

OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 25, 2024

The Regular Meeting of July 25, 2024, of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency was called to order at 3:02 PM in the Council Chambers, Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai, CA 93023.

Attendees were: Board Members: Richard Hajas, Bob Daddi, Peter Thielke (via zoom) and Andrew Whitman (arrived at 3:45). General Manager Julia Aranda and Secretary/Treasurer Cece VanDerMeer.

Also in attendance: Peter Candy, Attorney and Jordan Kear, Consultant.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Chair Hajas called the meeting to order at 3:02pm. VanDerMeer called the roll.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Hajas.

3. **Director Announcements/Reports/Comments:**

Mutuals: None

Ojai Water Conservation District: None

City of Ojai: None

Casitas Municipal Water District: None

Community Facilities District Report: None

4. **GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS:**

Aranda reported that it has been a busy month. There have been six well applications since she became General Manager, and out of the six, three wells have been completed and she received one well completion report. The OBGMA's website provider contacted Aranda regarding new Department of Justice requirements, mainly ADA compliance. The annual cost of maintaining our website will increase from \$1080.00 to \$1740.00 to become compliant. Aranda uploaded the Spring Groundwater Monitoring data to the SGMA portal. Aranda spoke with the auditor and they will have the 4 years of audit completed to be available for the next board meeting. Kear prepared a sampling analysis draft and Aranda provided her comments to Kear. Aranda created a brochure about the OBGMA to hand out. Aranda met with Keller Willams Realty Group to inform them about the OBGMA and left brochures with them.

5. BASIN STATUS REPORT:

Jordan Kear had a presentation “Hot but not bothered”. Kear reported the Key Well was 45.5’ below ground level and there was 73,600 acre-feet in the basin.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA:

Tom Hicks, attorney and William Wierick.

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Daddi motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Thielke seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Roll Call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Thielke and Hajas

Noes: None

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Delinquent Well Owners – Enforcement and Penalty Authority: Aranda prepared spreadsheets reflecting past due statements and amounts due for 12 delinquent well owners and received 2 back. The board discussed collection procedures: Impose penalties, small claims court suits and applying outstanding monies owed to their property tax bill.

b. Legislative Ad-Hoc Committee Update: Aranda stated that the Ad-Hoc Committee had not met since the last meeting. Aranda received an email from the Small GSA Coalition regarding the language that was going to be included in the climate bond, but unfortunately it was not included. Aranda will be attending the August meeting of the Coalition.

c. Meter Compliance Ad-Hoc Committee Update: The committee did not meet.

9. Closed Session: Since all of the Board members were not in attendance, Hajas stated that the Closed Session would be rescheduled.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting will be August 29, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber in Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai.

ATTEST: _____