

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority  
Board of Directors Meeting**

Meeting Minutes  
August 21, 2023 - 9:00am

**Call to Order: 9:03am**

1) Introductions / Determine if Quorum is Present

Directors in Attendance: Gary Thomas, Mike Selling , Leo VanWarmerdam , Mark Stretars , Pat Hume, Chris Hunley, John Mulrooney, Lindsay Liebig, Gary Silva, Jay Vandenburg

**Regular Business Action Items**

2) Consent Items

- a. Agenda – August 21, 2023
- b. Minutes – July 17, 2023
- c. Financial Report – August 2023

The Board addressed the topic of cash flow in regards to the financial report, overall spending and the recently passed budget. The budget broke down revenue from GSA Payments and the dates these payments are due. Based on these projections, the Board voiced concern over a possible cash flow deficit in January 2024. Staff suggested that the Financial Ad Hoc Committee reconvene as soon as possible to address these issues.

*Director Thomas moved to approve the consent calendar with the stipulation that Agenda Item 13 in the Minutes be updated.*

*Director Garms seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed with all in favor.*

**Regular Business Action Items**

3) Meeting Dates

In order to provide meeting materials in a more timely manner staff is suggesting that the Board convene on a different date on a monthly basis than the current Third Monday at 9am schedule. The new suggested date would be the first Wednesday of each month from 9am - 12pm, beginning in October 2023.

*Director Liebig moved to approve the meeting date change.*

*Director Stretars seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed with all in favor.*

Drafted on:  
August 21, 2023

#### 4) Technical Services Contract Scope of Work

The Board looked over the contract between EKI and CGA for the remainder of the 2023 year, set to expire in October. There is \$36,941 remaining in available funds. Staff looked to the Board for input on how best to utilize the remaining funds in the budget based on the current scope of work. Possible options include Outreach and Engagement, Groundwater/Land Use Dashboard, and the Finalization of the New Hope Road Monitoring Well.

The Board discussed if there was a way to not spend the funds, to shave off funds and save money where we can, how best to utilize the EKI staff at Board meetings and in general. Board Chair Hunley broke down the possible options and it was decided that Agenda Item 5 should be broached before a decision can be made on this agenda item. After discussion on Item 5 and the motion to use \$22,000 for the monitoring well, it was suggested that the remaining \$14,000 not be used at this time. No action was taken at this time.

#### 5) New Hope Road Monitoring Well

Staff and Board Chair Hunley provided an overview on the proposed groundwater monitoring well, going back to 2021. The intent is to fill in data gaps in the Cosumnes Subbasin, with the assistance of EKI. There has been significant progress made in developing this monitoring well. However, there is currently a \$30,000 funding deficit of the \$90,000 funds needed with \$60,000 being covered by grant funds. EKI shared their report on work they have conducted on the well network so far including Well Siting and Well Design, getting the encroachment permit, applying for and being awarded the grant and explaining the delay in the implementation. The Board discussed the SGMA Monitoring Network, the data gaps that need to be filled (integrated surface water gaps, in particular), the work that has been put into this project so far and what it means to the basin, the remaining installation needs and continuing hurdles.

*Director Thomas moved to approve the Option 2 of Funding, utilizing the EKI contract to assist with this.*

*Director Liebigh seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed with all in favor.*

#### 6) New EKI Technical Services Contract

Staff provided the new Scope of Work for a three year contract with EKI (2023 - 2026) as well as a budget with a total cost of \$460,000. Staff also showed the budget breakdown of funds for each task EKI assists with, for each upcoming Fiscal Year. The Board wanted to know information about the 25 monitoring wells in our network that we will be sampling, as well as the sites the wells are located at. EKI briefed the Board on the breakdown of the Proposed Project Budgets and tasks for each upcoming fiscal year, ensuring that the funds allocated are estimates rather than permanent, contractual language. Task 5, in particular, the Board did not want to move forward on. There was a general concern over the lack of funding and cash flow issues upcoming and signing on to a three year contract. It was noted that the contract could be amended and adjusted

at any time and staff does not have the authority to spend funds without the Board's approval. Rebecca from Downey Brand explained that this would be an approval of the Scope of Work and not an outright approval to spend.

*Director Thomas moved to authorize staff to move into a EKI Technical Services Contract For three calendar years with the caveat that Task 5 be subject to Board Approval for any activity over \$5,000.*

*Director Vandenburg seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed with all in favor.*

#### 7) Groundwater Sustainability Fee Study Development Update

Ryan from SCI provided a report on groundwater sustainability fee study development updates. The report included updates on the budget, parcel fees, public water system fees and groundwater extraction, and the irrigated acreage fees. In terms of looking forward to fee study needs, SCI discussed fee structures, the surface water approach, current SCI team tasks, fee implementation and a timeline for the April 2023 - April 2024 water year. The Board discussed a Prop 26 approach compared to a Prop 218 approach in which Rebecca from Downey Brand provided some background and feedback on the Propositions. There was also a discussion on various parcels and their fees. A request was made for a more in-depth data set on these parcels.

### **Informational Items**

#### 8) Committee Reports

Outreach and Engagement Committee Chair Teresa Flewellyn provided a report out on the most recent activities the committee has taken up. Firstly, there will be a bbq luncheon that Pat Hume generously donated \$1,000 towards. The committee is in the process of planning this luncheon. Secondly, the Workshop Ad Hoc committee met this last Friday to discuss Fall Workshop topics and logistics and will provide more information at the next Board Meeting. Finally, Barbara Washburn reached out to Wilton News connections and has drafted a letter in order to hopefully reach a larger audience.

#### 9) CGA Staff Reports

CGA Staff shared an update on

#### 10) CGA Counsel Reports

Rebecca introduced Downey Brand representative Taylor who is new to the organization and may take a role in assisting CGA in the future.

#### 11) DWR North Central Regional Office Update

CGA Staff provided a written report/update sent in by the DWR North Central Regional Office.

#### 12) Received Correspondence

None.

13) Director/Member GSA Comments

None.

14) Upcoming Agenda Items

The following items were identified:

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

15) Public Comment

None.

**Adjourn Meeting**

*Chair Hunley adjourned the meeting by consensus at 12:39pm.*