

**Big Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee (GSPAC)
Meeting, via Zoom conference call
May 28, 2021, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm**

Meeting Summary

The Big Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee (GSPAC) met on May 28, 2021 via Zoom videoconference. Below is a summary of key items discussed during the meeting. This document is not intended to be a meeting transcript; it focuses on the main points of the group’s discussion and highlights action items and recommendations that arise from the meeting. The agenda and full recording of the videoconference meeting will be available on the Lake County Water Resources website.

ACTION ITEMS

- Provide GSPAC members with copies of the Brown Act guidance provided by Nicole Johnson, Lake County Counsel’s Office, Deputy County Counsel office during the May 11, 2021 GSPAC meeting.
- Meeting minutes from May 11, 2021 will be revised.
- Amend the GSPAC Charter to include Valerie Nixon and Sky Hoyt upon the Big Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (BVGSA) Board of Directors’ approval of their respective GSPAC seats.
- Amend language in Charter: Big Valley Subbasin to be changed to Big Valley Basin for accuracy.
- For all GSPAC meetings and related topics, comments may be submitted to the committee via email at water.resources@lakecountycalifornia.gov. Please include “GSPAC” in the subject line of all related emails.

GSPAC RECOMMENDATIONS

- GSPAC recommends to the BVGSA Board of Directors that Valerie Nixon be appointed to fill the GSPAC *Environmental* open seat and Sky Hoyt be appointed to fill the *Domestic Well Owner* seat in the GSPAC.

1. ROLL CALL

GSPAC Attendee Name	Member	Status
Brenna Sullivan	Lake County Farm Bureau	Present
Pat Scully	Scully Packing Company	Present
David Weiss	Bella Vista Farming Company	Present
Peter Windrem	Chi Council for the Clear Lake Hitch	Present
Kyle Reams	Kelseyville Unified School District	Absent
Sarah Ryan	Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians	Present
Scott Hornung	Lake County Special Districts	Present
Marina Deligiannis	Lake County Watershed Protection District	Present

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MAY 11, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Lake County Watershed Protection District’s Deputy Water Resources Director Marina Deligiannis shared the meeting minutes from the May 11, 2021 meeting to review and approve.

Sarah Ryan asked for clarification on what “local” meant as a parameter for someone to fill an open GSPAC seat. The May 11, 2021 meeting summary stated that “The only parameters is that the individual is local to Big Valley Basin and that she or he has working knowledge of groundwater issues and water resources within Lake County.” This prompted a discussion between GSPAC members on their interpretation of “local.” Out of this discussion, the meeting minutes from May 11, 2021 will be revised to clarify the definition of “local.” Local shall mean someone that has knowledge of Big Valley Basin, has local ties, and/or has worked in Big Valley Basin.

Peter Windrem made a comment regarding the Brown Act, he stated that there was a clarification on council interpretation of the Brown Act in communication between members. This is noted later in the minutes but it is important to note that this clarification did occur.

Ms. Deligiannis made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with amendments. Mr. Weiss seconded the motion.

Roll call for meeting minutes approval:

GSPAC Attendee Name	Member	Status
Brenna Sullivan	Lake County Farm Bureau	Yes
Pat Scully	Scully Packing Company	Yes
David Weiss	Bella Vista Farming Company	Yes
Peter Windrem	Chi Council for the Clear Lake Hitch	Yes
Kyle Reams	Kelseyville Unified School District	Absent
Sarah Ryan	Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians	Abstain
Scott Hornung	Lake County Special Districts	Yes
Marina Deligiannis	Lake County Watershed Protection District	Yes

3. COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT PLANNING

The extended conversation on meeting minutes approval preempted discussion of this item. This item will be covered in a future GSPAC meeting.

4. GSPAC OPEN POSITIONS

Stantec Facilitation Support Services (FSS) Facilitator Christy Clark guided the conversation on the beneficial users’ open positions for environmental, domestic well owner, and disadvantaged community seats on the GSPAC. Two interested parties to fill the open seats introduced themselves and described their qualifications—Valerie Nixon and Sky Hoyt.

Brenna Sullivan asked about the process. She asked whether filling the open seats was on a first-come first-served basis or if there will be an application process for people to apply. Ms. Clark explained that there is no application process in place as dictated by the Charter. Given that the GSPAC is a consensus seeking body, the GSPAC can handle the process as they choose.

Sarah Ryan asked a process question. She asked whether this is the meeting where all interested parties for the open seats will introduce themselves and the GSPAC will then decide who to recommend for the open seats. Ms. Clark clarified that the expectation is that during this meeting, interested parties would step forward and express their interest in a seat. After introductions, the GSPAC may then have consensus to recommend the addition of new GSPAC members and provide that recommendation to the BVGSA Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will have the final say on the GSPAC member additions.

