

**MID-KINGS RIVER GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2017**

Chair McCutcheon called the regular meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: David Ayers; Barry McCutcheon, Chair,
Michael Murray, Vice-Chair

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Steven P. Dias

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Mills, Secretary;
Ray Carlson, Legal Counsel;
Mike LaSalle; Farmer
Carolyn Parde, Del Monte
Steve Bickner, HB Farms
Zack Bickner, HB Farms
Colleen Carlson, Kings County
Lou Camara, City of Hanford;
Abigail Solis, Self-Help Enterprises
Bill Tos, Tos Farms

ESTABLISH QUORUM

It was determined that a quorum was present at the meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 11, 2017 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chair McCutcheon asked if there was a motion regarding the minutes circulated in this month's Board packets. Director Ayers made a motion to approve the April 11, 2017 minutes. Vice-Chair Murray seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of April 11, 2017. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: David Ayers, Barry McCutcheon, Michael Murray

NOES: None

ABSTAINED:None

ABSENT: Steven P. Dias

COMMUNICATIONS

ACWA JPIA has recently made the decision that they will make insurance available to GSAs. They will require that the GSA become a member of ACWA before being eligible and then general liability coverage can be made available.

Jessi Snyder from Self-Help Enterprises made a request to receive agendas and notices from the GSA.

Several consultant (Wheatcraft & Associates, Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers and Lytle Water Solutions, LLC) have sent emails requesting consideration if the GSA needs consultant services.

UPDATE ON LOCAL GSA SUBMITTALS

Secretary Mills reviewed the effects of White or Overlap areas within the Tulare Lake subbasin. He stated that areas with no GSA coverage are considered “Unmanaged” areas and would be required to report groundwater pumping directly to the State Board. Areas with GSA overlap are also considered “Unmanaged” areas and would be required to report groundwater pumping directly to the State Board. These reports will include well location and capacity, monthly extraction volumes, and place and purpose of use. In subbasins with “Unmanaged” areas, the State Board may designate the entire basin probationary. Fees associated with a Probationary subbasin are a base fee of \$300 per well and a probationary rate of \$40/AF. Fees associated with an “Unmanaged” area of a subbasin are a base fee of \$300 per well, a probationary rate of \$40/AF, and an Unmanaged are of \$25/AF.

It was then reported that Alpaugh WD is an exclusive GSA just within their district, but will likely partner with Boswell. Alpaugh WD was deemed exclusive in 2016. The Mid-Kings River GSA was deemed exclusive on May 10, 2017. Secretary Mills reported that he had been in contact with Mark Norberg at DWR and confirmed that the MKR GSA has submitted everything required. Tri-County Water Authority was deemed exclusive June 7. South Fork Kings GSA was deemed exclusive on June 20. Southwest Kings GSA will be deemed exclusive on June 27. Lastly, the El Rico GSA has submitted their Notice of Intent to DWR, but it has not been posted on the SGMA website. On June 16 the reported to me that a resolution to boundary issues was agreed to and they were working with DWR’s GIS folks to get things clean before the area showed up on the website.

UPDATE ON COUNTY GW MODEL

Secretary Mills gave a brief review of information on the grant funded County Groundwater Modeling effort. He noted that parties are providing information to the modeling consultants and that Kings CWD and the City of Hanford have provided what was requested of them. He noted that there are now indications that Boswell is willing to share information from their groundwater modeling effort. Also he noted that there are ongoing efforts to obtain surface water diversions from KRWA member units. It was described that the modeling effort is beginning to form smaller areas of evaluation within the broader model area in order to evaluate how conditions change within them over time.

There was a discussion about the public review plan for the County's groundwater model. It was described that the final product would be presented to the County Board of Supervisors as well as the development of a Final Report that would document the assumptions in it and efforts to calibrate it.

There was also discussion about the County's groundwater model and the concern that it might be viewed as something that would constrain decision makers after it is developed. Secretary Mills relayed that in his view the first model would have significant limitations due to many data gaps. The hope is that after GSAs develop better monitoring information, future versions of the Tulare Subbasin groundwater model will be more accurate and reliable. There was also concern about how the subbasin might defend a local model against the State's regional modeling efforts. Secretary Mills suggested that if the local model uses better data its results should be viewed as the best available science. However he relayed there is concern that if local models don't match in and outflows along the subbasin edges, that DWR will likely force revisions to make the water budgets for the areas to be consistent.

DWR'S DRAFT PSP FOR GSPS AND PROJECTS

Secretary Mills gave an overview of the draft PSP and what funds could be used for in Category 1 and Category 2. A description of effort timelines and process was discussed. Secretary Mills described the comments that were submitted on behalf of the GSA were discussed, primarily relating to eligibility criteria. The draft grants eligibility criteria was discussed and how, if they are not revised, will severely limit how many GSAs will be able to access these grant funds in the south Valley.

Secretary Mills described the efforts to date to develop a plan for how all the Tulare lake subbasin GSAs would use these funds might be used to develop compliant GSPs. After some discussion with the other GSA parties it appears there is interest in pursuing one common GSP with chapters for individual GSA areas. That effort has been suspended until more information from DWR can be obtained.

Also Dale Melville from Dudley Ridge WD has developed a draft "Letter of Intent to Develop and Implement a GSP Coordination Agreement". Secretary Mills relayed that Attorney Carlson would be reviewing the document and providing comments. Secretary Mills relayed that in the LOI costs would be shared between the GSA parties in a hybrid formula involving service area acreage and a straight split between parties, and that decisions would be made by a 2/3 majority decision. The contents of the agreement were discussed and the Board generally did not have serious concerns about the proposed arrangement given what was discussed. Secretary Mills relayed that the hope is the LOI could be executed prior to the GSP & Projects grant application that might be submitted in mid-September. There was a discussion about all of these issues.

Abigail Solis offered that there was going to be a workshop over the weekend in Visalia that might help parties understand the basics of water budgets and GSP development by the Union of Concerned Scientists.

ONGOING EFFORTS

There will be a DAC tour tomorrow which is being put on by Self-Help Enterprises through the communities of Laton, Riverdale, Hardwick and Armona.

Stakeholder Committee formation is still in progress. The plan is for that information to be shared with Directors Ayers and McCutcheon over the next month.

The 2017 budget is also in the works, but it is still somewhat unclear given the information about grant funding.

Finally, Secretary Mills relayed that it will be necessary to begin to discuss engaging a consultant to help the GSA with GSP development.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular Mid-Kings River GSA Board meeting is planned for Tuesday July 11, 2017 at 1:00 pm at the Kings County Water District office.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair McCutcheon thanked those that attended the meeting for their participation. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Mills
MKR MIN 170710