

# Big Valley Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee (BVAC)

## Approved Meeting Minutes

### BVAC Members:

**Lassen County BVAC** – Aaron Albaugh, Board Representative; Jeff Hemphill, 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, February 3, 2021

4:00 PM

Adin Community Center  
605 Highway 299  
Adin, CA 96006

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BVAC Convene in Special Session.

Present: Committee Members: Albaugh, Byrne, Mitchell, Conner, Ohm, and Nunn.  
Absent:

Also in attendance: BVAC Secretary Maurice Anderson  
BVAC staff Gaylon Norwood  
BVAC staff Tiffany Martinez  
BVAC Recorder Brooke Suarez  
Modoc County Counsel Sean Cameron (via Zoom)  
Lassen County Supervisor Gary Bridges

BVAC Chairman Albaugh called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

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

**General Update by Secretary:** There has been no response to the GSP extension request letter sent to Governor Gavin Newsom. Staff has talked to RCRC and they said they would help work on trying to get the extension. After the election of the new Chairman and Vice-Chairman, T. Martinez will address the Advisory Committee.

### Election of a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman:

**A motion was made by Representative Ohm to elect Representative Byrne as Chairman of the Big Valley Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Representative Albaugh. The motion was carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Albaugh, Byrne, Mitchell, Conner, Olm, and Nunn

**A motion was made by Chairman Byrne to elect Representative Albaugh as Vice-Chairman of the Big Valley Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Representative Nunn. The motion was carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Albaugh, Byrne, Mitchell, Conner, Olm, and Nunn

**Matters Initiated by Committee Members:** None

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

**Approval of Minutes (December 2, 2020) –**

**A motion was made by Representative Mitchell to approve BVAC meeting minutes from December 2, 2020 with changes. The motion was seconded by Representative Albaugh. The motion was carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Albaugh, Byrne, Mitchell, Conner, Olm, and Nunn

Tiffany Martinez addressed the committee regarding the GSP schedule. The chapters coming up are the ones which will require high impact from the stakeholders. Ground rules for the Big Valley Advisory Committee meeting were reviewed. She suggested that the representatives stay focused on the agenda and went over decision making procedures.

Vice-Chair Albaugh commented that based on the coloring on the schedule which denotes stakeholder input, it appears that stakeholders have very little input into the GSP. He also questioned if DWR has to go by the same rules that T. Martinez reiterated as DWR has not in the past.

**SUBJECT #1:**

Continued discussion on Revised Draft Chapter 6 (*Water Budget*) of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

1. Receive report from the BVAC Secretary, Staff, and/or Consultant.
2. Receive public comment.
3. Accept and “set aside” Revised Draft Chapter 6 for future inclusion into the Draft GSP.

Gaylon Norwood stated that updates to Chapter 6 have been done. This was the third review of this chapter. The updated Big Valley GSP Comment Matrix (Exhibit A) was handed out. The hydrologic cycle of Big Valley was difficult to express in words, but the best input would be from consultants. There are many uncertainties that exist in this chapter due to variances which

occur year to year. The committee has twenty years to bring the water budget into balance. Comments can still be made on this chapter and will be reviewed again in the draft GSP. G. Norwood suggested the committee needs to “set aside” this chapter and move ahead to the next chapters.

Vice-Chairman Albaugh brought up additional changes he would like to see made. Representative Nunn noted that with the hypothetical water deficit, that he can’t expand his business with this assumption. Does the GSP address this issue?

**A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Albaugh to “set aside” Chapter 6 with changes and come back to it in the future. The motion was seconded by Representative Mitchell. The motion was carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Albaugh, Byrne, Mitchell, Conner, Olm, and Nunn

Public Comment: Gary Monchamp questioned how will it be determined where thresholds are set and D. Fairman stated that GEI Consultants are there to help guide the committee.

Other questions and comments from unidentified call in listeners: None

**SUBJECT #2:**

Introduction of text for Public Draft Chapter 7 (*Sustainable Management Criteria*) of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and presentation by Thomas Harter on examples of Sustainable Management Criteria in other groundwater basins.

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

1. Receive report from the BVAC Secretary, Staff, and/or Consultant.
2. Receive public comment.

Dr. Thomas Harter did a presentation of sustainable management criteria. He is working on a groundwater sustainability plans for three other valleys in Northern California. He spoke in detail about undesirable results, minimum thresholds and triggers that should be established so water levels do not reach those minimum thresholds. The committee asked questions regarding various issues that Dr. Harter may have had in creating the GSPs he is working on.

Public Comment: None

Other questions and comments from unidentified call in listeners: None

**BREAK:** 5:56 to 6:13

### **SUBJECT #3**

Discussion on the sustainable management criteria in relation to the monitoring network, in preparation of Draft chapter 8 (*Monitoring Networks*) of the Groundwater Sustainability Plant (GSP).

#### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

1. Receive report and recommendation from the BVAC Secretary, Staff, and/or Consultant.
2. Receive public comment.

GEI consultant David Fairman led the discussion on the sustainable management criteria in relation to the monitoring network. He displayed data that has been established and prompted the committee to be thinking of various ways the established data could be used in the GSP. He stated that GEI, in this portion of the GSP where stakeholders supply the input, is there to make sure the committee meets the requirements of the GSP and to serve as a guide. The committee is to use the information that GEI has been collecting in this development process.

The first step is to create a Sustainability Goal which covers all five sustainability measurements. He gave examples of other GSPs' goals. The examples went from a very broad statement to one that was more explicit. He explained that the committee's goal should tie into all of the five sustainability measurements.

The second step is to define sustainability measurements with DWR requirements in mind. For example, the committee needs to make a decision regarding the number of wells that will be used, but the wells used for monitoring must be representative for the basin. DWR would not allow just one well to be representative of the whole basin. The committee would then need to decide on the thresholds of the wells. They could either have all the same threshold or each well could have a different threshold.

Due to time constraints, the committee decided to create ad hoc committees to prepare the sustainability goal, management criteria, thresholds, and to address issues to present back to the advisory committee. The assignments were as follows:

Sustainability goal	Geri Byrne Aaron Albaugh John Ohm
Subsidence	Kevin Mitchell Duane Conner
Water quality	Geri Byrne Aaron Albaugh

Mapping	Jimmy Nunn Duane Conner
Lowering of water levels and storage	Duane Conner Aaron Albaugh
Boundary modification	Aaron Albaugh Kevin Mitchell
Interconnected Surface Water	Jimmy Nunn Geri Byrne John Ohm

Public Comment: None

Other questions and comments from unidentified call in listeners: Julie commented that Adin residents have already had well issues so please take that into consideration when establishing thresholds. She also has a well inventory and wanted to know who to send it to.

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

**Establish next meeting date:** March 3, 2021 at 4:00 pm. in Adin.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, Chairman Byrne adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.