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SAN LUIS & DELTA – MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY
MINUTES-GRASSLAND BASIN STEERING COMMITTEE TELEPHONIC
MEETING - NOVEMBER 19, 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 Chairmen Mike Stearns presiding.

Directors and Alternate Directors in Attendance

Camp 13 Drainage District

David Cory, Vice Chairman

Firebaugh Canal Water District

Kevin Hurd, Member, Jeff Bryant Alternate

Pacheco Water District

David Parreira, Member

Panoche Drainage District

Mike Stearns, Chairmen, Mike Linneman, Alternate

Charleston Drainage District

Tom Teixeira, Member

SLDMWA Staff Present

Joe McGahan, Drainage Coordinator

Lauren Neves, Staff Accountant

Others Present

Ara Azhderian, Panoche Water and Drainage District

Gabriel Delgado, Baker, Manock and Jensen

Chris Linneman, Summers Engineering

Palmer McCoy, Grassland Basin Authority

Diane Rathmann, Linneman Law Firm

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chairmen Mike Stearns called the meeting to order and requested self introductions.

2. Corrections or Additions to the Agenda

No corrections or additions to the Agenda were made.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comments were made.

4. Committee to Consider Approval of October 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

After review of the October 15, 2021 Grassland Basin Drainage Steering Committee (GBDSC)

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meeting minutes, Committee Vice Chairmen David Cory moved to approve the October 15, 2021 minutes as presented, the motion was seconded by Committee Member Kevin Hurd and passed unanimously.

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

5. Committee to Consider Acceptance of Financial Expenditures Report.

Staff Accountant Lauren Neves presented the Financial Report for Fiscal Year 3/01/21 – 9/30/21. Committee Vice Chairmen David Cory moved to approve the Financial Expenditures Report as presented, the motion was seconded by Committee Member David Parreira and passed unanimously.

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

6. Committee to Consider Recommendation to the Water Authority Board to Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Mud Slough Restoration Project

Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan referred to the November 19, 2021 memorandum from Water Authority General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd and Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan. McGahan reviewed the memorandum in detail with the Committee and addressed questions. Chris Linneman reviewed a summary of comments and responses provided to the committee and responded to numerous questions. Committee Vice Chairmen David Cory moved to recommend to the Water Authority Board to adopt a Resolution considering and approving a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Mud Slough Restoration Project subject to any American Disabilities Act (ADA) changes, the motion was seconded by Committee Member Tom Teixeira and passed unanimously.

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

7. Committee to Consider Recommendation to the Water Authority Board to Approve the Mud Slough Restoration Project

Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan referred back to the November 19, 2021 memorandum from Water Authority General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd and Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan that explained the project and analysis that the project represents the most practical alternative to restore Mud Slough flows back to the Newman Lake and satisfy the obligation of the California

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Department of Fish and Wildlife memorandum while minimizing adverse environmental impacts. Committee Member David Parreira moved to recommend to the Water Authority Board to approve the Mud Slough Restoration Project, the motion was seconded by Committee Member Tom Teixeira and passed unanimously.

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

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

Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan reported the 13267 report was submitted to Regional Board and the comments received from them was the need for fish tissue data and other related things. A response was received this week from the Regional Board requesting more data. We are also obligated to submit a follow up document in a year and one-half. We will be expanding a sampling program at three different sites to accommodate the Regional Board.

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

Ara Azhderian reported work continues on the SCADA project with permits from Fresno County holding up the construction of communication towers. As to land acquisition; the land seller may be requesting an extension of the escrow period to help them with their 1031 process and concluded with an update on the construction of a conveyance canal on the project. Chris Linneman reported on storage basin construction on the project.

10. 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 – October 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.
- b. Monitoring Program and Toxicity Data Report – The Committee reviewed event 78- samples collected September 16, 2021. The reports reflected no toxicity. Chris Linneman reported on sediment toxicity in the system and addressed questions. Committee Vice Chairmen David Cory moved to release the Toxicity data. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Tom Teixeira and passed unanimously.

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The vote on the motion was as follows:

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

11. **Update on Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharge to Groundwater Water, Grassland Drainage Area Coalition** – Drainage Coordinator Joe McGahan briefly updated the Committee on Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR’s) for Discharge to Groundwater Water. McGahan noted about twelve members were not in compliance at the end of the reporting period however he has reached out to them and brought them into compliance on the reporting issue.
12. **Reports from District Representatives** – No reports from District Representatives.
13. **Reports on Other Items Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2 (a)(3)** – No other items were presented or discussed.
14. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**
The next regularly scheduled meeting is December 17, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.
15. **Closed Session**
The Committee convened to a Closed Session to address Items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at 10:31 a.m.
16. **Return to Open Session**
The Committee returned to Open Session at 10:52 a.m.
17. **Report from Closed Session, if Required by Government Code Section 54957.1**
Upon return to open session at 10:52 a.m.; General Counsel Gabriel Delgado reported the Steering Committee met in closed session to receive advice from Legal Counsel, but took no recordable action.
18. **Adjournment**
Chairman Mike Stearns adjourned the meeting of the Grassland Basin Drainers Steering Committee at 10:53 a.m.