

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BEDFORD COLDWATER
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AUTHORITY**

February 18, 2021

Board Present

Paul Rodriguez, TVWD
Jacque Casillas, City of Corona
Phil Williams, EVMWD

Staff Present

Jeff Pape, TVWD
Ganesh Krishnamurthy, EVMWD
Tom Moody, City of Corona
Margie Armstrong, EVMWD
Parag Kalaria, EVMWD
Terese Quintanar, EVMWD
Victor Harris, Stantec
Steve O'Neill, Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neill, LLP
Katie Hockett, City of Corona

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Bedford-Coldwater Groundwater Sustainability Authority was held via teleconference allowed under the waivers of the Brown Act in response to the COVID19 epidemic. Participants joined by accessing information posted on the meeting Agenda, posted at least 72 hours prior to the meeting start time. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rodriguez at 3:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of Minutes of the November 19, 2020 Regular Meeting**
- B. Financial Statement**
- C. Ratification of Demands**
- D. Back-up Information for Major Contracts**
- E. Outside Contract Summary Report**

Vice-Chairperson Casillas asked for information regarding our investments. Chairman Rodriguez responded that the Authority adopted its Investment Policy about a year ago and funds are kept in LAIF's State Program. Ms. Armstrong responded to questions of the Board about the state of investments, reporting that LAIF funds are not in the highest earning pool, in comparison to other types. We have \$781,104 invested

but are not intending to keep a lot of money in BCGSA. We would need a larger amount to be kept in an investment pool for a longer period. The LAIF account can be viewed on-line, so we can look at the balance daily, if needed. Chairman Rodriguez stated that in the last return rate, the yield was reported at .54%, which is not great, but it could be lower. It is protected and if we get a revenue source and wish to invest for large capital projects, we could revise our policy as needed.

ACTION: Vice-Chairperson Casillas made a motion, Director Williams seconded, and the motion carried unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar.

4. BUSINESS CALENDAR

A. Adoption of Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget (MO# 32)

Ms. Armstrong reported that the proposed Operating Budget contains the annual GSP update. Once the GSP is done and submitted, we are required to do an annual update the following year. Since this is the first annual update, a little more effort is involved, resulting in a small estimated additional expense. Budget amount of \$15,000 is for the GSP Administrator's time and is based on what we've been spending for the JPA administration, as opposed to GSP preparation. The Oversight/Management costs are related to EVMWD's services. Website Domain and Software projection is an annual fee. Funds for Website content design are included in case work is needed, which is the same for the estimated legal expenses. The Auditor is \$7,000 for two years and \$5,000 the years after, we are budgeting higher in anticipation of a single audit for 2022, for the funds received this year, and we will do that again in 2023 for the funds we will receive next year. We may need single audits two years in a row. Insurance costs are related to coverage by the JPIA, and Dues are the ACWA Membership Dues.

In regard to the Non-Operating budget, the GSP Development amount is related to the remaining contract amount for Todd Groundwater's work, and some costs for Stantec to oversee GSP development and implementation. Mr. Harris explained that the \$450,000 is divided into two parts, \$200,000 for monitoring wells and \$250,000 for Management Actions. Management Actions are an important component of the GSP as the Management Actions and projects are what the GSA commits to doing. He continued that one purpose would be to gather data to assess sustainability in the basin and report to the Department of Water Resources (DWR), in specific formats. Additional actions might be to fill data gaps, or actions achieve sustainability within a specified time frame (for basins at risk). One project and five Management Actions have been drafted. Management Actions consist of tasks associated with gathering information for DWR, routine tracking of groundwater levels and groundwater quality, annual sampling and tracking trends, and tracking groundwater levels near the Temescal Wash for protection of groundwater eco systems, and the fifth is the periodic review of DWR's data on subsidence. The fourth Management Action, tracking groundwater levels near the Temescal Wash, relates to the project. The project will be to gather more information on the relationship on vegetation and depth to groundwater in the Temescal Wash, which is

a challenging effort. We may utilize shallow piezometers for biological survey and tracking. Answering Chairman Rodriguez's question about the list of Management Actions, Mr. Harris answered that this document is in the process of being developed. It defines sustainability, minimum thresholds and measurable objective and management action. These items are discussed in meetings with the technical group and comments of the technical group will become a chapter of the GSP for review. He added that these elements of the GSA can be contentious, but he opined that good conclusions were reached in record time, due to the relationships of the GSA agencies. Vice-Chairperson Casillas mentioned that she has been participating in their own Technical Advisory Committee and stated that in relation to the BCGSA, she would anticipate actions to come after the GSPs completion and inquired as to the completeness of the document. Mr. Harris answered that Management Actions are in draft form and will be reviewed by the public and technical team. Cost estimates are just that, and items in the Management Actions are required data to report to the DWR, it's not discretionary.

