

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Regular Meeting

April 22, 2026

Meeting Minutes

Present:

Matt Turrentine, *Chair*
Hilary Graves, *Vice Chair*
John Hamon
Bruce Gibson

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

Staff:

Claire Collins, Legal Counsel
Taylor Blakslee, Interim Executive Director

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.

5. **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Blakslee reported that the consent agenda includes March 25, 2026, minutes and March 2026 financial for consideration for approval.

Public Comments: Greg Grewal.

MOTION

Director Gibson moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Graves and it passed unanimously.

6. **Action Items**

a. **Authorize Publication of Draft FY 2026-2027 Groundwater Fee Report, and Set Public Meeting Date for Proposed Groundwater Fee**

Mr. Blakslee provided background on the fiscal year 2026-2027 groundwater fee report and introduced Ryan Aston, SCI Consulting, to provide an update on the fee report.

Mr. Aston reviewed the legal and technical basis for the new groundwater sustainability fee, user categories (agriculture, rural domestic, public water systems, and commercial, including wineries), and appeals process. He outlined the planned timeline to finalize the fee study, publish parcel-level calculations, open an appeals process, and hold a public hearing where the board could adopt the fee.

Director Graves asked whether the appeals process would generate considerable costs. Mr. Blakslee responded that appeals costs would largely depend on the number of appeals submitted.

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments: Greg Grewal, Murray Powell, George Tracy, Cody Ferguson.

Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comments.

Director Gibson commented that the methodology presented appeared to have a solid basis and that he supported moving forward with staff’s recommendation. He suggested the board direct staff to finalize and publish the report at the earliest possible date, and hold a special meeting only if staff identifies substantive issues requiring board consideration before publication.

MOTION

Director Gibson moved to direct staff to finalize the fee report, publish it at the earliest possible date, and call a special meeting if there are substantive differences from what has been presented to the board. Director Graves seconded the motion. A roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Gibson, Graves, Hamon, Turrentine
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
RECUSE: None

7. Update on Fallowed Land Registry Program

Blaine Reely, County of San Luis Obispo Groundwater Sustainability Director, provided an overview of the fallowed land registry program. He noted that the registry platform, developed by Mythos Applications and available at fallowlandregistry.com, launched on April 1, 2026, and that enrollment is increasing steadily following outreach and training with growers across the basin.

Will Carrara, Mythos Inc., was introduced to present a system demonstration; however, due to time constraints, Chair Turrentine requested that a full demonstration be scheduled for the May 27 meeting.

Chair Turrentine requested that a full demonstration be scheduled for the May 27 meeting.

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments: Greg Grewal.

Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comments.

Director Graves commented that she has received positive feedback from growers who have been using the registry and thanked Mr. Carrara and Mr. Reely for their work.

8. Update on Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Mr. Blakslee reported that staff there are upcoming grant opportunities relevant to the Paso Robles basin and a more substantive report will be provided at a future meeting.

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments: Greg Grewal, Murray Powell.

Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comments.

9. Public Comments – Items not on the Agenda

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments: Greg Grewal, Murray Powell.

10. Director Comments / Future Agenda

11. Upcoming Meetings

Mr. Blakslee reported that scheduled meeting is on May 27, 2026.

Adjourn at 4:57 p.m.

Drafted by: Grace Bianchi, Hallmark Group