

# Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Regular Meeting

July 23, 2025

## Meeting Minutes

### Present:

Matt Turrentine, *Chair*  
John Hamon, *Vice Chair*  
Bruce Gibson  
Jerry Reaugh

Shandon-San Juan Water District GSA  
City of Paso Robles GSA  
County of San Luis Obispo  
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District GSA

### Staff:

Claire Collins, Legal Counsel  
Taylor Blakslee, PRAGA Interim Administrator

#### 1. **Call to Order**

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) Chair Matt Turrentine called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

#### 2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Turrentine.

#### 3. **Roll Call**

Mr. Blakslee called roll (shown above).

#### 4. **Meeting Protocols**

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the meeting protocols.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

#### 5. **Closed Session**

Legal Counsel Claire Collins introduced the closed session to discuss anticipated litigation with counsel pursuant to (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)) for significant exposure to litigation.

*Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comment.*

Public Comments: Greg Grewal, Murray Powell.

*Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comment.*

*At 4:04 PM, the Board adjourned to closed session. At 5:33 PM, the Board returned from closed session at which time Legal Counsel reported to the public that there was no reportable action.*

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**6. Update on the Draft Cost of Service Study and Rate Setting Process**

Mr. Blakslee provided an update on notices distributed and validating parcel objections. Legal Counsel Claire Collins reported that legal will be responding to those objections and anticipates updated ET data from Land IQ posted parcel by parcel approximately 5 days before the August 1 hearing.

*Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comment.*

Public Comment: Serena Friedman.

*Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comment.*

**7. On Call Contract with Land IQ**

*This agenda item was deferred.*

Public Comments: Murray Powell, Dr. Serena Friedman.

**8. Authority Finances****a. Short Term Funding Alternatives**

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the Authority finances and noted that the discussion on short-term funding alternatives was deferred.

Public Comment: Murray Powell.

**b. Presentation of Hallmark Group's Proposed Interim Financial Controls**

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of Hallmark Group's Proposed Interim Financial Controls and the direction requested from the board.

*Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comment.*

Public Comments: Dale Augustine, George Tracy, Murray Powell.

*Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comment.*

Director Reaugh commented in opposition of designating signatures to a third party or interim consultant.

Director Hamon expressed concern regarding the list of payables. The budget is approved and set, but he would like to see a monthly payables list that the BOD approves. He noted he doesn't care who signs the check

Director Gibson asked legal counsel about the authorization of payment and legal jeopardy by allowing the CEO to authorize payment.

Legal Counsel Claire Collins responded that in her experience most public agencies delegate staff to authorize payments, however, Hallmark Group is serving as PRAGA staff. She added that having the CEO of PRAGA contract staff is reasonable.

Director Hamon requested confirmation that Hallmark staff was seeking direction from the board on the draft Interim Financial Controls and expressed concern that the controls should be finalized and formally adopted rather than accepted in draft form

Director Gibson asked if there is any legal risk in delaying the audit two months and if Hallmark's scope of work includes authorizing payment.

Hallmark Group CFO, Jaqueline Harris responded that it is common to have a short year combined with a full-year audit. She noted that she will add language to include Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in the audit process section in the Proposed Interim Financial Controls.

Director Reaugh expressed concern about having an interim consultant signing checks.

Ms. Harris commented that if ACH transactions for payment are approved by the BOD, that check signatory may not be necessary. Director Reaugh posed that there is or ought to be a signatory equivalent needed for ACH transactions.

Legal Counsel Claire Collins commented most public agencies delegate authority to staff to execute decisions already made by the board. She asked for clarification on the initial approval of a contract and subsequent signed of the check that would pay invoices under a contract.

Ms. Harris stated that she has experience following procedures as those described by legal counsel, with additional controls including board review and sign-off on bank reconciliations and detailed accounts payable summaries presented at each board meeting.

#### **MOTION**

Approve staff request with the exception to not include Hallmark as a signatory and use "ACH or check" transactions for payment of obligations

Motion by: Jerry Reaugh

The motion was not Seconded and therefore not voted.

#### **MOTION**

Approve draft fiscal policies procedure with the edits to designate authorized signatories as the chair and treasurer along with the Hallmark CEO, using ACH transactions, defer the 2-month audit into FY 25-26, and add the GASB language.

Motion by: Bruce Gibson

Seconded by: John Hamon

Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Recuse
Matt Turrentine (Chair)	X			
John Hamon	X			
Bruce Gibson	X			
Jerry Reaugh		X		

Ms. Harris noted her research into insurance options.

**c. Presentation of the Financial Report and Receive and File the Check Register**

Ms. Harris provided an overview of the June 2025 Financial Report and the summary of invoices.

*Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comment.*

Public Comments: George Tracy, Dale Augustine, Murray Powell, Dr. Serena Friedman.

*Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comment.*

## REPORT ITEMS

**9. Public Comment – Items not on the Agenda**

Public Comments: Murray Powell, Serena Friedman, Dale Augustine, George Tracy, Jon Cagliero.

**10. Upcoming Meetings**

Mr. Blakslee reported there is a special meeting on August 1st.

**11. Adjourn at 6:48 p.m.**

Drafted by: Taylor Blakslee/Grace Bianchi, Hallmark Group