

**SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 3, 2024 In-Person

Monterey One Water Board Room, 5 Harris Court, Building “D”, Ryan Ranch, Monterey, California

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Oglesby called the meeting to order at 2:05p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

City of Seaside – Mayor Ian Oglesby

City of Sand City – Mayor Mary Ann Carbone

California American Water (CAW) – Director Chris Cook

Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) – Director Alvin Edwards, Alternate

City of Monterey – Council Member Kim Barber

City of Del Rey Oaks – Council Member Kim Shirley

Monterey County/Monterey County Water Resources Agency – Supervisor Wendy Root Askew

Laguna Seca Subarea Landowner – Director John Gaglioti

Absent:

Coastal Subarea Landowner – Director Paul Bruno

Others Present:

Laura Paxton, Watermaster Administrative Officer (AO)

Jonathan Lear, MPWMD

Remleh Scherzinger, General Manager, Marina Coast Water District (MCWD)

Mike McCullough, External Affairs, Monterey One Water (M1W)

Kevin Dayton, Monterey resident

III. ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024

A. Chairperson - (Must be a member of the Board of Directors) – Currently Mayor

B. Vice Chairperson - (Must be member of the Board of Directors) – Currently Mayor Carbone

C. Secretary - (Need not be a member of the Board of Directors) – Currently Admin. Officer Paxton

D. Treasurer - (Need not be a member of the Board of Directors) – Currently Director Gaglioti

Nominations were accepted from the floor: Council Member Barber nominated Mayor Carbone to serve as chair however Mayor Carbone declined due to her commitment to other boards this year and expressed willingness to serve next year; Council Member Barber rescinded her nomination of Mayor Carbone. Director Gaglioti nominated Mayor Oglesby to continue as chair.

There was unanimous consent 8-0 to appoint Mayor Oglesby as Chair.

Director Edwards nominated Supervisor Askew to serve as vice chair, and Director Gaglioti nominated Mayor Carbone to continue serving as vice chair. AO Paxton read a comment submitted from Director Bruno who was absent: *Given that officer elections were held not that many meetings ago, I believe that it would be appropriate to nominate the existing officers to continue in the same positions.* There were no further nominations for board chair and vice chair and nominations from the floor were closed.

It was moved by Director Gaglioti and seconded by Council Member Barber to appoint Mayor Carbone as Vice Chair of the Watermaster Board of Directors.

Director Cook – Yes (3 votes)

Mayor Ian Oglesby – Aye (2 votes)

Mayor Mary Ann Carbone – Yes (1 vote)

Director Alvin Edwards – No (2 votes)

Director John Gaglioti & Alternate for Coastal Subarea Landowner – Yes (½ and ½ vote)

Council Member Kim Barber – Yes (1 vote)

Council Member Kim Shirley – No (1 vote)

Supervisor Wendy Root Askew – Yes (2 votes)

With the passing of the above motion, the separate vote for Supervisor Askew as Vice Chair was not taken. Council Member Barber nominated AO Paxton as secretary.

There was unanimous consent 8-0 to appoint AO Paxton as Secretary.

Director Gaglioti nominated Supervisor Askew as treasurer.

There was unanimous consent 8-0 to appoint Supervisor Askew as Treasurer.

IV. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – There were no public communications.

V. REVIEW OF AGENDA – As requested by staff, the board concurred due to the absence of Technical Program Manager Jaques to defer the closed session item to the February board meeting.

VI. ORAL PRESENTATION – None

VII. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Minutes of Regular Board meeting held November 1, 2023
- B. Board and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) schedule of 2024 meetings
- C. Summary of Payments made September through October 2023
- D. Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Reports through November 30, 2023
- E. Professional Service Contracts for Fiscal Year 2024
- F. Water Year 2024 Declaration of Unavailability of Artificial Replenishment Water (Water Year 2024 Production Allocations and Basin Storage Allocations attached)
- G. Seawater Intrusion Analysis Report for 2023.
- H. Acknowledgement that the extraction of water identified in the City of Seaside Notice of Intent for Assignment and Transfer of Production Allocation dated November 1, 2023 will be from California American Water wells, not from City of Seaside well

Director Gaglioti requested Item G and Director Cook requested Item F be pulled for discussion.

