting last week (April 18). In addition to routine financial/administrative reporting, a representative of the FPGSA’s consultant team, Dave Ceppos, gave a presentation on stakeholder engagement requirements under SGMA and the role of each GSA’s Board of Directors. Chair Mobley noted that he saw Mr. Ceppos’ slides and was impressed with the presentation.

Mr. Detmer said that United’s Groundwater Department staff were working on compiling the conceptual model for Fillmore, Piru, and Santa Paula basins, a requirement both for numerical model development and for reporting in the GSPs being prepared for Fillmore and Piru basins.

7. Santa Paula Basin Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Update

John Lindquist reported that the 2017 Annual Report for Santa Paula basin was reviewed by the TAC, finalized, and shared publicly on United’s website in early April. In addition, the required SGMA on-line reporting for adjudicated basins was completed in early April.

Mr. Detmer noted that one question that has arisen is, should United ask stakeholders to report groundwater pumping on a more frequent (e.g., monthly or quarterly) basis, so that we could report pumping on a water-year basis, as preferred by DWR? Frank Brommenschenkel (member of the public) stated that he felt the pumpers would have little interest in performing additional reporting. The Committee decided to defer this question until the groundwater model was expanded up the Santa Clara River Valley and an opinion could be formed about whether the current frequency of reporting pumping volumes constituted a significant data gap. If the model calibrates well with existing pumping data (reported semiannually), then there may not be sufficient technical value in collecting more frequent data to justify the extra effort required by pumpers or United.

8. Future Agenda Items

The following ideas were suggested as potential future Groundwater Committee meeting agenda topics:

- Present groundwater conditions (focusing on groundwater levels) in the basins within United's service area.
- Evaluate the Pleasant Valley County Water District's suggested allocation-ordinance language regarding surface-water availability for pipeline deliveries.
- Discuss progress on allocation-ordinance language specific to the O-H Pipeline.

Director Mobley encouraged staff to develop additional ideas for agenda items that would spark interest among United's customers, regional stakeholders, and the general public.

Adjournment 1:55 pm

Chair Mobley adjourned the meeting at 1:55 pm.