

PASO ROBLES GROUNDWATER BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE:  
PASO ROBLES CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

August 21, 2014  
Meeting Minutes

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An audio recording of the meeting and materials submitted during public comment are available online at [www.SLOCountyWater.org](http://www.SLOCountyWater.org).

Approximately 2:00 pm the meeting is called to order

1. Determination of Quorum and Introductions – Quorum established.
2. Roll Call Voting Procedures – Courtney Howard, County Staff, states there was a request to do roll call voting at the July meeting. She notes per Brown Act, it is now mandatory to record how each person votes for every motion.
3. Approve July Meeting Minutes – The July 17, 2014 Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee meeting minutes were reviewed. Under Item 3, Member Luft wishes to change “Member Luft” to “Mrs. Howard” whom had explained the symbols on the matrix. She also notes the last sentence on page 3 was cut off and should say “Member Luft moves to nominate Member Edwards with a second by Member Christianson (unanimous).” Under Item 4, Member Brown wishes to change “there are no public processes to consider the bill” to “PRAAGS was reluctant to support the bill as amended because it contained language that had not been fully vetted by the local public.” Member Luft moves to approve the minutes as amended, with a second by Member Wilmore (17-0-6).
4. Agricultural Water Use Offset Program Presentation – Member Edwards presents on the agricultural water use offset program that is being developed in accordance with the County Urgency Ordinance for the basin. She states this program is a localized solution and is currently halfway through the public outreach phase. The program is based on the following framework provisions: crop conversions, new irrigated acreage, increased crop density, rootstock conversions, and rural groundwater uses not included in urban domestic program through the County. She explains the steps of the process: determining the amount of water credit for existing crop, determining potential acres of new crop, assessing impacts to wells and ensuring the credit well location is within cone of depression proximity to the new well location. Jeff Barry, GSI Water Solutions hydrogeologist, presents on how proximity or acceptable distance from the credit well to the new well was calculated. He states an online calculator is being developed so property owners can estimate the acceptable distance. Member Edwards states the next steps include refining framework and language to finalize draft report for the County, education and outreach efforts from June through September, and finalizing the program for adoption around October 2014. Discussion ensues on annual verification of water use by a third party, recommending to use wells as monitoring wells instead of abandoning them, areas encompassed by the new water district, and the best ratio for agricultural offset.

5. Update on Nacimiento Pipeline – Chair Neil states the Nacimiento pipeline contains 5-6 holes and is currently out of service. Divers are scheduled to explore the pipeline, cut out couple samples to find out the cause of the holes, and patch the holes up. The pipeline is anticipated to be out of commission for the next 2-3 weeks.
6. Ongoing Uses of Nacimiento Water in the Basin –
  - a. Salinas River Underflow Enhancement/ Deliveries – Chair Neil states the Atascadero Mutual Water Company (AMWC) contributes to the Salinas River underflow. The AMWC operates water percolation ponds which supply water to the Atascadero sub-basin and in turn replenishes the Paso Robles basin. Chair Neil states water that escapes from AMWC’s system benefits pastures to the East and users downstream, as the percolation ponds keep the alluvial full and offsets pumping costs. The city of Paso Robles is also recharging the basin. Discussion ensues on next steps, timeline and complications to using Nacimiento water to recharge the basin.
  - b. Paso Robles Water Treatment Plant Phases – The Paso Robles water treatment plant can process 2.4 MGD.
7. Update on Water District Legislation (AB 2453) – Member Luft states the most recent version of AB 2453 is on the state website. The Pavley-Dickinson legislation has recently worked its way through the Senator’s office. Discussion ensues on the what to do if the statutory water district is against the Pavley-Dickinson, how and when to incorporate Pavley-Dickinson to AB 2453 if it passes, creating a joint powers authority, water district boundaries, and the difference between adjudication and a water district.
8. Conflict of Interest Discussion – Chair Neil states he received an e-mail stating there may be a conflict of interest because certain members of the committee are plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the County regarding the basin. Chair Neil refers to the staff report regarding this issue and notes its conclusion that there is no legal conflict since the committee is an advisory body and not a decision making body. Chair Neil states any disagreements may be referred to County Council and Member Luft suggests that members keep the committee’s mission in mind when conducting committee business.
9. Subcommittee Administration –
  - a. Meeting Coordination Efforts – Courtney Howard, County Staff, provides guidelines and chair roles related to the facilitation of subcommittees. Discussion ensues regarding how many members and alternates may attend a subcommittee meeting and Brown Act requirements.
  - b. Consider member request to participate on the In-Basin Projects Subcommittee – Chair Neil states Sue Luft will fill the vacancy in the In-Basin Projects subcommittee.

