

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

SUMMARY MINUTES

Tuesday, April 11, 2017 3:00 pm

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jose Sigala, Greg Nunley^{3:07 p.m.}, Dave Martin, David Bixler, Steve Nelsen, Greg Collins

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Larry Rodriguez, GEI Consultants; Paul Boyer, Self-Help Enterprises

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. Dave Martin addressed the Board with his concerns over the January 10, 2017 meeting where the Board failed to unanimously support a two-year audit process. He advocated for additional discussion of expense matters in the future such that cost effectiveness may be assured.

3. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Chair Bixler adjourned to Closed Session at 3:06 p.m.

- a. Government Code Section 54957 – Public Employment
Title: General Manager

Chair Bixler reconvened from Closed Session at 3:35 p.m. and reported that the Management Committee has been directed to recruit for a General Manager of the GSA.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS:

- a. **Approval of minutes of January 10, 2017 and March 14, 2017 GSA meetings** – It was moved by Vice Chair Nelsen, seconded by Director Martin and unanimously carried to approve the minutes as presented.
- b. **Financial Report***
 - **Financial Statements**

K. Artis provided a review of the GSA balance sheet and profit and loss statement. P. Hendrix advised that a special session regarding the budget for the next fiscal year may need to be scheduled.

Director Sigala expressed a need to review the financial contributions from the three JPA members, and that consideration be given to the size and population of the city members thereof.

- **Auditor Engagement – Cuttone & Mastro**

K. Artis provided a status report on the annual audit, which is due by June 30, 2017. She noted that field work by the auditor will commence soon.

c. **Approval of General Manager Job Description, Salary Range and Authorization to Recruit**

L. Caviglia reported that the Board, while in closed session, (a) approved the draft job description for the position of General Manager, (b) that the Tulare Irrigation District will serve as the employing entity, including the benefits package offered thereby, (c) authorized the recruitment of the position utilizing the Human Resources Departments of Visalia and Tulare, and (d) approved an annual salary range of \$150,000 to \$180,000 for the position.

d. **Expression of Support for Okieville Recharge Project***

P. Hendrix provided a report for the Board's review and consideration and presented background information regarding the proposed project. A. Fukuda presented a PowerPoint slide presentation highlighting the proposed recharge basin location and features. P. Boyer of Self-Help Enterprises addressed the Board regarding the needs of this community and said his organization was in favor of a letter of support for the project. Comments regarding the proposed project and its regional benefits by the Board followed. Following further discussion it was moved by Director Sigala, seconded by Vice Chair Nelsen and unanimously carried to authorize a letter of support as requested.

e. **Kaweah Sub-Basin GSA Coordination – Status Report**

P. Hendrix summarized the status of GSA coverage across the sub-basin, saying that a common boundary map delineating the East and Greater Kaweah GSAs has been agreed to. He added that MOUs dealing with how various GSP issues will be handled for lands and public entities along this boundary are to be developed later. P. Hendrix also indicated that a sub-basin management team is now scheduling meetings to sort through the numerous technical issues and data gaps needing attention before a SGMA-required coordination agreement may be negotiated and finalized.

f. **Technical Advisory Sub-Committee – Status Report**

L. Rodriguez, GEI provided a report for the Board's review and consideration. He highlighted his firm's review and assessment of the Kaweah Water Resources Investigation (WRI) reports and their applicability to developing a water balance for the Mid-Kaweah region. He commented that the WRI information is a good starting point and that, with further development, it should serve well in meeting the data needs of the Greater and East Kaweah GSAs and joint coordinated efforts as well. L. Rodriguez also told the Board that numerical computer modeling of the

groundwater resource within the sub-basin will need to be incorporated in the GSP and will be required by DWR.

P. Hendrix added that these other GSA representatives have indicated some receptivity to sharing in the workload and associated costs of GEI in this regard. Director Collins brought up the need to involve stakeholders and to find ways to disseminate the technical information to the public. Director Sigala expressed a desire for the Technical Advisory Sub-Committee and other GSA meetings to be held in the evening on occasion to elicit more public participation. P. Hendrix indicated that public outreach has been occurring, to and including public hearings when the GSA was formed.

g. Discussion of Vacancies on the GSA Advisory Committee (including whether a further recruitment should occur, and possible appointment from current applicants)*

L. Caviglia provided background information to the Board concerning the make-up of the Advisory Committee. She made reference to the Board-adopted policy for the committee, noting that seven to eleven members thereof were specified therein and that currently nine have been appointed. She added that new applications have been received and that one appointed member was no longer eligible to serve in a manner consistent with eligibility requirements. Given these circumstances, she stated that three seats are now vacant. The Board thereupon discussed the upcoming activities of the committee and hiatus in GSA progress due to governance issues elsewhere in the sub-basin. It was moved by Director Sigala, seconded by Director Martin and unanimously carried to delay additional committee appointments until the GSA and GSP processes are further along. It was also expressed by the Board that the committee be fully functional when additional stakeholder input is called for. Director Nelsen asked staff to identify clearly the representation categories for appointment when the item is presented again for consideration.

h. Tulare ID Water Supply Assessment

P. Hendrix presented PowerPoint slides of how computer simulation models play a role in water resource planning. He described how models are used on both a state-wide and regional scale, and how local models will play a role for GSP planning purposes. He indicated that of particular importance will be the application of such models in identifying the potential for increased groundwater recharge using surplus supplies accessible by Tulare ID and the water management authorities granted to GSAs per SGMA. Director Collins noted how models could play a role in laying out a strategy for future water project planning. He also stated he would like to see the application of water conservation and agricultural land fallowing/retirement as part of such future planning and strategizing.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Bixler adjourned the meeting at 4:41 p.m.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Chair

Attest:

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Secretary

* Staff reports and/or other documents provided.