

MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY BOARD

SUMMARY MINUTES

November 12, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Mederos, David Martin, Steve Nelsen, David Bixler, Howard Stroman, Greg Collins

STAFF PRESENT: Paul Hendrix, Valerie Kincaid, Aaron Fukuda, Leslie Caviglia, Randy Groom^{3:23 p.m.}, Rob Hunt, Kathy Artis, Trisha Whitfield, Mario Orosco, Roxanne Yoder

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Petersen (GEI), Blake Wilbur (Chair, Advisory Committee), Craig Moyle (Stantec)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mederos opened the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – The public may comment on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Board, including items on the agenda. Speakers will be allowed three minutes, unless otherwise extended by the Board Chair. The Board cannot legally discuss or take official action on items presented under public comment.

Chair Mederos called for comments from any members of the public present at the meeting. None were forthcoming.

3. CLOSED SESSION

Chair Mederos adjourned to closed session at 3:04 p.m. for the item as noted by Legal Counsel V. Kincaid.

- a. Gov't Code §54956.9 – Anticipated Litigation

Chair Mederos reconvened from closed session at 3:43 p.m.; there were no reportable actions taken therein.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on October 8, 2019

Chair Mederos requested an amendment to the minutes to include the statement presented by G. Collins entitled “Tragedy of the Aquifer.” It was moved by D. Bixler, seconded by H. Stroman, to include that statement into the minutes. It was then moved by D. Martin, seconded by G. Collins and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2019 meeting as amended.

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. She highlighted entries in the balance sheet, profit & loss statement and transactions list. She noted several entries in the profit & loss statement relative to the associated budget figure.

Questions posed by H. Stroman were addressed by Ms. Artis. It was then moved by G. Collins, seconded by H. Stroman, and unanimously carried to approve the report as submitted.

c. Legal Counsel Report

i. Subbasin Coordination Agreement – Status

Legal Counsel V. Kincaid provided an update for the Board’s review and consideration. She noted the previous review of the Agreement before the Board and the recent GSA manager/legal representative meeting to advance the Agreement and associated appendices. Director Collins asked if each GSA’s Plan will be judged individually or collectively with the others within the Subbasin, to which Ms. Kincaid answered that both evaluations may be utilized by DWR.

d. Advisory Committee – Report by Committee Chair

i. Consideration of Draft GSP Comments – Recommended Responses

B. Wilbur provided a PowerPoint presentation for the Board’s review and consideration. He discussed the prioritization of the comments, the review process, and the individual comment themes for which Committee recommendations are being made. With no public comment forthcoming it was moved by S. Nelsen, seconded by Vice Chair Martin and unanimously carried, to accept the recommended comment responses from the Advisory Committee for incorporation into the GSP.

e. GSP – Status

i. Consultant Cost Estimate for Final GSP – GEI Task Order MKGSA-05.2019

P. Hendrix provided report for the Board’s review and consideration. He referred back to the August board meeting, at which the prior task order was approved for \$35,000 to organize and catalog the public comments on the draft GSP. He noted that, at that time, it was estimated that as much as another \$90,000 may be necessary to incorporate comments into the GSP. With the comment assessment process now finished, Mr. Hendrix stated that the task order before the Board reflects a not-to-exceed cost estimate of \$91,300. Following discussion, it was moved by G. Collins, seconded by D. Bixler, and unanimously carried to approve the Task Order as submitted for inclusion with the Consultant agreement.

f. Kaweah Subbasin Coordination

i. Adjacent GSP Reviews

P. Hendrix provided a report for the Board’s review and consideration. He

indicated that local GSAs are evaluating the relative differences as between their chosen sustainable management criteria. He further opined on the difficulty in establishing minimum thresholds and measurable objectives as required now with an incomplete understanding of the groundwater basin and evolving conditions. He further discussed the primary SGMA requirement of achieving sustainable yield by 2040 in the context of these thresholds and objectives as they may be revised with adaptive management.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Letter received from the Tulare County Farm Bureau
P. Hendrix advised the Board of the letter received from the Tulare County Farm Bureau regarding draft GSPs covering a portion of the County. Director Nelsen inquired as to the accessibility to all written comments relative to the GSA's draft GSP. Mr. Hendrix indicated that all comments submitted during the public comment period are posted on the GSA website.

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

- a. A. Fukuda mentioned that the Tulare Irrigation District very recently received a \$400,000 grant from the federal government for groundwater management planning.

7. ADJOURNMENT Next Regular Meeting – December 10, 2019
Chair Mederos adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Chair

Attest:

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Secretary