

**MID-KINGS RIVER GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2019**

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Art Brieno; Barry McCutcheon, Chair;
Michael Murray, Vice-Chair

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Steven P. Dias

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Mills, GM and Board Secretary Bill Tos
Ray Carlson, Legal Counsel Shawn Corley, LIWD
Soua Lee, KRCD Rebecca Quist, KRCD
Jim Maciel, Armona CSD Julianne Phillips, Kings County
John Doyel, Hanford Darren Avila, A. Avila Farms

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 NOVEMBER 13, 2018 MEETING

Chair McCutcheon asked if there was a motion regarding the minutes circulated in this month's Board packets. Director Murray made a motion to approve the November 13, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Chair McCutcheon seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of November 13, 2018. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: Art Brieno, Barry McCutcheon, Michael Murray

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Steven P. Dias

COMMUNICATIONS

Manager Mills reported that he had received a survey from UC Davis on SGMA Governance and a request for information from a Michael Robert from Massachusetts. He reported that given his available time it was not possible to address either of these communications this month.

GSP DEVELOPMENT

GSP Grant Administration

Manager Mills reported that the first DWR reimbursement for roughly \$423,000 arrived at the GSA office just after the first of the year. Also the second funding request was under development and would be submitted as soon as possible.

6-Month Assessments to JPA Members

Manager Mills reported on the costs for the MKR GSA in Calendar Year 2018. He then discussed the anticipated budget for the January through June 2019 period for staff time and consultant services on a number of efforts. He then relayed the invoice amounts that had been developed for the JPA partners (Kings CWD, Hanford and Kings County). Lastly there was a discussion about a future Proposition 218 election how the MKR GSA would develop a revenue stream. Manager Mills recommended developing an assessment to support GSA administration and a groundwater pumping charge to support GSA project development. He relayed that Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group was working on a proposal for the Prop 218 election but need guidance on the finance structure that the MKR GSA wanted to pursue. Also there was discussion related to the similar purposes of Kings CWD and MKR GSA and that there will need to be significant coordination between the two agencies in order for the MKR GSA to be successful. There was discussion on several of the described topics and the Board requested that Manager Mills continue to work on developing a recommendation related to future GSA funding outside of SPF partner support.

Update from recent Tulare Lake GSA Parties Meetings

Manager Mills reported that at a recent Tulare Lake GSA parties meeting the GSP Development Consultant (Wood) relayed draft estimates of overdraft for the Tulare Lake Subbasin. The range was an annual average of 95,000 to 110,000 acre-feet per year. The MKR GSA, the South Fork Kings GSA and the El Rico GSA were described as contributing to the overdraft. The Southwest Kings GS and the Tri-County Water Authority (TCWA) GSA were described a roughly neutral from a water balance perspective. However, well fields in Tulare County are treated as imported water supplies for Tulare Lake water budget, and will likely be issues for the El Rico GSA and TCWA GSA. Also, roughly 40,000 to 60,000 acre-feet per year of overdraft appears to be occurring in the MKR GSA area. Manager Mills is reviewing the Draft Basin Setting GSP Chapter and associated water budget information that supports these estimates. He reported that if adjustments needed to be made, then the amounts reported here would likely change.

Manager Mills also reported that the current version of the Tulare Lake Groundwater Model was used by Wood to develop projections of agricultural demand linked to Kings River hydrology. The projections were used to evaluate how much additional recharge/surface water delivery/groundwater pumping reduction would be necessary to eliminate the estimated average annual overdraft. The current estimates appear to confirm that 95,000 acre-feet per year would have to be addressed.

Draft Basin Setting Chapter Review

Manager Mills reported that he was currently working on the Draft Basin Setting Chapter Review, but he had nothing to report to the Board yet.

Discussion of Outreach through this Spring-Summer

Manager Mills reported that over the next six months, the GSA Board is generally going to make a GSP decision per meeting on monitoring, thresholds, projects, and management strategies. He relayed that Wood (the Subbasins GSP Consultant) has asked how much effort they should put into Outreach during this same timeframe. Manager Mills' suggestion was that for issues such as monitoring and thresholds not much outreach should be done until the Board has accepted a recommendation from staff. However, on projects and management strategies (i.e. meters, funding and schedules) he suggested the Board develop ranking for options and then seek feedback through outreach. After some discussion the Board generally agreed with the suggestions.

UPDATE ON ONGOING EFFORTS

None

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

The regular February Board of Directors meeting was set for February 12, 2019 at 1 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Government Code Section § 54956.9(b)

Chair McCutcheon directed that the Board move into Closed Session to discuss the above listed matters. The Board, Manager Mills and Attorney Carlson proceeded into Closed Session.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Following the Closed Session, Chair McCutcheon reported that no reportable action was taken during Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Mills
MKR MIN 190115