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

**May 21, 2021**

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 Chair Mike Stearns presiding.

**Directors and Alternate Directors in Attendance**

**Camp 13 Drainage District**

David Cory, Vice Chairman

**Charleston Drainage District**

Tom Teixeira, Member

**Firebaugh Canal Water District**

Kevin Hurd, Member - Jeff Bryant, Alternate

**Pacheco Water District**

David Parreira, Member

**Panoche Drainage District**

Mike Stearns, Chairman - Mike Linneman, Alternate

**SLDMWA Staff Present**

Joe McGahan, Drainage Coordinator

Joyce Machado, Director of Finance

**Others Present**

Ara Azhderian, Panoche Drainage District

Judy Bendix, Mosaic and Associated

Gabriel Delgado, Baker, Manock and Jensen

Chris Linneman, Summers Engineering

Palmer McCoy, Grasslands Basin Authority

Diane Rathmann, Linneman Law Firm

**1. Opportunity for Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

**2. Committee to Consider Approval of March 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

After review of the meeting minutes of the March 19, 2021 Grassland Basin Drainage Steering Committee (GBDSC) meeting minutes, Committee Member David Cory moved to approve the

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March 19, 2021 minutes as presented, the motion was seconded by Committee Member David Parreria and passed unanimously.

AYES: Cory, Teixeira, Bryant, Parreira and Stearns  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

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

Director of Finance, Joyce Machado presented the Final Financial Report for the year ending 2/28/21 and an update for Fiscal Year 3/01/21 – 2/28/22. Committee Member David Cory moved to approve the Financial Expenditures Report as presented, the motion was seconded by Committee Member David Parreira and passed unanimously.

AYES: Cory, Teixeira Bryant, Parreira, Stearns  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

**4. Committee to Review and Consider Buy-in Options for New Member**

Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan explained there is a new landowner (Stanton) on the Hamburg Ranch who wants to resume discharge from the property and comply with any and all regulations pertinent to the property. McGahan referred to a copy of a background memo on the property along with the Grassland Basin Drainers (GBD) Participation Buy-In Policy in today's meeting packet. Following a long discussion and numerous questions being addresses, direction was given to Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan to proceed with a letter to Stanton along with information received from the Authority Board for the buy-in for the Stanton Group to move forward.

**5. Committee to Receive Report on Mud Slough Restoration Project**

Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan gave a brief summary of the progress on the Mud Slough Restoration Project and referred to his Memorandum dated 20 May 2021 in today's meeting packet. McGahan explained the need for 401 WQ certification that will require completion of an assessment of aquatic resource condition using an assessment method approved by the Water Boards. The standard method is the California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM). This assessment was not part of the original scope of work for the project by is necessary. CRAM must be completed by trained practitioners for the application to the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB). Four companies were solicited for the CRAM process with the top two being; Madrone Ecological for \$20,000 and ICF submitting a \$28,340 proposal. Both proposals were strong in technical

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expertise but the ICF proposal is superior in the projecting post project CRAM scores at year 3 (post-construction) and site maturity (10 – 20 years post-construction). Post-project projections will be critical in determining mitigation requirement. McGahan noting no need for a budget adjustment .Judy Bendix discussed additional steps needed for the SWRCB permit procedures'. Following questions being addressed by Bendix and McGahan, Committee Member Tom Teixeira moved to approve reallocation of funds to retain ICF-Judy Bendix to perform the necessary CRAM for the Mud Slough Restoration Project in the amount of \$28,340. The motion was seconded by Committee Member David Cory and passed unanimously.

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|--------------|--|
| AYES:        | Cory, Teixeira Bryant, Parreira, Stearns |
| NAYS:        | None                                     |
| ABSTENTIONS: | None                                     |

Committee Member Hurd arrived at 10:00 a.m.

**6. Committee to Receive Report on 13267 Report to Regional Board regarding threat to Fish.**

Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan reported he is working with H.T. Harvey and Kramer fish science to report all data compiled on the subject since 1996. A report will be submitted to the Regional Board by 31 July 2021.

**7. Committee to Receive Report on Requested Revisions to the Drainage Management Plan.**

Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan reported following the submission of the Grassland Bypass Project Drainage Management Plan to the Regional Board, he received a review document dated 26 February 2021 from the Regional Board detailing some revisions to the plan. Chris Linneman gave a verbal summary of the comments and corrections to the Grassland Basin Drainers Drainage Management Plan and noted each of the revisions or corrections were contained in his 21 May 2021 memo to the Steering Committee. Linneman concluded by stating these comments will be submitted by 31 May 2021.

**8. Committee to Receive Report on the Status of the Prop 84 Grant Program**

Ara Azhderian reported the SCADA Sump Shut down project is close to conclusion and is approximately 93 % complete, Land development – Pereria has received a proposal from Panoche for the purchase of their land and we await a response from them. Another property has demonstrated interest land acquisition. Ponding basin expansion and construction are being

engineered by summers and a topo survey has been completed. A new drainage canal on the project which awaits approval from Reclamation. Azhderian addressed a few questions.

**9. Grassland Bypass Project Updates**

- a. Operations Report – Chris Linneman referred to a map detailing all the discharge points for the project. A graph of Sites A and B discharge amounts and rainfall events was reviewed. Site D Mud Slough selenium and flow for January 2021 – April 2021 was reviewed. Next the Site D Mud Slough (North) Downstream San Luis Drain – selenium concentration on a daily, 7-day average and monthly average selenium concentrations and goals were presented. In conclusion, Site R –Mud Slough selenium and Site B monthly salt load were reviewed.

Linneman reported deer in the San Luis Drain near Kesterson Wildlife area needs more “Deer Ladders” at an estimated cost of \$1,000 each.

- b. Monitoring Program and Toxicity Data Report – The Committee reviewed event 71-samples collected February 24, 2021. The reports reflected no toxicity. Committee Member David Cory moved to release the Toxicity data. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Kevin Hurd and passed unanimously. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Cory, Teixeira, Hurd, Parreira, Stearns  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

**10. Update on Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharge to Groundwater Water, Grassland Drainage Area Coalition** – Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan reported a video for compliance in the Irrigated Lands Program to meet the annual meeting requirement was circulated to all users in the Drainage Area.

**11. Reports from District Representatives** – Tom Teixeira reported the Charleston Board conducted an election and he has retained the Chairman’s position with Jake Barcellos being named Vice Chairmen. David Cory discussed possible in-person meeting in the near future.

**12. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is June 18, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Committee Member Hurd departed at 11:04 a.m.

**13. Closed Session**

The Committee convened to a Closed Session to address Items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at 11:05 a.m.

**14. Return to Open Session**

The Committee returned to Open Session at 11:15 a.m.

**15. Report from Closed Session, if Required by Government Code Section 54957.1**

Upon return to open session at 11:15 a.m.; General Counsel Gabriel Delgado reported that the Steering Committee met in closed session to receive an update on existing litigation listed and receive advice from counsel on matters listed on the Closed Session Agenda and took no reportable action.

**16. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(2)**

No Report given.

**17. Adjournment**

Chairman Mike Stearns adjourned the meeting of the Grassland Basin Drainers Steering Committee at 11:16 a.m.