Interested parties introduced themselves:

Sky Hoyt: Recommended by David Weiss. Mr. Hoyt is interested in the domestic well owner seat. Mr. Hoyt has a domestic well in Big Valley Basin and is a farmer, he used to be an agriculture instructor at Mendocino College.

Valerie Nixon: Recommended by Peter Windrem. Ms. Nixon is interested in the environmental seat. Ms. Nixon is president of the Lake County Land Trust. She protects lands in Big Valley Basin such as wetlands and native vegetation. Ms. Nixon was a ranger at Clear Lake State Park.

Roll call was taken to record how the GSPAC would recommend filling the open seats.

GSPAC Attendee Name	Member	Status
Brenna Sullivan	Lake County Farm Bureau	Both Mr. Hoyt and Ms. Nixon are qualified. It is best to get the seats filled sooner rather than later. Recommends presenting them to the Board of Directors to join the GSPAC.
Pat Scully	Scully Packing Company	Both Mr. Hoyt and Ms. Nixon are qualified. It is best to get the seats filled sooner rather than later. Recommends presenting them to the Board of Directors to join the GSPAC.
David Weiss	Bella Vista Farming Company	Both Mr. Hoyt and Ms. Nixon are qualified. It is best to get the seats filled sooner rather than later. Recommends presenting them to the Board of Directors to join the GSPAC.
Peter Windrem	Chi Council for the Clear Lake Hitch	Both Mr. Hoyt and Ms. Nixon are qualified. It is best to get the seats filled sooner rather than later. Recommends presenting them to the Board of Directors to join the GSPAC.
Kyle Reams	Kelseyville Unified School District	Absent
Sarah Ryan	Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians	Both Mr. Hoyt and Ms. Nixon are qualified. It is best to get the seats filled sooner rather than later. Recommends presenting them to the Board of Directors to join the GSPAC.
Scott Hornung	Lake County Special Districts	Both Mr. Hoyt and Ms. Nixon are qualified. It is best to get the seats filled sooner rather than later. Recommends presenting them to the Board of Directors to join the GSPAC.
Marina Deligiannis	Lake County Watershed Protection District	Both Mr. Hoyt and Ms. Nixon are qualified. It is best to get the seats filled sooner rather than later. Recommends presenting them to the Board of Directors to join the GSPAC.

5. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (GSP) EDUCATION AND DISCUSSION

Stantec Planning Lead Ibrahim Khadam gave a presentation on the progress update on the development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for Big Valley Basin. The presentation touched on the following: required parts of the GSP, definition of groundwater sustainability and how it is measured, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) terminology, sustainability indicators, undesirable results, representative monitoring network, measurable objectives and minimum threshold, baseline conditions, and historical and current ground water conditions. Mr. Khadam asked the GSPAC what was their impression of the health of the groundwater basin in association with the sustainability indicators.

Sky Hoyt asked a question on degraded quality. Total dissolved solids and nitrates are essential in determining irrigation suitability but are not on listed on the slide that provided metrics for the sustainable indicators. Mr. Khadam stated that they are not listed on the slide, but they will be looked at.

Sky Hoyt pointed out that there are only 5 well sites shown on slide 9 of the presentation, and he wanted to know where they are located. Mr. Khadam clarified that the figure is an illustration from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) that is used to represent the concept of minimum threshold. Slide 7 shows the latest wells identified in Big Valley Basin.

Brenna Sullivan asked a series of questions. In looking at the last 30 years of water supply data will the technical team look at the monitoring wells at specific times of the year (e.g. different seasons for seasonal changes)? Will the technical team include the seasonal groundwater changes in the model in addition to precipitation? How granular will the model be? Mr. Khadam stated that the technical team will look at this level of detail for all the data described by Ms. Sullivan. The well data will be looked at for wet, average, and dry years. Groundwater data will be looked at monthly and by season. Groundwater recharge in the spring and fall will be looked at. Looking at all groundwater trends will help set the minimum threshold. All groundwater data will be integrated into the model and calibrated using historical data, but model will allow the technical team to adjust the model to analyze what may happen under different scenarios.

Brenna Sullivan asked if the seasonal groundwater change from spring to fall will be correlated to annual precipitation or irrigation rates if available. Mr. Khadam stated that the groundwater model will incorporate all factors mentioned by Ms. Sullivan. The model will account for monthly precipitation. This will allow the technical team to see how the groundwater table changes with a change in precipitation. There will also be a surface water model component that will look at stream runoff and infiltration into the basin, a water budget will be developed based on the agriculture use and crops. The groundwater budget will also be analyzed. All of this together will allow the technical team to see in 3D how the groundwater basin is behaving.

