



Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 18, 2024

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Woodland Police Department
1000 Lincoln Ave, Woodland, CA 95695
(and via Zoom)**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Meeting called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Lee Smith, Vice Chair.

Executive Officer Sicke conducted a roll call and determined a quorum was present.

The following Board members and (alternates) were in attendance:

City of Davis: Bapu Vaitla (*Item 5 – end*)
City of West Sacramento: Verna Sulpizio Hull
City of Winters: Carol Scianna
City of Woodland: Mayra Vega (*Item 8 – end*)
Dunnigan Water District: David Schaad, Jordon Navarrot
Esparto CSD: Alex Lepley
Reclamation District (RD) 108: Roger Cornwell, Jordon Navarrot
RD 150: Warren Bogle (*Item 6 – end*)
RD 307: James Johas (*Item 6 – end*)
RD 537: Tom Ramos
RD 765: David Dickson, Jr.
RD 787: Dominic Bruno
RD 999: Tom Slater
RD 1600: Michele Clark
RD 2035: Kyriakos Tsakopoulos
Rumsey Water Users Association: (Mica Bennett)
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation: Marc Fawns
Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (YCFC&WCD): Tom Barth, (Shane Tucker)
UC Davis: Andrew Fulks
Cal Am Water – Dunnigan: Evan Jacobs
Colusa Drain MWC: Lynnel Pollock
Yolo County Farm Bureau: Lee Smith
Environmental Representative: Ann Brice**

Absent: Madison CSD, RD 150, RD 730, RD 1600

*remote attendance, member was non-voting

**remote attendance, member provided just cause pursuant to AB 2449

2. **ADDING ITEMS TO THE POSTED AGENDA:** Nothing to report.
3. **PUBLIC FORUM:** David Sandino introduced himself as the director of the UC Davis Small Farmer Clinic with the UC Davis Law School. The Clinic is a potential resource to advance groundwater management in this county, especially with an eye towards small farmers.
4. **CONSIDERATION: CONSENT ITEMS**
 - a. Adopt 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Dates: 1/13, 3/17, 5/19, 7/21, 9/15, 11/17
 - b. Approve September 16, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: Attendance sheet will be revised to reflect Director Pollock’s attendance.
 - c. Approve Payment of Bills in Approved Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Budget
 - d. Receive Fiscal Year 24/25 Financial Statements: 9/11/24 – 11/14/24
 - e. Receive Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting: 8/21 and 10/21

Action: Approve item 4a through 4c as presented.

Motion: City of Winters (Scianna)

Second: Colusa MWC (Pollock)

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote: Approved (roll call attached).

5. **CONSIDERATION: 2025 BOARD OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**
 - a. *Appoint Board Officers and Executive Committee for 2025-2026 Term:* The following officers and Executive Committee members were put forward for consideration:
 - i. Board Officers:
 - Chair: Carol Scianna (City of Winters)
 - Vice Chair: David Schaad (Dunnigan Water District)
 - Secretary: Kristin Sicke (Executive Officer)
 - Treasurer: Yolo County (DFS)
 - ii. Executive Committee:
 - Chair: Carol Scianna (City of Winters)
 - Vice Chair: David Schaad (Dunnigan Water District)
 - Urban Representative: Andrew Fulks (UC Davis)
 - Agricultural Representative: Lee Smith (YCFB)
 - At-large member: Tom Barth (YCFC&WCD)
 - b. *Adopt [Board Policy No. 1100: Officers](#):* Legal Counsel assisted in drafting the attached policy and procedure for YSGA officers for the Board’s consideration.

Action: Approve items 5a and 5b as presented.

Motion: Colusa MWC (Pollock)

Second: Esparto CSD (Lepley)

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote: Approved (roll call attached).

6. **CONSIDERATION: ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 24-01 HONORING HELEN THOMSON**

Lynnel Pollock and David Guy spoke in appreciation for Helen’s work in advancing water resources management in Yolo County and throughout the state. The Board extended recognition to the Honorable Helen Thomson for her lifelong devotion to public service and thoughtful leadership on sustainable water management.

Action: Approve item 6 as presented.

The Board of Directors unanimously approved the adoption of Resolution No. 24-01 honoring Helen Thomson.

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote: Approved (roll call attached).

7. CONSIDERATION: PUTAH-CACHE CREEK WATERSHED HEALTHY RIVERS AND LANDSCAPES PROJECT

The District is currently working with the Department of Water Resources for inclusion in the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program (previously known as the Voluntary Agreements), which is listed as an alternative in the 2024 Plan Update. The District proposes to partner with the Solano County Water Agency to increase flows in Putah Creek for salmon restoration, known as the *Putah-Cache Creek Watershed Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Project (Project)*. Kristin Sicke, YCFC&WCD General Manager, provided an overview of the Project and requested a letter of support from the YSGA Board.

