

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

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

April 10, 2018 – 3:00 p.m.

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jose Sigala, Howard Stroman<sup>3:09 p.m.</sup>, David Bixler, Steve Nelsen, Greg Collins

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Greg Nunley, Dave Martin

**STAFF PRESENT:** Randy Groom, Aaron Fukuda, Paul Hendrix, James Koontz, Willard Epps, Roxanne Yoder, Trisha Whitfield, Kathy Artis

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chris Petersen with GEI Consultants; other members of the public.

**1. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION:**

Chair Nelsen opened the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chair Nelsen called for comments from any members of the public present at the meeting.

Amanda Monaco, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, addressed the Board regarding a request for a Letter of Support for its work plan pursuant to the SGWP Grant for Community Engagement.

**3. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**a. Approve Minutes of February 13, 2018 Special Board Meeting**

It was moved by Director Collins, seconded by Director Bixler and carried 5 to 0, to approve the minutes as presented.

**b. Financial Report**

**i. Financial Statements – Year-to-Date\***

Kathy Artis provided a report for the Board's review and consideration. She reviewed the highlights of the balance sheet and profit & loss statement, making note of the segregation between administration and planning income and expenses. With no further discussion it was moved by Director Collins, seconded by Director Sigala and carried 5 to 0, to accept the financial reports as presented.

**c. Resolution No. 2018-02 Supporting Nomination of P. Hendrix for Officer of ACWA Region 7\***

P. Hendrix provided a brief report regarding the item. He indicated that a resolution was needed from the GSA as a new ACWA member to recognize his continued role as a regional board member. Following this report it was moved by Director Bixler, seconded by Director Sigala and carried 5 to 0, to adopt Resolution 2018-02 as presented.

**d. Mid-Kaweah Joint Powers Agreement – First Amendment\***

Legal Counsel J. Koontz provided a report on the proposed JPA amendment. He reviewed the amendment provisions and primary purpose of removing certain actions from the unanimous vote requirement. Discussion ensued regarding the next steps to approve the amendment, and Mr. Koontz reiterated that any amendment is to be recommended by the GSA board for approval and execution by the two city councils and the Tulare ID board. Director Sigala expressed reservations over the ability of the board to set fees absent an undivided vote. P. Hendrix commented that the imposition of any fees by the GSA would still require compliance with either Prop 26 or Prop 218. Following further discussion, it was moved by Director Collins, seconded by Director Stroman and carried 4 to 1 (Director Sigala voting no), to recommend the amendment with the modified majority of 4 to 2 as proposed for action/decision items one through nine as identified in the draft JPA amendment.

**e. Proposed Policy re Board Member Alternates\***

P. Hendrix provided a report regarding a proposed policy regarding Board Member Alternates. He stated that the policy would provide clarity as to the role of board alternates and recognition of any GSA Member policies regarding the same. He further noted that the draft policy is intended for adoption at such time as the amended JPA has been approved by the three GSA Members.

**f. 2018 Water Supply Outlook**

A. Fukuda provided a report for the Board's review and consideration. He talked about the projected supply availability from the Kaweah River and Friant delivery system, and that the projections have improved substantially with the recent storms. Mr. Fukuda added that groundwater levels have risen by about 20 feet due to last year's wet conditions.

**g. Kaweah Sub-Basin Coordination\***

- i. Selection of Temporal Base Period – C. Petersen explained the effort to define a baseline period and to compile data components through 2017. He noted that a GSP must identify such a period in its characterization of historical groundwater conditions.
- ii. Geophysical, ET Data Collection Needs – Mr. Petersen reviewed the geophysical data survey recently conducted in Tulare ID and the interest in extending the survey work into the rest of the Kaweah Sub-Basin. He displayed the proposed location of new data collection transects within all three GSAs. P. Hendrix then described the cost-sharing proposal among the GSAs to pay for the \$475,000 project, saying that \$300,000 would come from Stanford University and the state DWR, leaving \$175,000 to come from the sub-basin GSAs. He indicated that the cost apportionment among Mid-

Kaweah Members will depend on final transect selection and that the project's cost will be reflected in the FY 2018-19 budget.

- iii. Water Accounting Framework Discussions – Continuing with a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Peterson described the decisions necessary to develop a water budget for the sub-basin and individual GSAs within. He summarized four alternatives which depict how channel conveyance losses could be handled in the water budget, and noted that a water budget would ultimately implicate how much groundwater may be pumped in the future within a GSA.

**h. GSP Development – Status Report**

C. Peterson provided an update on the GSP Development. He discussed the planned Data management System, the computer simulation modeling effort, and updates regarding crop water usage. Discussion ensued regarding undesirable results and channel conveyance losses. Director Sigala inquired as to the appropriate forum for decisions regarding losses, and asked that the Advisory Committee be kept informed as to the process. Director Collins commented in regards to existing legal case law on such issues. Upon Director Nelsen soliciting public comment on the topic, Abigail Solis representing Self-Help Enterprises sought clarification regarding recognition of nitrates in determining undesirable results. E. Henry inquired as to using two GSAs versus three in the concept of water allocation.

**i. Advisory Committee – Status Report**

P. Hendrix made note of the recent Committee meeting held on April 6<sup>th</sup>. He summarized the topics discussed, including existing agreements among the GSA Members, water budget and data collection needs, and Committee member survey results. Mr. Hendrix indicated that a follow-up meeting will soon be scheduled to consider a communications & engagement plan and website revisions.

**4. BOARD/STAFF UPDATES**

Director Sigala inquired as to the dates/times of future Advisory Committee meetings. He also asked if the support letter request of Leadership Council could be considered at the June GSA meeting. He lastly expressed interest in an occasional joint session of the three GSA Member elected officials, indicating that such a meeting may be productive in the future.

**5. ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Board Chair

Attest:

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Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Board Secretary

\* Staff reports and/or other documents provided.