NORTHERN
DELTA-MENDOTA

Special Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee
Monday, May 4, 2026, 2:00 PM
Patterson City Council Chambers, 1 Plaza Circle, Patterson, CA 95363

Meeting Minutes

In-Person Attendees:
Bobby Pierce, West Stanislaus Irrigation District
Vince Lucchesi, Patterson Irrigation District (PID)
Lacey McBride, Merced County
Maria Encinas, City of Patterson
Joel Andrews, City of Patterson
Adam Scheuber, Del Puerto WD
Larrisa Camara, City of Patterson
Christy McKinnon, Stanislaus County
Karlee Liddy, Hallmark Group

Online Attendees:
Lauren Layne, Baker Manock & Jensen
Anona Dutton, EKI
Amir Mani, EKI
Brittany Harker, Stanislaus County
Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**
   Chair Pierce called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm PST.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   Chair Pierce led the Committee in the pledge of allegiance.

3. **Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items, as Authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.**
   No corrections or additions were made.

4. **Opportunity for Public Comment**
   There were no comments from members of the public at this time.

Consent Calendar

5. Review and Take Action on the Consent Calendar

a. Minutes of the March 4, 2026 Meeting
b. Budget to Actual Report

Motion:
Member Lucchesi made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which was seconded by Member McKinnon and passed unanimously.

Closed Session

6. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

The Committee entered closed session at 2:05 pm.

Open Session

7. Report from Closed Session

The Committee returned from closed session at 2:43 pm and legal counsel Lauren Layne stated that there was no reportable action.

Action Items

8. Direction on the Proposed Subbasin Model Calibration Phased Approach and Cost Share

Karlee Liddy, Hallmark Group provided background regarding the model calibration phased approach and stated that the technical ad hoc convened on April 22, 2026 and approved the phased approach as presented. Amir Mani, EKI, presented the phased approach to the Committee, and the Committee provided direction to the Northern DM representative to the DM JPA Board to recommend approval of the phased approach as presented.

Ms. Liddy then provided background on some DM JPA Board members' concerns regarding the cost share allocation for the model calibration and other technical costs for the Subbasin. She stated that the budget ad hoc met on April 21, 2026, and agreed that the existing 1/7th cost share and the acreage-based cost share options (A and B) were not likely to receive consensus from the DM JPA Board. Therefore, the ad hoc developed four additional cost share options. The ad hoc also considered a minimum cost share percentage and maximum cost share percentage for each of the seven participating DM GSA Groups, but no formal recommendation was developed for the DM Subbasin JPA Board. Lastly, the ad hoc identified a lack of consensus regarding the definition of technical efforts to which the cost share allocation would be applied in the future. She added that on April 23, 2026, the Central DM GSA Board reviewed, discussed, and provided direction to the Central DM GSA Group representative to the DM Subbasin JPA Board to approve the cost share options A or D for the phased approach to the model calibration.

Legal counsel Lauren Layne was questioned about voting and stated that the smaller GSA Groups concerned with costs for the model calibration could combine seats, and therefore votes, introducing a potential 1/5th cost share split depending on which GSA groups consolidate seats on the DM JPA Board. She warned that they would need to keep the number of voting seats an odd number and such a change would require revising the joint powers agreement and the MOA again. This would require all 21 GSAs adopting those documents again as well.

The Committee generally did not support weighted voting, but provided directed to the Northern DM representative to the DM JPA Board to recommend approval of the current 1/7th cost share allocation or consider approval of a 1/5th cost share allocation and reducing the number of Board seats, depending on how the small acreage GSA groups would combine seats, if at all.

9. Direction on the USBR WaterSMART Applied Science Grant Application

Ms. Liddy introduced this topic and stated that the grant application is due July 8, 2026 and that under a 50% non-federal cost share, the grant could cover up to $400,000 of the model calibration costs if awarded. She added that EKI estimates that developing an application to the grant opportunity would require about $30,000, which is not currently included in the approved Fiscal Year 2027 budget. Staff sought direction from the Committee regarding EKI developing a scope of work to present to DM Subbasin JPA Board for consideration on May 18, 2026.

The Committee supported EKI developing the application, with the condition that the DM JPA Board approve a cost share allocation agreement for the model calibration.

Motion

Member Scheuber made a motion to approve EKI scope of work to apply for grant funding to help cover part of the model calibration costs. Member Lucchesi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

10. Consider Recommendation to the DM Subbasin JPA Board to Authorize Houston Engineering Make Improvements to the Data Management System

Ms. Liddy introduced this topic and stated that the improvements recommended by the technical ad hoc (amounting to about $9,000) fall within the existing budget and scope of work. There were no questions from the Committee.

Motion

Member Scheuber made a motion to authorize Houston Engineering to make improvements to the Data Management System as the cost has already been budgeted. Member Lucchesi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Member Lucchesi left the meeting at 3:29 p.m.

Report Items

11. Update on Subsidence Benchmark Sites Under the SGMA Round 1 Grant Implementation Activities

Ms. Liddy introduced this item and stated that staff is working with GSAs and their consultants to confirm the additional six benchmark sites recommended by EKI are appropriate and feasible to develop. The Committee did not have any questions regarding this item.

12. Update on GSP Implementation

a. Pumping Reduction Plan (PRP) Implementation and Exceedance Reporting
b. Q1 Water Level and Quality Monitoring Event and DMS Upload

Amir Mani (EKI) provided a summary of the PRP implementation and exceedance reporting requirements and stated that the Q1 and Q2 water level and quality data should be uploaded to the DMS as soon as possible. He also outlined the need for information regarding location of wells for aquifer-specific reporting for the annual report, and Member McKinnon stated that she is working to get well completion reports from landowners.

Mr. Mani also stated that the Committee will need to discuss the overdraft mitigation plan and determine if current year pumping should be compared to 2024 pumping or if a 5-year rolling average should be used to estimate pumping reduction needs. He stated that he can provide options for the approach for pumping reduction at the June meeting.

13. Program Management Report

Ms. Liddy provided a summary of the action items completed since the last Northern DM Region Management Committee meeting, and there were no additional questions from the Committee.

14. Next Steps

Ms. Liddy outlined the following next steps to the Committee:

- EKI to submit a scope of work for developing and submitting the WaterSMART grant application for DM JPA Board consideration of approval.
- Staff send the DM JPA Board meeting invitation to all Northern DM Committee members.
- Staff continue working with GSA representatives to upload Q2 data to the DMS.
- EKI to develop options for the pumping reduction and overdraft mitigation approach for Committee consideration at the June meeting.

15. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)

Nothing to report.

16. Next Meeting(s):

The next meeting of the Northern DM Region Management Committee is scheduled for June 3, 2026 at 1 p.m. PST at Patterson City Council.

17. Adjournment

Member Pierce adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.