

**MID-KINGS RIVER GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

This meeting was held by conference call due to local Covid-19 conditions and requirements. The regular meeting was called to order at approximately 1 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Barry McCutcheon, Diane Sharp
Michael Murray, Vice-Chair (phone)

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Steven P. Dias

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Mills, GM and Board Secretary
Ray Carlson, Legal Counsel (phone)
Karen Ormsby, Kings County Grand Jury (phone)
Alex Pytlak, GeoSyntec (phone)
Johnny Gailey, Delta View Water Association (phone)
Geof VandenHuevel, Milk Producers Council (phone)
Shawn Corley, Lakeside IWD (phone)
Jay Weiner (phone)
Sebastian Silveria, Griswold-LaSalle (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 JANUARY 18, 2022 MEETING

Manager Mills asked if there was a motion regarding the draft January 18, 2022 meeting minutes. Director Sharp made a motion to approve the January 18, 2022 meeting minutes. Vice-Chair Murray seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of January 18, 2022 meetings with the noted corrections. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: Barry McCutcheon, Michael Murray, Diane Sharp

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Steven P. Dias

COMMUNICATIONS

Manager Mills reported that a few communications would be reported on in other portions of the meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Fall 2021 SGM Implementation Grant

Manager Mills reported on the components involved in the Tulare Lake Subbasin's grant application for Implementation funds. He reported on Mid-Kings River GSA area projects from Kings CWD, on El Rico GSA area projects from Corcoran ID, on South Fork Kings GSA area projects from Kings River Conservation District and subbasin wide efforts. Manager Mills reported on the requirements of the grant effort and the self-certification forms that were required of the GSA. The Board was in support of his filling these out. Lastly, Manager Mills summarized the available information from the most recent version of the Luhdorff & Scalmanini Engagement Letter for subbasin level groundwater modeling services.

After this report and Board discussion, Manager Mills reviewed Resolution 2022-01 which is the required language from DWR authorizing submission of the Fall 2021 SGM Implementation Grant application. Director Sharp made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-01 as presented. Vice-Chair Murray seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2022-01 to authorize the Fall 2021 SGM Implementation Grant application. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: Barry McCutcheon, Michael Murray, Diane Sharp

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Steven P. Dias

TLS GSP Evaluation Update Letter

Manager Mills reported that the TLS had received a letter from DWR on the Tulare Lake GSP determining that it is complete, in their view, and requires revision before the deadline of July 27, 2022. If the developed revisions fully address the identified deficiencies, the GSP will be approved and DWR will identify additional recommended corrective actions. However, if the revisions don't fully address deficiencies, the DWR would consult SWRCB, and would determine the GSP is inadequate. This would then trigger SWRCB intervention in the TLS, and the SWRCB may identify additional deficiencies to be addressed.

Groundwater Levels

Manager Mills reported on the groundwater level topic in the DWR letter on the TLS GSP evaluation. The letter conveys that the GSP lacks justification for, and effects associated with, the sustainable management criteria (SMC) for groundwater levels, particularly the minimum thresholds (MTs) and Undesirable Results (URs), and the effects of the criteria on the interest of beneficial uses and users of groundwater. The letter also conveys that the GSP does not explain how it considered and addressed potential impacts of dewatering wells in the context of the URs of significant and unreasonable depletion of supply associated with the chronic lower

of groundwater levels. The letter conveys that the GSP does not describe how the GSAs determined that significant and undesirable depletion of supply will be avoided by managing to the established criteria for chronic lower of groundwater levels.

Subsidence

Manager Mills reported on the subsidence topic in the DWR letter on the TLS GSP evaluation. The letter conveys that the GSP does not define URs or set SMCs for subsidence in the manner consistent with SGMA and the GSP regulations. Also, it did not define metrics for URs and MTs based on the level of subsidence that substantially interferes with surface land uses, informed by, and in consideration of, the relevant and applicable beneficial uses and users in the subbasin.

Groundwater Quality

Manager Mills reported on the groundwater quality topic in the DWR letter on the TLS GSP evaluation. The letter conveys that the GSP does not identify SMC for degraded water quality. Also, there was a reliance on existing regulations and policies to define URs that represent degraded water quality conditions occurring throughout the subbasin for the purposes of SGMA does not satisfy the requirements of the GSP regulations.

Recent Subsidence/InSAR Mapping

Manager Mills reported Kings CWD had received another month of information on crop Et in the area. The question currently being investigated was whether the Land IQ information adequately covered Et for triple cropping. The amounts appeared similar to annual alfalfa Et, but did not seem to reflect any losses in reworking the field or pre-irrigation.

UPDATE ON ONGOING EFFORTS

Report on Round 3 Planning Grant

None

Land IQ Information

None

2021 Annual Report Development

Manager Mills reported on progress toward the development of 2021 Annual Report for the Subbasin.

Agency Audit

None

DIRECTOR REPORTS

None

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

The regular March Board of Directors meeting was tentatively set for March 8, 2022 at 1 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Mills

MKR MIN 220208