Public comment: Ben King commented in opposition to the Project due to concerns about potential hexavalent chromium and mercury contamination.

Action: Approve item 7 as presented.

Motion: UC Davis (Fulks)

Second: RD 108 (Cornwell)

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote: Approved (roll call attached).

8. REPORT OF THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kristin Sicke, Executive Officer, and staff updated the Board on water conditions and project progress since the last meeting.

- Groundwater levels are approximately the same as this time last year.
- DWR, YCFC&WCD, and RD 108 are coordinating to install 3 continuous GPS stations and one corner reflector, which will improve subsidence measurements for the Subbasin.
- Ann Brice is stepping down from the Environmental Representative seat. Kristin will work with the Executive Committee to nominate the next representative.
- Approximately 13% of the SGMA Implementation Grant has been expended so far.
- The YSGA has hired three interns to assist in digitizing County well logs, verifying groundwater dependent ecosystem data, and other projects.

9. CONSIDERATION: APPROVE ENTERING INTO CONTRACTS

- a. Approve Entering into Future Contracts for Additional Assistance on HCM and Groundwater Model Data Input:

Erik provided an overview of the proposal, which would leverage local hydrogeologic expertise to update the hydrogeologic conceptual model using newly digitized well logs. If approved, the YSGA would enter into service agreements with West Yost and Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting engineers for \$30,000 each.

b. Approve Entering into Contracts with SEI and Leafbird for WaterSMART Grant Implementation:

Sarah provided an update of the recent WaterSMART Grant Award. The YSGA was awarded a total of \$400,000 in addition to \$493,000 of cost-share (mainly supplied by the SGMA Implementation Grant), for a project total of \$893,000. The project will achieve each of the following tasks:

- Improvements to the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Model
- Develop and Model Projects and Management Actions to Support Policy Decisions
- Develop a Seasonal Forecasting Platform
- Improve Data Management and Public Data Access

The proposed contracts would fund Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and Leafbird Consulting's work on tasks 1, 2, and 3 above, and would be fully reimbursed by the awarded WaterSMART grant. The contracts are in the amount of \$125,500 (Leafbird) and \$174,500 (SEI), for a total of \$300,000.

Action: Approve items 9a and 9b as presented.

Motion: City of Winters (Scianna)

Second: City of Davis (Vaitla)

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote: Approved (roll call attached).

10. CONSIDERATION: WELL PERMIT REVIEW PROCEDURES

On September 5, 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-3-24, rescinding certain mandatory provisions of the prior EOs related to well permitting. On October 22, 2024, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors approved Ordinance No. 1569, which extends a majority of the well permitting procedures that were enacted under the prior Executive Orders, and so YSGA's basic permit review processes will not change. The Well Permit Review Procedures under consideration reflect that the EOs have been rescinded and the process is now set out by Ordinance No. 1569.

There are currently 19 well permits in the queue, 13 of which are located within the Focus Areas.

Action: Approve item 10 as presented.

Motion: City of Davis (Vaitla)

Second: City of Woodland (Vega)

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote: Approved (roll call attached).

11. UPDATE: SGMA IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROJECTS

- YSGA Staff attended a field trip with the modeling team to learn more from UC Cooperative Extension professor Daniele Zaccaria about his research on ET in almonds

and pistachios. His expertise will be used to fine-tune the Subbasin's water budget model.

- YSGA and the modeling team have also continued efforts to characterize managed wetlands. The total acreage of managed wetlands considered in the model has increased from 55 acres to approximately 19,000 acres.
- DWR is working with consultants to develop a tool that will use AEM data and well logs to update modeled aquifer properties. Erik is working with DWR to gain early access to the tool.
- The YCFC&WCD recharge project is preparing for the upcoming wet season. GIS work in collaboration with Sustainable Conservation has developed a field prioritization score, and the temporary diversion permit should be issued soon.
- YCFC&WCD is installing automation along the Acacia Canal to facilitate the Yolo-Zamora Groundwater Recharge Project.

12. **MEMBERS' REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Carol Scianna reported that the City of Winters held its annual salmon festival recently, and so far about 120 salmon have been found in Putah Creek. Tom Barth provided an update about the continuing Hungry Hollow outreach process. YCFC&WCD successfully replaced the bladder at the Capay Dam. The Board expressed their appreciation for Lee's work as Vice Chair.
13. **NEXT MEETING:** January 13, 2024
14. **ADJOURNMENT:** Vice Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristin Sicke, Executive Officer