**TRI-VALLEY GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Prepared by: M. Cook**

**Date of Meeting** 4/18/2022

**Time of Meeting** 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

**Location of Meeting** Teleconference on Zoom

**Attendees** **Advisory Board Members**

* Gina Barsi (Chalfant)
* Mike Cook (Benton)
* Betsy McDonald (Chalfant)
* Dennis Murphy (Hammil Valley)
* Andy Puhvel (Hammil Valley)
* Amy Saladin (Chalfant)

 **Water Board Members**

* Carol Ann Mitchell

 **Public Attendees**

* Peter Stickles

**Agenda / Discussion**

(1) Adopt AB361 for holding teleconference meeting for period of 4/18/22 to 5/18/22.

 Michael asked for a motion to adopt AB361. Gina made motion. Betsy seconded motion. All members voted in favor.

(2) Review and adopt Advisory Board bylaws – presented by Michael.

 During the meeting, the “Purpose” of the Advisory Board section was edited to be broader. Also, a section was edited out so that if a member is absent, there will be no substitution or representation by another member. Following these edits, the bylaws were adopted by the Advisory Board. Next, Betsy will forward the version edited during the meeting to Carol Ann who will run the bylaws past the Board, and address a few minor questions for the Board that were highlighted. Carol Ann has the action to follow back up with the Advisory Board.

(3) Discuss grant and grant writing assistance for Prop 1 funds through IRWM – presented by Betsy.

The advisory board discussed the understanding from the March Board meeting that Mono County, as a member of IRWM, would hold the place for the TVGMD to apply for the Proposition 1 grant. It was not clear to most of us whether Mono County of TVGMD would be responsible for writing the grant. Carol Ann agreed to clarify that with the county. It was suggested that if TVGMD was responsible for writing that they would need to move on this opportunity asap regarding procuring a grant writer, etc.

Betsy asked whether the IRWM funds might be used to assist farmers/ranches to purchase equipment to conserve water. Carol Ann informed us that there are many drought related grants out there for such things and she would forward the advisory board those grant RFP’s. In summary, the IRWM grant proposal then would be for a Groundwater Model and we would look at other possibilities for funding help for farmers for water conservation, if needed.

(4) Finalize current proposal of groundwater well monitoring – Presented by Andy.

Andy Puhvel introduced his draft version of the Tr-Valley Well Monitoring Plan. He emphasized the need for data collection was imperative for any future intentions to have a groundwater model produced. He also emphasized that this plan was a preliminary plan which required board input , discussion, and eventual approval. His goal was to present a plan which took into account the currently available data, the economic realities of collecting data, and the data gaps which needed to be filled, specifically in Hammil Valley and Benton. He also felt it is probably necessary for the data from domestic wells to be collected by a third party due to liability issues. The final goal of the plan is to consolidate all the data in one spot where it can be easily read and understood by the TVGWD Board and the residents of the area.

Advisory Board member Betsy McDonald had input which was that we should find out if the data from McGinley and Associates from the landfill wells can be used to enter into the CASGEM data site which the TVGWD is required to enter measurements for. Carol Anne Mitchell acknowledged that the plan will be sent to all Board members and will be on the agenda for the April TVGMD meeting for discussion and from there will be hopefully voted on at the next meeting. Funding for the data collection from domestic wells is the main question voiced by all members and the plan is to solicit Rhonda Duggan the district Supervisor for suggestions for funding at the next board meeting.

(5) Vote on an Advisory Board Chairman – Discussion by the Advisory Board

Carol Ann was asked to briefly describe the role of the Chairman. The Chairman’s role would be to call meetings, keep things moving forward, and be the Advisory Board’s spokesman at Board Meetings. Carol Ann also suggested that there could also be a Vice Chair in addition to a Chairman. The Advisory Board members stated they would consider the role and it would be further discussed at the next Advisory Board meeting. Michael Cook announced that his term expires in June, and the next meeting in May would be his last as a Advisory Board member.

(6) Open discussion topics – All

The Advisory Board seemed to appreciate the historical perspective given by public attendee Peter Sickles regarding the development of water conservation methods undertaken by Zack Ranch. Peter made mention that he would like to join the Advisory Board but the Board rules do not permit a non Tri-Valley resident from joining. Carol Ann said there may be an opportunity in such a case for an interested party to serve in an “Advisor” role.

Betsy was asked by Carol Ann if the newsletter is ready for distribution. Betsy replied just awaiting final approval by the Board.

Next Advisory Board meeting date TBD.

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