

**MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUB-BASIN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY BOARD**

SUMMARY MINUTES

February 13, 2018 3:00 p.m.

Tulare Public Library & Council Chambers
491 North M Street – Tulare, CA 93274

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jose Sigala^{3:17 m.}, Howard Stroman (alt.), Dave Martin^{left at 4:05 pm}, David Bixler, Steve Nelsen, Greg Collins

STAFF PRESENT: Randy Groom, Leslie Caviglia, Aaron Fukuda, Paul Hendrix, Ken Richardson, Roxanne Yoder, Trisha Whitfield, Kathy Artis

OTHERS PRESENT: Larry Rodriguez, Chris Petersen with GEI Consultants; Craig Moyle with Stantec; other members of the public.

1. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION:

Chair Nelsen opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Nelsen called for comments from any members of the public present at the meeting. There were no comments made.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS:

a. Approve Minutes of December 14, 2017 Special Board Meeting

It was moved by Director Martin, seconded by Director Bixler and carried 5 to 0 (Director Sigala absent) to approve the minutes as presented.

b. Establishment of Regular Meetings*

P. Hendrix reviewed past meeting regularity and the need to now meet more frequently. He recommended that regular board meetings occur on a bimonthly basis, beginning with the special session today. Director Martin asked if more frequent meetings may be held when warranted, to which Mr. Hendrix indicated that they could. By the motion of Director Bixler, second by Director Stroman and unanimously carried, Resolution 2018-01 was adopted establishing regular board meetings on a bimonthly schedule beginning with February 13, 2018.

c. Financial Report*

i. Financial Statements – Year To-Date

K. Artis reviewed the balance sheet, profit & loss statement, transactions listing and A/R aging summary report, citing key line items in each. Director Collins sought clarification as to budget contribution payments made by Tulare ID, and Ms. Artis indicated that the District has made this payment. She noted further that a payment was received as of today by the City of

Tulare. It was then moved by Director Martin, seconded by Director Collins and unanimously carried 5 to 0 (Director Sigala absent) to approve the reports as presented.

h. Advisory Committee – Status Report

i. Resignation/Appointment*

P. Hendrix stated that Brett Taylor has resigned from service on the Committee, and that a new appointment is recommended at this time. Director Martin expressed support for Ed Henry given his experience with water issues locally and also mentioned his familiarity with Carole Mederos. Directors Bixler and Stroman also expressed support for Mr. Henry, and Director Collins indicated he has known Phil Mirwald for a long time given his tenure with Calif. Water Service Company. By the motion of Director Martin, second by Director Bixler and unanimously carried 5 to 0 (Director Sigala Absent), Ed Henry was duly appointed to the Advisory Committee.

i. Kaweah Sub-Basin Coordination

i. Appointments to Management Team*

Director Sigala arrived at the meeting at the onset of this item. P. Hendrix proceeded to summarize the upcoming work of the Sub-Basin Management Team, noting that this group will be making recommendations to GSA boards as to how much groundwater each GSA region has access to in the future. He stated that the recently-signed Sub-Basin MOU calls for three appointees to the Team from each GSA, and that currently the two city managers and TID's manager serve thereon. Mr. Hendrix then recommended that he be appointed as an alternate to the Team and by attendance rotation sit as a Team member at each such meeting. Director Collins asked how the other two GSAs place their respective managers on this Team, and Mr. Hendrix replied that they both serve on it. It was then motioned by Director Bixler, seconded by Director Martin and unanimously carried, that Mr. Hendrix serve as an alternate on the Sub-Basin Management Team as outlined in the staff report and, further, that the two city managers may designate an alternate to serve in their stead.

d. Regional Water Supply Presentation

P. Hendrix provided background as to his intention to present various topics of interest to the Board at GSA meetings. He then introduced D. Mountjoy of Sustainable Conservation who will speak to new ways to evaluate groundwater recharge potential for the region. Mr. Mountjoy thereupon reviewed the Valley's water development history and channelization of the stream and river systems on the Valley floor. He discussed the loss of flood plain groundwater recharge due to development and subsequent conservation ethic as applied on agricultural lands. Mr. Mountjoy then discussed how on-farm recharge projects may increase local groundwater recharge and compared costs with more typical recharge methods. He added that the approach could be applied as well to urban runoff and wastewater effluent flows as well, and introduced the Groundwater Recharge Assessment Tool

(GRAT) as a means to evaluate such projects. Director Collins inquired as to the application of GRAT to the entire GSA area and for native habitat lands, and Director Sigala asked about its use for urban settings, mentioning his prior involvement with similar efforts on the Los Angeles River. Mr. Mountjoy stated that these applications could be added to GRAT. Mr. Hendrix further commented that the potential on-farm projects could be of benefit to the entire GSA depending on how they are structured. It was requested by the Board that Sustainable Conservation's presentation be provided to them.

