

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

SUMMARY MINUTES

Tuesday, July 11, 2017 3:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jose Sigala, Dave Martin, David Bixler, Steve Nelsen, Greg Collins

MEMBERS ABSENT: Greg Nunley

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Howard Stroman

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Olmos, Leslie Caviglia, Aaron Fukuda, Paul Hendrix, Ken Richardson, Joe Carlini, Roxanne Yoder, Trisha Whitfield, Kathy Artis

OTHERS PRESENT: Larry Rodriguez, GEI Consultants, and other members of the public.

1. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION:

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Bixler 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 June 22, 2017 Board Meeting

It was moved by Director Martin, seconded by Director Nelsen, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes as presented.

b. Financial Report*

i. Financial Statements

K. Artis reviewed the balance sheet and profit and loss statement for the year ending June 30, 2017, making note of funds on hand totaling \$209,910.

ii. Approval of Audited Financial Statements – FY 2015-16

K. Artis provided an audit report by Cuttone & Mastro for fiscal year 2015-16 for the Board's review and consideration. She summarized the auditor's findings, stating that the auditor gave an unqualified opinion as to the statements reviewed and that no material errors were found present therein. Following her review it was moved by Director Nelsen, seconded by Director Martin, and unanimously carried to approve the financial statements and the audit report as provided.

c. Kaweah Sub-Basin Coordination

i. Prop 1 Grant Application

P. Hendrix began with an update of GSA formation and stated the Kaweah Sub-Basin should satisfy DWR that all areas fall under a single GSA without any overlap or unmanaged areas as of the June 30th deadline. He then proceeded to discuss the process by which sub-basins may apply for up to \$1.5 million in grant funding for GSP preparations. He emphasized that coordination technical work will come first for use of grant funds, and the issue of a local cost match and other grant application requirements will also need to be dealt with. Mr. Hendrix added that Mid-Kaweah has proposed to serve as the grant applicant, and that the Board should be prepared to hold a special meeting in August to approve a cost-sharing arrangement with the other sub-basin GSAs, approve a contract with GEI to prepare a grant application, and to authorize staff to submit a Prop 1 grant application to DWR.

ii. Facilitation Process

Mr. Hendrix next summarized the effort initiated by Tulare County and its facilitator to lead the sub-basin GSAs through a coordination process. He said that meetings in July have been scheduled to work on preparing the grant application on behalf of all three GSAs and their respective GSP work.

iii. Role of GEI re Supporting Technical Work

P. Hendrix reported that there is general consensus that GEI could serve as the primary consultant to conduct the necessary technical work leading to a sub-basin coordination agreement. He indicated, however, that the Greater Kaweah GSA has expressed some concerns about whether or not adequate peer review of this work could occur under this type of arrangement. Mr. Hendrix said that the facilitation process is to ensure that technical input from all GSAs would be considered prior to any finalization of sub-basin data. He noted that a portion of this work will be conducted under a contract between GEI and Tulare County. He added that action will be needed at an upcoming special board meeting to approve a contract with GEI for the balance of coordination work and for cost reimbursement from the other two GSAs.

d. GSP Preparation – Status

P. Hendrix said that work on a Mid-Kaweah GSP will be largely deferred until the following fiscal year, after the coordination groundwork has been done in conjunction with the other GSAs. He stated that an extended scope of work is being prepared by GEI to allow for the firm's preparation of a GSP under the existing agreement therewith. A low-to-high cost range will be presented when the revised scope is completed. Mr. Hendrix indicated that action will be needed by the Board to approve the amended scope of work.

e. Technical Advisory Sub-Committee – Status Report

L. Rodriguez provided a report on the consultant budget for the Board's review and consideration. He noted that the \$380,000 work effort is being wrapped up and that costs came in about \$70,000 under budget. He described the several cost items delved into that were outside the original scope of work. Mr. Rodriguez next said that GEI is developing a range of costs for coordination and GSP preparation, saying that the budgets presented in June were intended as high-end, conservative numbers. He added that a scope is also being prepared for a Prop 1 grant application. Director Nelsen asked who gave the authority to expend money outside of the scope of work, and Mr. Hendrix indicated that he did so, but felt that the scope was sufficiently general as to justify the work.

f. GSA Advisory Committee – Status Report

P. Hendrix noted that the committee has met twice and that these sessions were introductory in nature as to SGMA requirements and local compliance. He indicated that a sub-basin-wide process will initiate soon to work on coordination and water balance topics that will be germane to Mid-Kaweah and its stakeholders. Mr. Hendrix said he will be working with the Advisory Committee Chair on scheduling upcoming meetings to discuss coordination and to seek stakeholder input. He also noted that the time is coming to consider appointing additional members to this committee, and that staff will be presenting a recommendation regarding this soon. Director Sigala inquired as to the purpose of Assembly Member Mathis' bill regarding participation of farmers in the GSA and GSP processes. Mr. Hendrix responded that the bill is very brief and did not appear to add much in addition to stakeholder involvement as mandated by SGMA. Director Sigala also added that the Advisory Committee should be solicited as to their views on public outreach, committee meeting content, and other means to seek stakeholder input into this process.

4. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION:

a. Govt. Code §54957 – Public Employees

Title: General Manager

Chair Bixler adjourned to closed session at 3:37 p.m.

5. RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION:

Chair Bixler reconvened from closed session at 4:11 p.m. and thereupon reported that no reportable action was taken.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Bixler adjourned the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Chair

Attest:

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Secretary

* Staff reports and/or other documents provided.