Pat Scully understands that the technical team will go back and use 30 years of well data, but stated that it would be worthwhile to look at data as far as the 1970s to see how the basin reacted when getting normal rainfall after a drought. Mr. Khadam stated that the team has data as early as the 1950s, the challenge is that some wells have more data than others, it would be ideal to look at periods that have the most well data available. To do a good model calibration it would be helpful to look consistently at wells that have data available. The technical team will be looking at historical groundwater data to see how the groundwater basin has behaved during historic droughts. Mr. Scully stated that to the extent it would be possible, to extrapolate groundwater data to fill missing data.

Ngodoo Atume, with Clean Water Action, asked about the time frame that will be looked at for domestic wells and the process to consider for wells that are no longer active. She also asked if domestic well density will be looked at during analysis. Mr. Khadam stated that the domestic well data is based on a DWR database that has well logs; this data has been downloaded. As information is shared with the group, the group can confirm if the data looks accurate.

Ngodoo Atume asked, when depth of wells is incomplete does that mean that it was not included. Mr. Khadam stated that some wells have depth data and others do not. Ms. Atume stated that looking at shallow wells is important as they are the first to run dry during drought conditions. Mr. Khadam agreed.

Sarah Ryan stated there isn't a lot of data available from monitoring wells, some wells have only a few measurements so how will a robust model be made with limited data? Ms. Ryan stated that there has been a change in crop types since the last drought and stated that climate change will be important to consider. She asked how the groundwater model will be calibrated with streamflow. Mr. Khadam stated that the land use data will be obtained from DWR to obtain the 2018 statistics. Shifts in projected land used would be informed by the GSPAC. Regarding availability and quality of data for model calibration, this is a concern, but there is data that goes back many years that can help calibrate the model. The technical team is confident that there is enough data to get the model calibrated. Regarding the streamflow and groundwater model calibration, this is a challenge. The team will work with the gauge data available and team geologists.

The GSP technical team will be setting up ad hoc and subcommittee meetings. The technical team will work with these groups to inform elements such as the groundwater model, for example. These meetings will occur 3 to 4 times a month and then report out their main discussion points and guidance to the GSPAC. Ms. Clark stated that more info on these meetings will be outlined in the June GSPAC meeting.

Peter Windrem asked if the map shown on slide 7 depicts Scotts Valley correctly. Mr. Khadam stated that the draft map was mislabeled. Scotts Valley is not where it is depicted, and the map will be revised.

David Weiss questioned that given water demands and the 30 years for hydrology data that will be reviewed, and climate change impacts that will be overlaid, is the climate change data based on historical data or a predictive data set and how will this be used? Mr. Khadam stated that future climate change will be used, this data will be provided by DWR to model future impacts. Mr. Weiss asked if different scenarios would be modeled based on different assumptions, or if there is a standard set of assumptions used. Mr. Khadam stated that a standard set of assumptions defined by DWR will be used.

6. GSP DEVELOPMENT STATUS AND TIMELINE

Stantec GSP Documentation and Production Lead, Megan Murray, provided an overview on the GSP content found in Section 1, 2, and 3, and offered insight on the overall GSP development status.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ngodoo Atume asked when chapters will be provided for review by the public. Ms. Clark stated that June 11 is the anticipated date when GSPAC would begin review of draft content.

Sarah Ryan asked if during the next meeting there will be additional information on the ad hoc and subcommittees? Ms. Clark stated that additional information will be provided in the June meeting.

8. ESTABLISHING STANDING GSPAC MONTHLY MEETINGS

Facilitator Christy Clark shared proposed windows of time for the third or fourth week of each month to establish the GSPAC's standing monthly meetings. Below is a summary of the GSPAC availability:

Attendee Name	Member	Availability
Brenna Sullivan	Lake County Farm Bureau	Monday and Thursdays, morning or afternoon
Pat Scully	Scully Packing Company	11am – 1 pm any day
David Weiss	Bella Vista Farming Company	Afternoons are best, especially Thursday and Fridays
Peter Windrem	Chi Council for the Clear Lake Hitch	Thursdays and Fridays are best
Kyle Reams	Kelseyville Unified School District	Absent
Sarah Ryan	Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians	Fridays midday are best
Scott Hornung	Lake County Special Districts	Wednesdays have cyanobacteria workgroup meeting every 2 weeks from 11 am to 12 pm. Thursdays 11 am to 12 pm have drought task force meetings.
Marina Deligiannis	Lake County Watershed Protection District	Monday, Wednesday, and Thursdays are preferred but Fridays can work too

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.