e. GSA Manager – Status

i. P. Hendrix reported that the agreements effectuating his transition to Manager of the GSA have been executed by all parties and that TID has authorized him to begin full-time with the GSA as of February 1st. He further indicated that he is searching for a suitable office to lease and that the monthly rental cost would be in the \$300 to \$500 range.

ii. Role in Management Committee

P. Hendrix described the makeup of the GSA's Management Committee, saying that it consists of the two city managers and TID's manager by previous Board designation. He indicated that staff has concluded that he, as the GSA Manager, conduct the Management Committee meetings and inform the Committee as to ongoing activities and issues, but not serve thereon. The GSA's legal counsel will work towards an amendment to the JPA that, among other things, clarifies the role of the GSA Manager relative to that of the Management Committee.

f. DWR Best Management Practices*

P. Hendrix provided a summary of DWR's role in issuing BMPs for guidance to GSAs in preparing and adopting GSPs. He indicated that the most important BMP, reflecting DWR's views on achieving groundwater sustainability in 20 years, is now out in draft form. He noted that Mid-Kaweah's comment letter on the draft is included with the staff report.

g. Tulare County Groundwater Ordinance

Chair Nelsen indicated that this matter is tabled until a subsequent GSA meeting.

h. Advisory Committee – Status Report

ii. Committee Interviews - Status

Chair Nelsen next introduced Mr. Moyle who proceeded to summarize the Committee interview that he has been conducting. He highlighted that by in large the Committee members wish to provide input to the Technical Sub-Committee and GSA Board rather than be put in the role of directing activities. A report of the interviews will soon be prepared.

iii. Outreach Plan Schedule

Director Martin left the meeting at the onset of this item. C. Moyle then provided an overview of the time frame within which to present an outreach plan to the Committee and adoption by the Board, indicating that such a plan

should be in place soon to guide the Committee's stakeholder communication efforts. Director Sigala asked if the means could be provided by which Committee members could serve as ambassadors and engage in public speaking forums to represent the GSA and its decision process. Mr. Moyle stated that this would be incorporated into the outreach plan.

iv. Website Updates

Mr. Moyle then informed the Board that the website has been under review by Stantec and that suggested changes would be presented to the Committee. Director Stroman asked how to access the website, and Mr. Moyle provided the information to do so.

i. Kaweah Sub-Basin Coordination

ii. Status of GSP Grant Application

It was also announced by L. Rodriguez that the Kaweah Sub-Basin was awarded a \$1.5 million grant by the state for coordination and GSP planning, the maximum amount possible. In addition, he noted that state grant funding has been dedicated by Tulare County for coordination work as well.

iii. Sub-Basin Water Budget Analyses*

L. Rodriguez described GEI's internal staff assignments to represent the Mid-Kaweah GSA and the Greater Kaweah GSA in their respective GSP work, as well as his role in representing the Sub-Basin for coordination activities. He said that a key task is to define the basin setting and water budget, and to segregate the water budget as among the three GSAs. Mr. Rodriguez then introduced Chris Petersen as the GEI person to represent Mid-Kaweah in GSP planning efforts. Mr. Petersen proceeded to summarize the respective roles of GEI and its sub-consultants GSI and Stantec.

iv. GSA Management Areas

Both Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Petersen discussed the upcoming water budget apportionment as among the three GSAs and further delineation within the Mid-Kaweah region into its Member Management Areas, those being the two cities and Tulare ID.

Discussion then ensued as to the implications of apportioning the sub-basin water supplies and water budget and Director Collins inquired as to the role of water rights in this effort. Mr. Rodriguez noted that much of the discussion will focus on surface water rights and that rights to groundwater have not been determined in the sub-basin, noting that policy decisions will likely be forthcoming in this regard. K. Richardson commented that the legal framework for this apportionment is very complicated.

j. JPA Unanimous Voting Requirements*

P. Hendrix referred the Board to the staff report, noting that discussions have occurred as to the need to soon consider altering the unanimous consent requirement for certain decisions to be made and action to be taken by the Board in the future. He indicated that, while Member contributions to the annual budgets have been defined for the next two fiscal years, the expense budget and ultimate adoption of a

GSP will be key decisions that the Board must make during this time. Chair Nelsen indicated that no action is to be taken on this matter today and that it will be revisited at an upcoming meeting of the Board.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Nelsen adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Chair

Attest:

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Secretary

* Staff reports and/or other documents provided.