Ms. Armstrong explained that the \$450,000 is broken into two portions. One is the Management Actions, which is estimated at \$250,000, and \$200,000 is for the drilling of the two monitoring wells that are currently in design. This effort will begin this fiscal year. Ms. Armstrong added that we haven't finalized the Management Actions, so the exact cost is not yet known. Chairman Rodriguez opined that this is not yet adopted and still fluid, but this is a manageable number based on discussions and we know the level of effort that teams are making to craft that list, are looking forward to seeing the list, and appreciate the hard work.

Ms. Armstrong continued to report that there is an increase in operating reserve of \$6,775 (25%) proposed for next year, which is higher than this year. The increase is needed to maintain 25% of operating reserve for next year. Proposed Member Contributions take into consideration the anticipation of grant reimbursement of about \$371,000, based on what we project to submit for the rest of the year. This submittal and reimbursement will bring us up to the entire \$1M grant amount. The Contribution Carryover of \$40,500 remains. We have not billed for this fiscal year Member Contribution but will do that next month. The \$40,500 will be the carryover for the amount after we bill, less expenses through June. Non-Operating Reserves are the opposite of Operating Reserves, we are decreasing reserve amount to maintain the 25% balance. Member Contributions are \$388,362, or \$129,454 per agency for the next fiscal year.

Chairman Rodriguez asked in regard to the Non- Operating Budget if this is new activity, unrelated to the GSP document or anticipated activities during the fiscal year. On the current schedule, the GSP is supposed to be done by September. Ms. Armstrong responded that once the GSP is completed, we are required to perform annual updates to the document itself and the Authority will need Stantec or another firm to do that. The funds are to cover that cost. Chairman Rodriguez also asked about the \$251,500 listed as GSP Development & Preparation. Ms. Armstrong explained that this is to compensate for Stantec and Todd Groundwater's time to complete the current GSP. Also answering Chairman Rodriguez about any anticipated further delays or unanticipated expenditures, Ms. Armstrong stated that this is the remaining budget and did project in spending it the

next fiscal year. There is a delay for when we pay compared to when the effort was done; and we are incurring anything invoiced through June and accrue invoices at the end of the year. Chairman Rodriguez commented that it is a large number to wrap this up, and he requested future formatting to show what was budgeted this year versus what is proposed. He also commented for purposes of clarity that the four year time frame projected for the future is not for our action today, which is specific to 2021/2022 only. He asked, about the \$371,000, if there is risk in receiving that level of grant reimbursement. Ms. Armstrong responded that it depends on how quickly we expend funds and how quickly the DWR processes our invoices. We were getting reimbursements regularly, but our representative from DWR is now on leave and new staff is assisting, but this is the amount we anticipate receiving. We are also assuming that the remaining amount will be received in 2021-22. Chairman Rodriguez commented that this is a good faith estimate based on what we know today.

ACTION: Vice-Chairperson Casillas made a motion, Director Williams seconded, to:

1. Approve proposed BCGSA FY 2021-22 Budget.

5. Administrator's Update

Mr. Harris reported that Geoscience has started their work for the monitoring well and two locations were picked out to fill data gaps, however, one location is too small for the drilling equipment. Alternative locations may be right of ways or the golf course. Babcock Laboratories are on target with our baseline water quality sampling, and a major milestone has been reached on the consensus of Management Actions and projects. Todd Groundwater is working on draft sections of the GSP, water budget, and modeling. In the next reporting period, we should be in construction of the monitoring wells and Babcock will have finished sampling. We also anticipate finishing most of chapters of the GSP and opening them for public review. Next, Mr. Harris explained the grant invoicing item, that local contribution is what we must spend, and he is anticipating construction and completion of GSP development will move us into grant funding within this period.

The schedule is about thirty days longer than the last report. Standing meetings with Todd Groundwater are to discuss hurdles, decisions on management actions was a key milestone and will continue to push schedule to meet the January regulatory deadline.

Chairman Rodriguez asked if completion of the monitoring well effects our ability to complete the GSP. Mr. Harris explained that the monitoring well is not a critical path. Although it is helpful, the Plan will be completed with or without it, and it is largely for future monitoring. In regard to the delays, he continued that the modeling is always challenging, although part of the delay is COVID related, the technical aspects regarding elevation data and land surface elevation work needed additional time.

6. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. O'Neil reported that some work was done regarding 700 forms and the Babcock Laboratories contract was reviewed.

He reported about a different GSA in the Indian Wells Valley near Ridgecrest, with the situation of a pumper not paying the assessment, resulting in a lawsuit. He will provide updates in the future. Mr. Harris added that the area is in critical overdraft and, in our case, we do not have that situation.

7. Comments of the Board

Chairman Rodriguez thanked everyone for their hard work.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, the February 18, 2021 Special meeting of the Bedford-Coldwater Groundwater Sustainability Authority was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

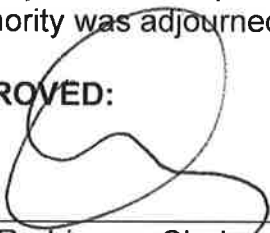
ATTEST:



Jacque Casillas, Vice-Chairperson

Date: 9/8/2021

APPROVED:



Paul Rodriguez, Chairman

Date: 6/22/2021