

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

SUMMARY MINUTES

May 14, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Mederos, Howard Stroman, David Bixler, Dave Martin, Steve Nelsen,
Greg Collins^(left mtg @ 4:28 p.m.)

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

STAFF ABSENT: Aaron Fukuda

1. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION:

Chair Nelsen opened the meeting at 3:01 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 3:02 p.m. Director Nelsen reconvened to regular session at 3:14 p.m. and advised there were no reportable actions taken in closed session.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on April 9, 2019

It was moved by Director Bixler, seconded by Director Collins and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of April 9, 2019, as presented.

b. Financial Report*

i. Financial Statements – Year-to-Date

K. Artis provided an overview of the financial statements for the Board's review and consideration. P. Hendrix pointed out some of the budget-to-actual line items therein. Director Stroman as to the differing amounts due from each city shown in the accounts receivable report. It was then moved by Director Martin, seconded by Director Mederos and unanimously carried to approve as presented.

ii. Grant Reimbursement – Status

P. Hendrix provided a brief update on the item for the Board’s review and consideration. He indicated that a net amount of about \$440,000 would be received by Mid-Kaweah for its coordination and GSP costs to date.

iii. Call for Funds

P. Hendrix made note of the accompanying staff report explaining the need for a fourth call for funds during this fiscal year. It was moved by Director Collins, seconded by Director Bixler and unanimously carried, to approve the Manager’s request for a call for funds of \$170,000, one-third from each member as presented.

c. Resolution No. 2019-01 – Establishment of Regular Meetings*

P. Hendrix stated that the recent decision to hold regular GSA meetings at monthly intervals is to be memorialized by adoption of a resolution. With no discussion, it was moved by Director Mederos, seconded by Director Stroman and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution No. 2019-01 for that purpose as presented.

d. June GSA Meeting Actions

P. Hendrix reminded the Board that the two-year term for the GSA Chair and Vice Chair comes to an end on June 30th, and that the election of these officer positions needs to take place no later than the first meeting of the next fiscal year to be held in July. He added that the expenditure budget for the next fiscal year is to be approved by the Board by the end of June.

e. Prop 68 Funding for SGMA Planning

P. Hendrix indicated that Prop 68 contains \$50 million for GSP development, and that up to \$500,000 may be awarded to basins that have received a Prop 1 grant award. He added that qualifying expenses include those incurred back to June 2018. Mr. Hendrix noted that the Kaweah Subbasin efforts to secure eligibility for this grant program were helpful in shaping the reimbursement terms.

f. Legal Counsel Report

i. Kaweah Sub-Basin Coordination Agreement – Status

V. Kincaid told the Board that the agreement is coming together well, and that several technical appendices need to be prepared to accompany the document. She indicated that the Board will first see the agreement in form only, noting that several modifications to it may yet occur thereafter. It was stressed that this agreement needs to demonstrate to DWR how the three GSPs in the Subbasin will work in concert to achieve sustainability.

g. Public Workshop – GSP Overview

i. Section 3 – Sustainability Goal, Undesirable Results

P. Hendrix provided a PowerPoint presentation for the Board’s review and consideration. He emphasized that this section of the GSP must be echoed in all three GSPs in the Subbasin. He further discussed the primary goal as stated, namely to preserve agricultural viability and its surrounding small-community job base, and to strive to fulfill the water needs of city and county general plans within the county. Director Collins noted that growth projections may be compared to those published by the state Dept. of Finance.

ii. Section 6 – Water Supply Accounting

P. Hendrix provided a PowerPoint presentation for the Board’s review and consideration. He first reviewed the development of the means to apportion the Subbasin water budget among the three GSAs as proposed by Mid-Kaweah and subsequently agreed to by the East and Greater GSAs. He then discussed the engineering and legal views of this apportionment and presented graphical representations of the concepts. Mr. Hendrix indicated that the Mid-Kaweah portion of the Subbasin water budget indicates an average annual surplus of about 37,000 AF. He concluded with noting that the apportionment represents a starting point from which the three GSAs will continue to shape responsibilities in achieving sustainability during GSP implementation.

Director Collins made note of the declining water levels in the region and that emphasis should be placed on that trend. Director Stroman inquired as to the emerging perceptions regarding the value of groundwater and potential market program, and Director Mederos added that a system to manage the limited groundwater supply may be devised resembling the former agricultural set-aside program administered by the federal government. Director Martin contrasted the imputed surplus water balance with the pumping long occurring to the west of Tulare ID, and that other states have implemented land retirement programs to achieve groundwater recharge. He also noted the coordination needed with agencies outside of the Subbasin. Further discussion ensued concerning mutual impacts as between one subbasin interconnected with another.

h. Kaweah Sub-Basin Coordination – Status Report

i. Groundwater-Only Ag. Lands – Representation

P. Hendrix described the growing involvement of landowners in so-called “white areas,” where no surface water is available to meet irrigation demands. He noted that water budget balances for these areas show significant deficits that need attention in implementing SGMA.

ii. Application of Computer Model – Initial Simulations

P. Hendrix continued with a PowerPoint presentation depicting the initial simulations to be conducted using the Kaweah Subbasin groundwater model. He indicated that these simulations are to be used to aid in establishing sustainable management criteria as called for in DWR’s GSP Regulations.

iii. Kaweah Fly-Over Project

P. Hendrix stated that the Subbasin SkyTEM geophysical data collection project has been completed, and that a presentation of the results will be given at the next Subbasin Management Team meeting.

i. Advisory Committee – Activity Report

P. Hendrix summarized the recent outreach meetings that have been held. Director Martin commented that Advisory Committee member J. Snyder gave a good presentation at Buena Vista School but that attendance was disappointingly low. Mr. Hendrix then noted the GSP section reviews occurring at Committee meetings.

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

Director Mederos inquired as to the reasons for holding closed sessions at the commencement of board meetings as opposed to at the end, and staff responded that the decision to schedule the closed session has depended on content and anticipated duration.

6. ADJOURNMENT: Next Regular Meeting – June 11, 2019

Chair Nelsen adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Chair

Attest:

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Secretary