

# **Big Valley Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee (BVAC)**

## **Unapproved Meeting Minutes**

### **BVAC Members:**

**Lassen County BVAC** – Aaron Albaugh, Board Representative; Gary Bridges, Alt. Board Representative; Kevin Mitchell, Public Representative; Duane Conner, Public Representative  
**Modoc County BVAC** – Geri Byrne, Board Representative; Ned Coe, Alt. Board Representative; Jimmy Nunn, Public Representative; John Ohm, Public Representative

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Wednesday, October 6, 2021

2:00 PM

Veterans Memorial Hall  
657-575 Bridge Street  
Bieber, CA 96009

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BVAC Convene in Special Session.

Present: Committee Members: Byrne, Albaugh, Mitchell, Conner, Ohm, and Nunn.  
Absent: Committee Members: None

Also in attendance: BVAC Secretary Maurice Anderson  
BVAC Staff Tiffany Martinez  
BVAC Staff Gaylon Norwood  
BVAC Recorder Brooke Suarez  
Alt. Board Representative Gary Bridges

BVAC Chairman Byrne called the meeting to order at 2:21 p.m. She read the public comment rules for the meeting.

**Flag Salute:** Chairman Byrne requested Representative Mitchell lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**General Update by Secretary:** Secretary Anderson just had a general comment that hopefully the BVAC, even though they disapprove of having to go through this process, comes to a consensus on the GSP and provides it to both the counties' Boards of Supervisors.

**Matters Initiated by Committee Members:** Vice-Chairman Albaugh gave kudos to staff for the work they have put into the GSP. He also told GEI representative D. Fairman that GEI's quality of work and content is disappointing. He recommended that GEI refund monies back to all parties involved.

Representative Ohm stated that he had ties to other counties and was concerned that the fees for implementing the plan in those counties are going back to the land owners. He knew of a

particular instance of a Glenn County 6,000 acre land owner who is paying \$12,000 per year towards the implementation fees. Ohm feels this needs to be addressed now.

**Correspondence** (unrelated to a specific agenda item): None

### **Approval of Minutes (September 9, 2021) –**

**A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Albaugh to approve BVAC meeting minutes from September 9, 2021 with changes. The motion was seconded by Representative Ohm. The motion was carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 – Byrne, Albaugh, Mitchell, Conner, Ohm, and Nunn.

Laura Snell facilitated the meeting.

### **SUBJECT #1:**

Introduction of the Revised Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP – *all chapters*)

#### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

1. Receive reports from the pertinent ad hoc committees, BVAC Secretary, Staff, and/or Consultant.
2. Receive public comment.
3. Adopt a resolution recommending that the Big Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) each conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Big Valley Groundwater Basin.

Tiffany Martinez went over the schedule for the final steps of the GSP. She stated DWR has two years to review the GSP. If DWR disapproves the GSP with deficiencies, the GSAs have 180 days to address those deficiencies. She also reviewed the changes to Chapters 1 and 2. She reported on the September 21<sup>st</sup> ad hoc committee's changes.

Committee comment: Committee members had many verbiage and grammar changes. Vice-Chairman Albaugh pointed out where DWR had made assumptions instead of using science. Chairman Byrne pointed out that the percentage of the basin in each county was not consistent where it was listed.

D. Fairman presented changes to Chapters 3 through 6. He had a handout of those changes (Exhibit A).

Committee comment: Committee members had many verbiage changes. Vice-Chairman Albaugh told GEI to be consistent with reference to the 144 square miles. The words “is”, “about” and “approximately” were used prior to the same referenced 144 square miles in different places. Also get rid of the word “managed” in regard to the wetlands. Vice-Chairman Albaugh told GEI they need to be consistent with the footnotes as well. He also stated that D. Fairman should contact Brian Hutchinson regarding the correct wording for line 640 and then send it to Representatives Ohm and Nunn to proof.

### **Motion to Recess:**

**A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Albaugh to take a brief break period. The motion was seconded by Representative Ohm. The motion was carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 – Byrne, Albaugh, Mitchell, Conner, Ohm, and Nunn.

Break: 3:48 pm to 4:04 pm.

Representative Nunn left the meeting during the break.

G. Norwood presented changes to Chapters 7 through 12. He noted that text was added to summarize Lassen County’s requests to the governor to extend the GSP deadline. He handed out the Executive Summary and a cover page sample for the GSP, exhibits B and C. Exhibit D, which listed some public comment, was handed out also.

Committee comment: Committee members had many verbiage changes. Vice-Chairman Albaugh wanted to be sure that staff included GSP changes in the Executive Summary as needed. Discussion was held on the choice of the photo for the cover. Staff will choose a new picture to put on the cover in consultation with the chair and vice chair.

Public comment: None

Online comment: Julie suggested legal references be added for lines 369-370. She also questioned the areas with no color in Figure 5-17 as she did not see anything in the legend. Ian Espinoza gave the definition for a perennial stream and that a perennial stream would not preclude it from being considered interconnected. Doreen Smith Power found fault in the way public comments were being handled and not being taken into consideration.

Further discussion was held regarding the resolution as well as the time line of the GSP going forward. D. Fairman said there will be organizations that will wait until the last minute to provide public comment. T. Martinez stated for the record that various groups have been asked to respond to the GSP and they said that they will wait for the 30-day comment period to respond.

**Matters Initiated by the General Public** (regarding subjects not on the agenda): None

**Establish next meeting date:** Special Meeting October 20, 2021 at 5:00 pm in Adin.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, Chairman Byrne adjourned the meeting at 6:08 pm.