

**MID-KINGS RIVER GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

This meeting was held by conference call due to local Covid-19 requirements. Chair McCutcheon called the regular meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Steven P. Dias; Barry McCutcheon, Chair; Diane Sharp

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Michael Murray, Vice-Chair

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Mills, GM and Board Secretary
Ray Carlson, Legal Counsel (phone)
Rebecca Quist, KRCD (phone)
Shawn Corley, Lakeside IWD (phone)
Johnny Gailey, Delta View WA (phone)
Geoff VandenHuevel, Milk Producers Council (phone)
John Doyel, City of Hanford, (phone)
Dusty Ference, Kings County FB (phone)
Sebastian Silveira, Griswold LaSalle (phone)

ESTABLISH QUORUM

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER AND REORGANIZATION OF BOARD

Manager Mills introduced Diane Sharp as the new Board member representing the City of Hanford. Ms. Sharp shared some info on her background and was welcomed by the other Board members. Related to the reorganization of the Board, Director Dias made a motion to reconstitute the Board with the previous slate of officers being Barry McCutcheon as Chair, Michael Murray as Vice-Chair and Dennis Mills as Secretary. Director Sharp seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved reconstitution the Board with the previous slate of officers. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: Steven P. Dias, Barry McCutcheon, Diane Sharp

NOES: None

ABSTAINED:None

ABSENT: Michael Murray

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR NOVEMBER 17 AND DECEMBER 18, 2020 MEETINGS

Chair McCutcheon asked if there was a motion regarding the draft November 17 and December 18, 2020 meeting minutes. It was noted that Attorney Carlson had provided a few minor corrections to the draft minutes. Director Dias made a motion to approve the draft November 17 and December 18, 2020 meeting minutes with the noted corrections. Director Sharp seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of November 17 and December 18, 2020 with the noted corrections. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: Steven P. Dias, Barry McCutcheon, Diane Sharp

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Michael Murray

COMMUNICATIONS

- SGMA Monitoring Network Reminder for 5-022.12 TULARE LAKE Subbasin
- Notice of Public Hearing (Kings River)
- Downey Brand requesting info on CEQA for Kings River Projects
- Alex Pytlak at Geosyntec granted admin rights to SGMA Portal for Annual Report
- Tulare Lake & Kaweah Subbasin Interbasin Coordination Meeting
- Scott Hamilton with Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley
- Lakeside IWD on Water Supply for WY '19-'20
- Amanda Peisch-Derby (DWR) on Contact for P&P's Point of Contact Meetings
- Rosemary Knight on well info around 7th Ave & Hwy 198
- Greg Gatzka on Well Permit modifications in light of SGMA
- CV Water Quality Control Board on CAFO Reporting re: Water Demand in Kings Co. area
- Notice from Hanford of Representative Change
- RL Schafer's office starting GW Level readings
- Well Permit Coordination with Kings Co In-Progress

MANAGER'S REPORT

Report of DWR Grants

Manager Mills reported that the MKR GSA had received the first Round 3 SGM Grant reimbursement funds, and that checks were going back to other Tulare Lake GSAs and MKR GSA JPA members. He also reported that it appeared that a budget adjustment would be necessary to process through the consultants.

Manager Mills reported that the Kings CWD had submitted a Round 1 Implementation Grant application in January. He provided details on the efforts included in the "2021 Kings County Water District Recharge Project" application totaling \$3 million in grant funds. The package is expected to be preliminarily scored in March 2021. Also, DWR has messaged that there will be a Round 2 of funding through this program in the Spring of 2022.

Report on MKR GSA Finances

Manager Mills reported that the current agency bank balance was just over \$339,000, but that most of those funds came from the recent DWR Round 3 grant reimbursement request. He reported that the GSA was carrying roughly \$8,000 in Round 3 grant administrative expenses that would come out of the reimbursement request. The plan to send funds back to other Tulare Lake Subbasin GSAs was discussed with the Board.

Report on Current Tulare Lake Subbasin Issues

Manager Mills reported on a number of topics including: discussions with Kings County staff on Well Permits, subbasin subsidence monitoring, coordination meetings for South Valley GSAs, the Tulare Lake Subbasin Point of Contact, and the potential efforts needed to add Projects to the 2020 TLS GSP.

Discussion of WY 2019-2020 TLS Annual Report

Manager Mills reported on the provided Peoples/Settlers/Last Chance/Lakeside surface water data. He also discussed the understood differences 2019 NRCS CropScape data vs the 2019-2020 Land IQ cropping data.

Discussion of WY 2020-2021 Conditions and Potential Efforts

Manager Mills reported on the dry conditions being monitored and on how they compared to conditions in 2015. He provided the current understanding of the projected surface water runs for local ditch companies. He and the Board discussed possible mitigation efforts that could be undertaken this year and next year.

Consideration of 2021 Efforts and Budget

Manager Mills discussed efforts that would contribute to the agency 2021 Budget. There efforts included the 2019-2020 Annual Report, GSP Monitoring Costs, development of groundwater well registration and associated policies, consultant efforts related to a Proposition 218 Study / Engineers Report / Election, potential grant applications, addressing DWR's review of the Tulare Lake Subbasin GSP review and potential needed revisions and further negotiations on several other Tulare Lake Subbasin topics.

UPDATE ON ONGOING EFFORTS

Manager Mills reported on the following ongoing efforts: Potential Lease to Fallow Pilot Program, Evaluation of CAFO water demand information, Esajian Basin efforts, Griswold Basin efforts, Cody and Lopez Basin efforts, Bookout Basin efforts, investigation of a basin site at Kingston Park, investigation of a basin on Last Chance Water Ditch Company property near the Dutch John Cut and an investigation of improvements to the Horseshoe Slough along the Dutch Jon Cut.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

The regular March Board of Directors meeting was tentatively set for March 9, 2021 at 1 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Mills

MKR MIN 210209