

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

SUMMARY MINUTES

April 9, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Medeiros, Jim Pennington, David Bixler, Dave Martin, Steve Nelsen,
Greg Collins^{3:09 p.m.}

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Jim Pennington (sitting in for and on behalf of Howard Stroman, who was in attendance, but due to previous absences, elected to observe)

STAFF PRESENT: Paul Hendrix, Randy Groom, Leslie Caviglia, Aaron Fukuda, Kathi Artis, Rob Hunt, Trisha Whitfield, Roxanne Yoder, Valerie Kincaid

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Peterson, GEI Consultants

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. None were forthcoming.

3. CLOSED SESSION

a. Gov't. Code §54956.9

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

The Board thereupon adjourned into closed session at 3:03 p.m. Director Nelsen reconvened to regular session at 3:53 p.m. and advised there were no reportable actions taken in closed session.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on March 12, 2019

It was moved by Director Bixler, seconded by Director Martin and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of March 12, 2019, as presented.

b. Financial Report

i. Financial Statements – Year-to-Date

K. Artis provided a report for the Board's review and consideration. She reviewed the Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss Statement, aging summary of Accounts Receivable and transactions since the last meeting. P. Hendrix provided an informational update on the state grant application, noting that a reimbursement claim for about \$932,000 is being sought out of a total grant award of \$1.5 million to the Sub-Basin GSAs. With no further discussion the Board, upon the motion of

Vice Chair Collins, second by Director Martin and unanimously carried, approved the financial statements as presented.

c. Legal Counsel Report

i. Kaweah Sub-Basin Coordination Agreement – Status

V. Kincaid provided an update on the progress made in drafting a Coordination Agreement among the three Sub-Basin GSAs. She indicated that a draft Agreement should be prepared for internal review by next month.

d. Public Workshop – GSP Overview

i. Section 2 – Basin Setting

P. Hendrix began with describing that the high-level overviews of each section of the GSP commences with this meeting and will continue through the June meeting, all leading to the goal of a public draft of the GSP being approved for release in July. C. Petersen next reviewed Section 2 (Basin Setting), calling out the Sub-Basin's groundwater storage decline and average annual overdraft of about 78,000 AF. He also noted the estimated safe yield to be about 720,000 AF per year. He then described an upcoming exercise to parse the Sub-Basin groundwater budget among the three GSAs lying therein. Mr. Hendrix added that this GSP section establishes three Management Areas within the GSA, those being the cities of Visalia and Tulare and the Tulare ID.

Mr. Petersen made note of the voluminous Basin Setting report to be appended to the GSP, a document that all three GSAs will be referring to in their respective Plans. The presentation engendered a discussion of subsurface groundwater flows along the western boundary of the Kaweah Sub-Basin and the opinions as to why they are occurring.

ii. Section 4 – Monitoring Networks

C. Petersen proceeded to describe the importance of the groundwater monitoring program to be established by the GSP and its makeup as detailed in Section 4. He listed groundwater levels, water quality, surface water flows, precipitation and subsidence as all being part of the monitoring program. He displayed maps of initial key well locations, some of which being subject to revision. Director Collins asked where the data originated, to which Mr. Petersen indicated that most of it stemmed from public agency records. He further discussed monitoring objectives, spatial concepts, and locations of new monitoring wells potentially funded and installed by DWR.

Mr. Petersen detailed the subsidence monitoring sites in the Sub-Basin, for which subject Director Mederos inquired if other causes of land subsidence are known for this area. It was noted that petroleum extraction from deeper strata may be a cause in some regions.

e. Kaweah Sub-Basin Coordination – Status Report

i. Water Budget Segregation, Numeric Model Simulations

C. Petersen indicated that the Sub-Basin computer model will be first used to simulate a projection to 2040 assuming no imposition of SGMA mandates as a base case. Director Collins asked if the model can be used for “what if” scenarios for Visalia's compliance purposes as an example, to which Mr. Petersen responded in

the affirmative. Director Pennington next inquired about the climate change assumptions required by DWR for the model and what would be done if such projections are wrong. It was noted that a GSA's compliance objectives that are set based in part on model projections may be revised periodically.

ii. Sustainable Management Criteria – Common Approaches

P. Hendrix described some of the approaches that the Sub-Basin GSAs are employing to set Minimum Thresholds and Measurable Objectives, to and including a Threshold at 2040 assuming SGMA was not in force. He added that the GSAs are also reviewing common language for the Sub-Basin Sustainability Goal and identification of Undesirable Results.

f. Advisory Committee – Activity Report

i. Outreach Presentations to-date

P. Hendrix provided a report of stakeholder outreach presentations given by staff and Advisory Committee members, noting that some 30 presentations have occurred and that more are in the queue. He named civic club, Visalia Commissions, leadership Tulare/Visalia, school districts, and a joint GSA workshop for growers to be held in Tulare. Mr. Hendrix told the Board that public outreach later in the year will, for some forums, transition into a description of GSP content in contrast to the current efforts of communicating groundwater issues and key SGMA directives.

ii. Committee Vacancy – Status

P. Hendrix stated that the Management Committee has reviewed the six applicants for the open seat on the Advisory Committee, but were unable to reach consensus on a candidate for recommendation to the Board. The Management Committee further felt that the intensive pace of activity leading to a GSP by the end of the year could be a difficult backdrop for a new Advisory Committee member to step into, and that a better time to re-address the matter would be early next year. The Board then determined, by the motion of Director Mederos, second by Director Bixler and unanimously carried, to accept the recommended approach and delay any appointment to the Advisory Committee.

5. BOARD/STAFF UPDATES, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS OR OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST

6. ADJOURNMENT: Next Regular Meeting – May 14, 2019

Chair Nelsen adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Chair

Attest:

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Secretary