

Upper Salinas – Las Tablas Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2022

Templeton, CA

- I. Call to Order. Chair Susan Cochrane called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm and determined a quorum was present. Directors present: Susan Cochrane, Mike Broadhurst, Tom Mora, Dolores Howard, Randy Heinzen, Mary Bianchi, George Kendall. Staff present: Devin Best, Amy Smart, Spencer Gordon. Member of the public: Blaine Reely.
- II. Additions/Changes to Agenda. Mary Bianchi added an Executive Committee Update to Board Updates.
- III. Public Comment. None.
- IV. RCD Reports.
 - a. Presentation by SLO County Groundwater Sustainability Director Blaine Reely. Blaine Reely gave a thorough overview of the role of the new Groundwater Sustainability Department for SLO county. Focus is on the four managed gw basins in the county. Discussion was wide-ranging and covered SGMA issues; the governor's recent executive order; funding for various projects; monitoring and data problems; and a possible future tiered fee system designed to reduce groundwater extraction.
 - b. Board Updates. Mary Bianchi gave a brief update of the executive committee's work on personnel issues and said a Special Board meeting would be scheduled for September 8 at which time a closed session would be held. Dolores Howard mentioned a 30 day extension for public comment regarding the proposed Padres National Forest restoration program.
 - c. Executive Director's Report. Devin Best summarized the ED's report attached to the board packet. Key items were that grading has started on the Centennial Creek restoration project; Bianchi Lake permitting issues continue; Sustainable Land Initiative – staff is considering a farm equipment rental program through Cal Poly.
 - d. Cost of Living Discussion. Devin Best discussed ongoing cost of living increases and suggested a \$1.50 per hour increase for staff. After discussion it was generally agreed that the Executive Director has the authority to adjust wages if the budget allows without a board vote.
 - e. Vice Chair Nomination. After brief discussion Tom Mora moved that Mike Broadhurst be nominated for Vice Chair. Mary Bianchi seconded. There was board consensus and a vote will be held at the next meeting.
 - f. Independent Auditor's Report. Devin Best and Mary Bianchi briefly discussed the independent Auditor's report for the year ended June 30, 2021. The report was judged to be acceptable, but both suggested reconsidering Moss, Levy and Hartzheim, who prepared the previous year's report.

