

# Big Valley Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee (BVAC)

## Approved 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, July 7, 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, and Nunn.  
Absent: Committee Members: Conner and Ohm

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

BVAC Chairman Byrne called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. She read the public comment rules for the meeting.

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

**General Update by Secretary:** None

**Matters Initiated by Committee Members:** Vice-Chairman Albaugh was glad to see more of the public attending the meeting now that Covid restrictions have been lifted. Chairman Byrne has heard that wells are going dry in the Tulelake basin. Also, Chairman Byrne is testifying at the State for AB742, the SGMA bill, which would extend the deadline for the GSP. She would like input from committee members for her testimony.

Representative Conner subsequently arrived at the meeting at 2:11.

**Correspondence** (unrelated to a specific agenda item): G. Norwood recapped the letter sent to Governor Newsom and stated that a response letter (Exhibit A) to the extension request was

denied. The letter had come from DWR. Discussion was held on the response letter. Chairman Byrne would like the DWR response letter added in the GSP. Vice-Chairman Albaugh concurred.

### **Approval of Minutes (June 2, 2021) –**

**A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Albaugh to approve BVAC meeting minutes from June 2, 2021. The motion was seconded by Representative Nunn. The motion was carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 – Byrne, Albaugh, Mitchell, Conner, and Nunn.

Laura Snell facilitated the meeting.

Tiffany Martinez reviewed the BVAC process for chapter approval and the time line to complete the GSP. The draft chapters go into the draft GSP which will be posted for public review prior to the committee making a recommendation to the Lassen and Modoc Boards of Supervisors. Once approved by the Lassen and Modoc Boards of Supervisors it will be submitted to DWR.

T. Martinez then read the sustainability goal and recapped the agenda for the meeting.

### **SUBJECT #1:**

Introduction of Public Draft Chapter 11 (*Notice and Communications*) and Public Draft Chapter 12 (*Reference List*) of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

1. Receive reports from the pertinent ad hoc committees, BVAC Secretary, Staff, and/or Consultant.
2. Receive public comment after each chapter (or as seen fit by Chair).

T. Martinez reviewed the information going into the draft Chapter 11. She summarized the outreach that happened prior to the GSP development. Then she went over the outreach tools used and the information that went into them. She reviewed the decision-making process and focused on what happens after the completion of the draft GSP is completed. Chapter 12 is the reference list and the list is communicating that the GSP is based on the best available information and science that is available at this time.

Committee comment: Representative Nunn asked if there was text for 11.2 and David Fairman is working on it and will include reference to letter to the state and response as well as other difficulties related to the Covid pandemic. Vice-Chairman Albaugh agrees with what is going

into 11.2. He would like to add the dinner meeting to the outreach list and also add picture of low public turn out at a meeting.

Vice-Chairman Albaugh had questions regarding reference to tribal outreach. D. Fairman said that DWR has guidance regarding tribal outreach. Vice-Chairman Albaugh stated that the tribes have been noticed, and if they wanted to be here they should have been. Any special write up about outreach to the tribes should not be in the GSP as they have been offered the opportunity to participate and have chosen not to. T. Martinez has documented outreach to tribes and are on the interested parties list. L. Snell stated that the GSP is required to show that tribal outreach has been done. Tribes are specifically called out by DWR as they are sovereign entities. Both Representative Mitchell and Representative Nunn think the outreach to the tribes should be documented in the GSP.

Chairman Byrne had verbiage changes.

Vice-Chairman Albaugh added references to include on reference list in Chapter 12.

T. Martinez introduced 11.5.8 (Exhibit B) which was added to Chapter 11. T. Martinez and L. Snell both brought up including meetings that were held that had conversed the GSP topic in the course of the meeting.

On line public comment: Julie - First, "Chapter 11 is the first time I have seen some of the comments within the comment matrix. They make some good points, and often there are no responses to them. They definitely change my perception of some of the issues in previous chapters. Second, I think one cause of this situation is that when accessing the GSP web site, older versions of the chapters were posted as available to the public for comments. Revised versions were only in the meeting packets. I didn't understand this at first. And it appears this impacted the public's ability to make informed comments, and it backs up our request to extend the planning process. If we can't have an extension, then we need more (financial or logistic) support for the 5-year review. Some comments in the comment matrix were cut off, please fix."

Public comment: None

## **SUBJECT #2:**

Introduction of Revised Draft Chapter 9 (*Project and Management Actions*) of the GSP.

### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

1. Receive reports from the pertinent ad hoc committees, BVAC Secretary, Staff, and/or Consultant.
2. Receive public comment.
3. Accept and "set aside" Revised Draft Chapter 9 for future inclusion into the Draft GSP.

