

San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance
Draft Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, August 26 at 5:01 p.m.
ZOOM Meeting

I. Call to order

Daniel Slawson called to order the regular meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance at 5:01 p.m. on August 26, 2020 via Zoom. A roll call was conducted afterwards.

II. Public Comments

No public comments.

III. Approval of Minutes

Director Lehtonen motioned to approve the Alliance Meeting minutes from January 22, 2020. This motion was seconded. The minutes were approved.

IV. Discussion

- a. Overview of the Apple Fire and Potential Issues this Winter – Dan Jagers
 - i. This item was skipped due to the presenter not being present. See 4E
- b. Urban Water Management Planning and Coordination – Lance Eckhart, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
 - i. The Pass Agency selected a consultant to help the region with the wholesale urban water management planning effort
 - ii. The drought has affected the plans and the state is telling the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency what they should do.
 - iii. All The Pass areas' Urban Water Management Plans (UWMP) numbers need to match, if not they could face legal issues.
 - iv. The Pass does not have a large share of the CA aqueduct.
 - v. 1 tunnel solution is in the works from Governor Newsom which is a carried over from the previous administration.
 - vi. Sites Reservoir is another project in the works which is a large reservoir and dam that are going to be built in Northern California. The Pass Agency is footing the bill for a lot of these projects. These projects may not be built or will take a long time to build. The goal is to get these projects to meet long-term demands.
 - vii. 3 GSP's are occurring in this area and need to be part of the UWMP.
 - viii. Collaborative consistency is important to not face any legal action, wholesale UWMP's needs to be in sync with retail UWMP's.
 - ix. Art Vela asked where every agency is at in the process for their RFP's. Jennifer Ares with Yucaipa Valley Water District said they have 2 wholesalers and are finalizing their consultants.
- c. Overview of the Alliance Website and Suggested Updates – Dan Jagers
 - i. This item was suggested to be skipped until Dan had better audio.
- d. Discussion Regarding Meeting Time for Future Online Meetings – Daniel Slawson
 - i. Every other month is when the meetings are going to be held.
 - ii. 5 p.m. was agreed upon to have the meetings
 - iii. October 28th is when the next meeting will be held, per the agenda.
- e. Overview of the Apple Fire and Potential Issues this Winter – Jason Uhley
 - i. The Apple Fire was small but intense, relatively speaking, compared to previous fires in the area.
 - ii. Intense rain can cause debris flows and mud flows. ½ inch per hour of rain for 15 minutes can trigger these types of run-offs.
 - iii. A lot of work is being done behind the scenes. Emergency Management Department is creating a task force composed of local municipalities, which includes cities, fire and police departments and more to manage the fires, burns and flood events this winter. Evacuation zone maps are being created. Flood control is implanting tools to monitor events in real-time. Local municipalities will be launching a public education campaign, etc.
- f. Overview of the Alliance Website and Suggested Updates – Dan Jagers
 - i. Item 4C was presented at this time.
 - ii. Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District has taken over responsibility of the website to update and modernize it. Not a lot of work has been done.
 - iii. The suggested edits for the website:
 - i. Modernized to work with mobile devices
 - ii. The content needs to be updated so that it has current information.
 - iii. Agendas and minutes need to be posted on the website. .
 - iv. Contact information needs to be updated on the website.
 - iv. Daniel Slawson asked Art Vela of Banning if the City of Banning will still be doing the minutes of the meeting and Art confirmed this. No changes were made.

V. Reports

- a. San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency – Water Rates and Capacity Fees
 - i. Everyone wants water rates that are justified and can be depended on as retailers plan their budgets.

- ii. A financial model has been suggested to the board.
- b. Beaumont Basin Watermaster Meeting Report
 - i. The watermaster is actively working with a consultant on a return flow methodology
 - ii. The watermaster is also discussing how to process transfers of overlying water rights to appropriators.
- c. Imported Water Supply Update
 - i. 20% water year – not a good year. A lot of water is being imported from other parts of CA.
 - ii. About 4,000-acre feet of water was imported by the end of July.
 - iii. Doing everything possible to get water in the ground locally.
- d. Legislative Update
 - i. Julianna said this week is the final week of the State’s Legislative Session.
 - ii. There are bills which will affect water. These bills are:
 - iii. AB 2560 – Notification and Response levels
 - iv. SB 1386 – Local governments assessment fees and charges
 - v. AB 1659 – End of session gut-and-amend to address firefighting.
- e. Alliance Member Update
 - i. Daniel Slawson said that the Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District has their lobby closed. Online credit card payments has waived the online fee since people cannot go into the lobby.
- f. Sustainable Groundwater Management Update
 - i. No update.
- g. Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update
 - i. Art Vela said that the Cities of Banning and Cabazon have successfully obtained a grant to fund some projects.

VI. Topics for Future Meetings

- a. No discussion

VII. Future Meeting Dates are as follows at 5:00 p.m.

- October 28, 2020
- January 27, 2021

VIII. Daniel Slawson adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

THE ACTION MINUTES SUMMARIZE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ALLIANCE. A COPY OF THE MEETING IN ITS ENTIRETY IS AVAILABLE IN DVD FORMAT AND CAN BE REQUESTED IN WRITING TO THE CITY OF BANNING CLERK’S OFFICE.