

**MID-KINGS RIVER GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2018**

Chair McCutcheon called the regular meeting to order at approximately 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
Dusty Ference, Kings Co FB Bill Tos
Karen Ormsby, Kings Co. Grand Jury Mike LaSalle
Julianne Phillips, Kings Co. John Doyel, Hanford
Rebecca Quist, KRCD Jim Maciel, Armona CSD

ESTABLISH QUORUM

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 14, 2018 MEETING

Chair McCutcheon asked if there was a motion regarding the minutes circulated in this month's Board packets. Vice-Chair Murray made a motion to approve the August 14, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Director Ayers seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of August 14, 2018. 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

None

GSP DEVELOPMENT

DWR Contract – Kick-off Meeting – Seed Funding – Budget Update

Secretary Mills reported that the DWR contract for GSP Funding is now signed and the signature page was delivered to DWR. DWR staff is still developing materials for their staff to administer the grant. A kick-off meeting will occur likely in early November, and this step is necessary to process the first reimbursement request. A third round of seed funding appears to be needed and Secretary Mills will discuss this with the other GSA leads next week.

GSA Funding

Secretary Mills reported that seed funding requests were being requested as needs arose, but that the MKR GSA hadn't yet discussed how normal GSA expenses would be distributed to the JPA members. His recommendation was that GSA staff estimate costs over a six month period and invoice JPA members so that an operating fund can be maintained. The Board members discussed this recommendation and other alternatives. Director Ayers made a motion to accept Secretary Mills' recommendation and invoice JPA members for an estimated 6 month operating budget. Vice-Chair Murray seconded the motion and Chair McCutcheon called for a vote. 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

Draft GSP Plan Area Chapter Comments

Secretary Mills reported that the Wood consultant team had developed a draft GSP Plan Area chapter that described the GSP area, and particularly its water deliverers and land uses. He relayed that he had developed many suggested edits that hopefully clarified water delivery entity and water source information. He also suggested the addition of information related to reduction in surface water to the area (Central Valley Project Improvement Act, San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement, Judge Oliver Wanger Decisions on South of Delta Pumping, Fish Program Development, etc.). Beyond that there were many clarifications offered on facilities and other details.

Data Sharing / Coordination

Secretary Mills reported on coordination efforts for both the Kings River East GSA and the Consolidated/Central GSA.

Water Accounting Framework Discussions

Secretary Mills reported as the Tulare Lake GSA parties began discussing the Water Accounting Framework (who gets credit for what in a water budget) the representative from the El Rico GSA suggested that the discussion be postponed and that instead a "toothless" framework be used instead. Further he suggested that if any party claimed water that the parties

in the El Rico GSA viewed as theirs, they would initiate litigation. In his view the “toothless” framework would identify the water available in areas, but associated no ownership of it, in an effort to allow parties enough time to negotiate the complicated matter. Secretary Mills explained that work on the Water Accounting Frameworks had been undertaken and that given the potential threat of litigation would likely be shared with the Board in Closed Session at a future meeting.

GW Banking as a Management Action Concept

Secretary Mills generally described the facilities and concepts involved in groundwater banking as a management concept. The Board discussed various aspects of the concept and agreed that it appeared to be an important part of potential options to offset overdraft in the MKR GSA.

UPDATE ON ONGOING EFFORTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:40 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Mills
MKR MIN 181009