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**SAN LUIS & DELTA – MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY  
MINUTES-GRASSLAND BASIN STEERING COMMITTEE SPECIAL  
TELEPHONIC MEETING**

**September 18, 2020**

The Grassland Basin Drainage Steering Committee (GBDSC) met at 9:30a.m. This meeting was held via teleconference/ZOOM in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order (N-29-20) and the declared State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19, with Vice Chair David Cory presiding.

**Directors and Alternate Directors in Attendance**

**Camp 13 Drainage District**  
David Cory, Vice Chairman

**Charleston Drainage District**  
Tom Teixeira, Member - Joined Meeting at 10:35 a.m.

**Firebaugh Canal Water District**  
Kevin Hurd, Member - Jeff Bryant, Alternate

**Panoche Drainage District**  
Mike Linneman, Alternate

**SLDMWA Staff Present**

Joe McGahan, Drainage Coordinator

Joyce Machado, Director of Finance-Left meeting at 10:00 a.m.

**Others Present**

Ara Azhderian, Panoche Drainage District

Gabriel Delgado, Baker, Manock and Jensen- disconnected from Meeting for Agenda Items 4 and 5.

Palmer McCoy, Grasslands Basin Authority

Diane Rathmann, Linneman Law Firm- disconnected from Meeting for Agenda Items 4 and 5.

Ellen Wehr, Grassland Water District

**1. Opportunity for Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

**2. Committee to Consider Approval of August 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

After review of the meeting minutes of the August 21, 2020 Grassland Basin Drainage Steering

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Committee (GBDSC), Committee Member Kevin Hurd moved to approve the Meeting Minutes as presented, the motion was seconded by Alternate Committee Member Mike Linneman and passed unanimously.

AYES: Cory, Hurd, Linneman  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

**3. Committee to Consider Acceptance of Financial Expenditures Report.**

Director of Finance, Joyce Machado presented the Financial Report for the period ending 9/16/20. Committee Member Kevin Hurd moved to approve the Financial Expenditures Report as presented, the motion was seconded by Alternate Committee Member Mike Linneman and passed unanimously.

AYES: Cory, Hurd, Linnemen  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

**4. Committee to Review and Approve Change of Status of Special Counsel and any Necessary Budget Change**

Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan announced that Gabriel Delgado is now employed by the Law Firm of Baker Manock and Jensen and noted an agreement is in place between the San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority and Baker, Mannok and Jensen for the retention of legal services. It was noted Diane Rathmann is retained for Special Projects. Following a short discussion on possible conflict issues, Alternate Committee Member Mike Linneman moved to retain Gabriel Delgado as Special Counsel to the Grassland Basin Steering Committee, the motion was seconded by Committee Member Kevin Hurd and passed unanimously.

AYES: Cory, Hurd, Linnemen  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

**5. Committee to Consider Approval of Budget Change for Kronick Law Firm**

Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan discussed the need for for augmentation of the budget Item for legal; specifically, Kronick Law Firm due to expenditures on pending litigation which is \$30,000 to date but with additional costs of \$10,000 could total approximately \$40,000. These expenditures will be taken out from adjustments within the budget and/or contingencies and will not result in a budget increase.

**6. Committee to Receive Report on Pereira Memorandum of Understanding**

Gabriel Delgado reported the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Pereira will be consistent with other members joining and has a buy-in component. Delgado then reviewed the Pereira MOU in detail with the Committee. Following Delgado addressing questions from the Committee, Alternate Committee Member Mike Linneman moved to authorize Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan to forward the MOU to Pereira for signature. the motion was seconded by Committee Member Kevin Hurd and passed unanimously.

AYES: Cory, Hurd, Linnemen  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

**7. Committee to Receive Update on Mud Slough Restoration Project**

Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan discussed the new operation of Mud Slough in order to minimize wetland impacts and noted the work on documenting the Water Rights on Mud Slough and Los Banos Creek continue. McGahan concluded by stating he is in the process of have CEQA complete by October.

**8. Committee to Receive Update on Long Term Storm Water Management Plan**

- a. **5<sup>th</sup> Use Agreement**- Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan stated the final 5<sup>th</sup> Use Agreement is in place until 2029 and we are operating under the terms of the agreement.
- b. **Drainage Management Plan** – Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan stated work continues to the plan with submittal to Regional Board by December.
- c. **Monitoring Program** – Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan reported monitoring continues and a report of the first six months of the new agreement is due in October.

**9. Committee to Receive Report on the Status of the Prop 84 Grant Application**

Ara Azhederian reported the SCADA Sump Shut down project is proceeding along with regulating basins, Land development, land acquisition and a new drainage canal on the project. As to field work, new wheat grass will be planted this fall.

**10. Grassland Bypass Project Updates**

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- a. Operations Report – No Report
- b. Volumes and Loads Report - Site A and B discharge in CFS and rainfall in inches was reviewed for the period 1 November 2019 thru 28 August 2020. Site D, R Selenium data was reviewed along with Site B monthly Salt Loads all in graphic form.
- c. Monitoring Program and Toxicity Data Report – The Committee reviewed Event 65 sampled on 17 August 2020. The reports reflected no toxicity in the samples. Committee Member Kevin Hurd moved to release the Toxicity data. The motion was seconded by Alternate Committee Member Mike Linneman and passed unanimously. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Cory, Hurd, Linneman, Teixeira  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

- 11. **Update on Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharge to Groundwater Water, Grassland Drainage Area Coalition** – Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan reported new forms will be circulated for nitrogen reporting throughout the Grassland Basin Service area and well sampling will continue.
- 12. **Reports from District Representatives** – No reports given.
- 13. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**  
The next regularly scheduled meeting is October 16, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.
- 14. **Closed Session**  
The Committee convened to a Closed Session to address Items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at 10:36 a.m.
- 15. **Return to Open Session**  
The Committee returned to Open Session at 11:25 a.m.
- 16. **Report from Closed Session, if Required by Government Code Section 54957.1**  
The Steering Committee adjourned the open session at 10:36 a.m. to address items listed on the closed session agenda. Upon return to open session at 11:24 am., General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that the Steering Committee met in closed session and action was taken to initiate court action in one of the listed matters. The details of the action will be made public upon filing of the action. The vote in favor of the action was unanimous.

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17. **Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(2)**  
No Report given.
18. **Adjournment**  
Vice Chairman David Cory adjourned the meeting of the Grassland Basin Drainers Steering Committee at 11:27 a.m.