

# Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Regular Meeting

December 1, 2025

## Meeting Minutes

### Present:

Matt Turrentine, *Chair*

John Hamon, *Vice Chair*

Bruce Gibson

Hilary Graves

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 8:45 a.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**

*Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.*

Public Comments: Murray Powell, Dale Augstine, Greg Grewal.

*Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comments.*

### **MOTION**

Approve the consent agenda.

Motion by: Bruce Gibson

Seconded by: Hilary Graves

Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
Matt Turrentine (Chair)	X			
John Hamon				X
Bruce Gibson	X			
Hilary Graves	X			

**6. Executive Director Report**

Mr. Blakslee noted that Department of Water Resources Facilitation Support Services have been requested to provide outreach services. He also reminded the board that the election of officers will occur in January. He continued to provide a presentation on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Requirements, basin status, and GSP implementation through 2040.

*Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.*

Public Comments: Greg Grewal, Dale Augustine, John Cagliero, Murray Powell, John Tucker.

*Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comments.*

**7. Ad hoc Report on Stakeholder Feedback on Governance and Funding**

Director Gibson reported on meetings with stakeholders and outlined three areas for Board consideration: governance, communication, and budget. He proposed expanding the Board by three members representing grazing operations, small agriculture, and de minimis users, and noted that this would require Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agreement amendments and a defined selection process. He also supported creating study sessions for more open public dialogue and establishing a stakeholder advisory committee. He emphasized the need to define a compliance-focused budget, including a fallowing registry and dry well mitigation, and to prepare for decisions on future funding mechanisms.

Director Graves supported expanding Board representation and emphasized the need for outreach formats that allow interactive discussion, such as workshops or study sessions. She noted that stakeholders frequently request more opportunities for real dialogue.

Director Hamon asked how stakeholder seats would be assigned and whether representation should reflect geographic or proportional differences among basin areas.

Director Gibson explained that any new Board members must be basin overlies and noted that the categories could include cattlemen, small ag irrigators, and de minimis users. He added that the Board will need to determine future funding paths, develop a bare-bones compliance budget, and solicit public feedback through workshops before any funding mechanism is selected.

*Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.*

Public Comments: Greg Grewal, Dale Augustine, Murry Powell, Darsha Evans, John Cagliero, Steve Carter.

*Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comments.*

Director Graves request that staff prepare a plan outlining how to expand the Board, including considerations of voting percentages.

Director Gibson requested staff prepare the following:

- 1) Prepare draft language to expand the board by three seats and outline how those seats would be designated, including large ag and grazing, small ag, and de minimis users, along with required JPA amendments and a proposed timeline.
- 2) Prepare draft language to establish a stakeholder advisory committee, including membership options, meeting frequency, and estimated administrative costs.
- 3) Prepare materials that will frame a discussion on a compliance budget, including the minimum work needed for SGMA implementation, potential dry well mitigation, and a voluntary fallowing registration program.

Director Gibson noted that it would be helpful to post online the outcome of this discussion.

**8. Action Items**

**a. Approve Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget and GSA Contributions**

Mr. Blakslee explained that the previously adopted budget was no longer valid following the failed Proposition 218 election, and a revised January-June 2026 budget must be approved. He reviewed budget needs for reporting, Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation, legal support, outreach, technical support, and development of a future funding mechanism. He presented a request for \$300,000 in Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) contributions and noted projected June 2026 cash flow.

*Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.*

Public Comments: Murray Powell, Greg Grewal.

*Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comments.*

Director Graves noted that the EPC board approved up to \$95,000 for the January to June budget and asked for an annotated draft budget with detailed line item notes and a funding mechanism outline. She requested these materials by January 7 to support review before upcoming meetings and finalize the budget in March.

**MOTION**

Adopt the revised FY 2025-2026 budget and authorize GSA contributions for an amount of \$300,000 for the January-June 2026 period as recommended by staff.

Motion by: Bruce Gibson  
Seconded by: John Hamon

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

Hilary Graves	X			
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**b. Approval of Contract with Confluence Engineering to Develop the Water Year 2025 Annual Report**

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the Annual Report Request for Proposals (RFP) process and noted that staff is recommending executing a contract with Confluence Engineering to develop the Water Year 2025 Annual Reports.

*Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.*

Public Comments: Greg Grewal, Murray Powell.

*Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comments.*

**MOTION**

Execute a contract with Confluence Engineering to develop and submit the Water Year 2025 Annual Report for an amount not to exceed \$85,026.

Motion by: Hilary Graves  
 Seconded by: Bruce Gibson

Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Recuse
Matt Turrentine (Chair)	X			
John Hamon	X			
Bruce Gibson	X			
Hilary Graves	X			

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

Public Comments: Greg Grewal, Murray Powell.

**10. Director Comments / Future Agenda**

Directors discussed scheduling for January and February meetings and coordination with GSA boards.

**11. Upcoming Meetings**

Chair Turrentine noted that the next scheduled meeting is for January 28, 2026, which is subject to change.

**Adjourn at 11:07 a.m.**

Drafted by: Grace Bianchi, Hallmark Group