It was moved by Supervisor Askew, seconded by Council Member Shirley, and unanimously carried 8-0 to approve Consent Calendar Items A-E and H.

Responding to Director Cook regarding consent item F, AO Paxton explained that the 753.95 acre-feet (AF) of carryover portioned to 2024 CAW allocation was primarily a result of the wet winter in 2023 reducing Alternative Producer (AP) production. The unpumped AP production in 2023 is then portioned in 2024 per Decision percentages to Standard Producers including CAW. Such carryover is unrelated to Aquifer Storage and Recovery or other water supply project storage in the basin and the unused portion of carryover can be carried forward to future years.

It was moved by Director Cook, seconded by Director Gaglioti, and unanimously carried 8-0 to approve Consent Calendar Item F.

Director Gaglioti felt the board would benefit from a review of the SIAR, most importantly to gain a better understanding of slight chloride level increase trends at the sentinel wells.

It was moved by Director Gaglioti, seconded by Council Member Barber, and unanimously carried 8-0 to approve Consent Calendar Item G with the requirement that a presentation of the report be provided by Watermaster technical consultants Montgomery and Associates, authors of the 2023 Seawater Intrusion Analysis Report, at the February 7, 2024 Watermaster board meeting.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss/Consider Approving Water Year 2023 Watermaster Annual Report.

Mr. Kevin Dayton, Monterey resident addressed the board stating he appreciated the information annual reports provide. He has compiled production report data over some multiple years of annual reports into one spreadsheet for his own reference, comparing the data to other water agency annual production reports he has compiled. He requested full production data in Excel format dating since Watermaster inception, to be provided to him by AO Paxton. In response to Director Askew requesting a compiled water production report since Watermaster inception as Mr. Dayton has compiled, and Director Edwards inquiring as to how annual reports are made public, Director Cook advised that there is an updated Watermaster website being developed that could provide more prominently than the current site historical production data and annual reports for public consumption. AO Paxton will consider ways to provide a compiled water production report and wider distribution of annual reports.

It was moved by Director Gaglioti, seconded by Director Askew, and unanimously carried 8-0 to approve the Water Year 2023 Watermaster Annual Report as presented.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Consider format for future Watermaster board meetings.

Mayor Carbone offered the City of Sand City offices for in-person/virtual Watermaster Board meetings at no cost. Director Gaglioti suggested inquiring into the Monterey Peninsula Airport District Board offices. Mayor Oglesby considered the City of Seaside Council Chambers a possibility. The Board consented to tabling the item until Directors Bruno and Riley were present.

X. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS (No Action Required)

- A. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) draft meeting minutes December 13, 2023**
- B. Replenishment Ad Hoc Committee (RAHC) draft meeting minutes November 1, 2023**
- C. Watermaster report of production of the Seaside Basin through Water Year 2023 (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2023)**
- D. Replenishment Fund Assessment calculations and 2023 Standard Producer Assessments**
- E. Sentinel Well #4 damage repair update to TAC dated December 13, 2023**
- F. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Monthly Updates October – November 2023**

XI. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Director Cook reported on the Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program, noting that as the rains fill the Carmel River, excess flow can be captured and injected by MPWMD into the Seaside Basin. Three times recently the permit allowance for excess flow to be captured was nearly reached; it is hoped that excess can begin to be captured in the near future.

XII. STAFF COMMENTS – AO Paxton reported that Counsel Hughes will submit the Annual Report to Judge Thomas W. Wills at Monterey County Superior Court. Counsel will work with Judge Wills' office to inform him of the incoming document, and to obtain an official assignment order from previous Judge O'Farrell to Judge Wills.

The February 7, 2024 Watermaster board meeting is scheduled to be held for a presentation by Counsel Hughes on funding options, and to consider the closed session item.

I. CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(c), the board will confer with district counsel to review one matter of potential litigation – The closed session item was deferred to the next board meeting.

II. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m. to a regular Board meeting to be held Wednesday, February 7, 2024 – 2:00 p.m., in person.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Paxton, Board Secretary