Laura Snell stated that more detail to the projects has been added in Chapter 9

Committee comment: Vice-Chairman Albaugh had verbiage changes. He also wanted the Aquafer Storage and Recovery (ASR) to be more definitive. He questioned why staff is writing Chapter 9 when GEI should be writing it. Representative Mitchell also had verbiage changes.

G. Norwood stated that there is preplanning for the Roberts Reservoir expansion. David Fairman went on to say that GEI has expertise of dam modifications. GEI has been involved in the planning, design, and construction phases of projects. State funding looks at funding by each phase, so GEI is able to provide the calculations for each phase. Representative Mitchell was concerned with the base of the dam. Representative Nunn asked that he be contacted in the future regarding any meetings regarding Roberts Reservoir.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of using Stone Co. as part of the watershed. Staff said they would look into it.

On line public comment: Julie stated that “project decisions should be left to the professionals. She also wanted a future project to be the reintroduction of beavers. She was concerned that the water shed doesn’t include Stone Co.”

Public comment: None

### **Set aside Chapter 9 –**

**A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Albaugh to “set aside” Chapter 9. The motion was seconded by Representative Conner. The motion was carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 – Byrne, Albaugh, Mitchell, Conner, and Nunn.

### **SUBJECT #3:**

Introduction of Revised Draft Chapter 10 (*Implementation Plan*) of the GSP.

#### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

1. Receive report from the pertinent ad hoc committees, BVAC Secretary, Staff, and/or Consultant.
2. Receive public comment.
3. Accept and “set aside” Revised Draft Chapter 10 for future inclusion into the Draft GSP.

G. Norwood presented revisions in Chapter 10.

Committee comment: Chairman Byrne and Vice-Chairman Albaugh had verbiage changes. Discussion was held on the cost of hosting servers for the GSP information portal. David Fairman will talk to Lassen County IT supervisor Jason Housel. Vice-Chairman Albaugh stated that SGMA is an unfunded mandate by the state and it should be funded. Representative Mitchell and Vice-Chairman Albaugh both agree that all the negative aspects of preparing a GSP should be included in the GSP.

On line public comment: Julie commented that it is critical to have knowledge on groundwater.

Public comment: None

#### **Set aside Chapter 10 –**

**A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Albaugh to “set aside” Chapter 10. The motion was seconded by Representative Nunn. The motion was carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 – Byrne, Albaugh, Mitchell, Conner, and Nunn.

#### **Reopen Chapter 9 –**

**A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Albaugh to reopen discussion on Chapter 9. The motion was seconded by Representative Conner. The motion was carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 – Byrne, Albaugh, Mitchell, Conner, and Nunn.

Discussion was held regarding Table 9-3 and Vice-Chairman Albaugh had verbiage changes for the table.

#### **Set aside Chapter 9 –**

**A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Albaugh to “set aside” Chapter 9. The motion was seconded by Representative Conner. The motion was carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 – Byrne, Albaugh, Mitchell, Conner, and Nunn.

Ian Espinoza if DWR talked briefly about the aero-electromagnetic (AEM) survey that will be done in the fall. The committee would have to provide the flight path information. He then introduced Pat Vellines, DWR Regional Coordinator, who presented remotely, information on how AEM works. AEM provides a 3D graph of the subsurface. It gives a hydrologic conceptual model. The AEM measures resistivity and conductivity. The system can differentiate between air and ground static by eliminating background static. Groundwater depth and known information can help identify between fresh water and clay in the ground. It would take about five days for the AEM survey. GEI can provide boring information to correlate results. Discussion was held regarding the safety of an AEM survey. Pat Vellines' links will be sent to the committee members regarding the AEM survey.

Ian Espinoza brought up that the first GSPs from other basins have been turned in. T. Martinez asked how data gaps were handled. Espinoza said if data gaps hindered reporting then the GSP discussed how to close the data gap. Vice-Chairman asked about GSP review and response times. Vice-Chairman asked about changing the date of DWR's water year and Espinoza said it could not be changed because it is entrenched in a lot of other programs.

On line public comment: Doreen had attended a webinar on the Airborne Electromagnetic System and shared information on what she learned.

Public comment: None

**Matters Initiated by the General Public** (regarding subjects not on the agenda): Julie (online) would like the committee to at least consider the comments in the matrices for which there were no responses, if not for this document then for the 5-year review.

**Establish next meeting date:** There will be a public outreach meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup> in Bieber. The next BVAC meeting is a special meeting tentatively planned for September 9, 2021 at 2:00 pm. in Adin.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, Chairman Byrne asked for a motion to adjourn.

**A motion was made by Representative Nunn to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Representative Conner at 5:39 pm.**

**The motion was carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 – Byrne, Albaugh, Mitchell, Conner, and Nunn.