

**MID-KINGS RIVER GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 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)
Steve Jackson, Southwest Kings GSA (phone)
Gene Kilgore, Corcoran ID (phone)
Johnny Gailey, Delta View WA (phone)
Geoff VandenHuevel, Milk Producers Council (phone)
John Doyel, City of Hanford, (phone)
Bill Tos, Tos Farms (phone)

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 THE REGULAR FEBRUARY 9, 2021 MEETING

Manager Mills reported that he had not had sufficient time to develop the minutes from the February 9 meeting yet and planned to make them available for consideration at the next Board meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

MANAGER'S REPORT

Reports of DWR Grants

Manager Mills reported that Round 3 SGM Grant reimbursement funds had been sent out to other Tulare Lake GSAs. The Board discussed this topic.

Manager Mills reported that the Kings CWD had submitted a Round 1 Implementation Grant application in January. He reported that DWR had not selected the application in the draft funding selections, but that a meeting had been set up to discuss the scoring with DWR staff.

Report on MKR GSA Finances

Manager Mills reported that finances were relatively similar to the previous month.

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 overdraft estimates being developed in the 2019-2020 TLS Annual Report.

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.

Consideration of 2021 Efforts and Budget

Manager Mills discussed efforts that would contribute to the agency 2021 Budget. The 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.

There was discussion of the potential management strategies such as setting an initial maximum groundwater pumping limit per acre and monitoring the effects of that effort over time to see if adjustments to the maximum are needed. Manager Mills did not have many specifics to discuss with the Board, but the general concept was supported in the discussion. Manager Mills relayed that given the drought conditions, it would be important to make progress on this in 2021. It was understood that this concept would be worked on as time permitted and brought back to the Board for further consideration.

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 April Board of Directors meeting was tentatively set for April 13, 2021 at 1 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Mills

MKR MIN 210309