c. Subcommittee Reports –

- i. Outreach and Education – Subcommittee Chair Engel states the subcommittee met on August 10, 2014 at Windrose Farms. The group reviewed efforts put forth by the Blue Ribbon Steering Committee. The group also reviewed the pasobasin.org website. The subcommittee suggests advertising the website and making a water conservation program to connect with the youth (e.g. FFA and 4F).
- ii. Management – Subcommittee Chair Halley states the subcommittee met on August 18, 2014 and discussed the purpose of their group: to track and advise on formation of Water District (AB2453) as well as proposed Joint Powers Authority, and to make recommendations to the full Advisory Committee regarding the management plan, whether it be the amended “AB 3030” or the “Pavley - Dickinson” format.
- iii. Supply – Subcommittee Chair Britz states that the subcommittee had a conference call on August 13, 2014 to review the approach to the District’s Supply Options feasibility study and the three major sources of water to be studied: Lake Nacimiento water, State Water Project and recycled water.
- iv. Conservation – Member Edwards states the subcommittee will meet on the first Thursday of every month. The group had discussed the Integrated Regional Water Management Program project list, conservation opportunities, gaining funding, possibly setting up an electronic forum, and working with the Outreach and Education subcommittee. Discussion ensues on a having a presentation about wetland infiltration, environmental permitting, and bladder dams.
- v. In-Basin Solutions – Discussion ensues on the difference between the conservation and in-basin solutions subcommittees.
- vi. Computer Model Update – Subcommittee Chair Luft states subcommittee meetings are postponed until the next deliverable for the project is available. Ms. Howard estimates that the next deliverable would be available around the second week of September; however the estimate is contingent upon the time needed to address issues identified during the quality control review process. Discussion ensues on the current status of the computer model, including recent quality assurance/quality control activities.

A request was made for subcommittees to provide a summary of their meetings and attach it to the agenda.

10. Updated Cumulative Water Surface Elevation Trends – Courtney Howard, County Staff, speaks to the updated cumulative water surface elevation trend graphs, including the data used and a description of how and when they were developed and are updated. Ms. Howard notes that the difference between the two sets of graphs provided is the location of the rain gage each set utilizes (Atascadero vs. Paso Robles). Ms. Howard notes the yellow band on each graph was established in 2009 as the Basin management objective for each sub area.

11. Public Comment – Alternate Member Friedman asks whether deepening wells would address basin issues. Discussion ensues regarding the objective to stabilize water levels in the basin, economic impacts associated with pumping from deeper depths, the ability to deepen wells in certain areas and costs, degradation of water quality with depth, and pros and cons to community wells. An inquiry was made about next steps for AB 2453 and LAFCO.

A motion to extend the meeting 15 minutes was made, seconded and passed.

12. Future Meeting Topics/ Committee Comments – Future agenda items requested included a presentation from Devin Best on the implementation of retention systems to aid basin recharge; considering whether to recommend that the Board of Supervisors initiate the formation of a Paso Basin Water District with LAFCO should AB 2453 be signed by the governor; a presentation on groundwater legislation that may be signed by the governor; considering whether to recommend that the Board of Supervisors initiate a project to recharge the basin via the Salinas River with unused Nacimiento water; and updating and publicizing the pasobasin.org website. Discussion ensues regarding the requests that will be addressed by the applicable subcommittees.

Meeting adjourned approximately 4:15 pm.

The Paso Robles Groundwater Advisory Committee approved these minutes on September 18, 2014.

/s/ Courtney Howard

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COURTNEY HOWARD  
Public Works Staff

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