

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

SUMMARY MINUTES

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

3:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carlton Jones, Craig Vejvoda, David Bixler, Dave Martin, Steve Nelsen, Greg Collins

MEMBERS ABSENT: Greg Collins

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

1. CALL TO REGULAR ORDER:

Chair Bixler opened the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Bixler called for public comment. No public comment was presented.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS:

a. Approval of minutes of January 12, 2016 GSA meeting. It was moved by Vice Chair Nelsen, seconded by C. Jones and unanimously carried to approve the minutes as presented.

b. Recommendations for Advisory Committee Appointments.* L. Caviglia provided a report for the Board's review and consideration regarding the solicitation of Advisory Committee Applicants. She began with a review of the Board's adopted policy regarding committee appointments and discussed the screening and selection process to-date. Ms. Caviglia advised that 22 applications had been received by the extended deadline and two additional applications were received after. One of which was James Nichols on behalf of Nichols Farms and was submitted to replace Johnny Starling also from Nichols Farms.

Following the report it was moved by C. Vejvoda, seconded by C. Jones and carried 5 to 0 to appoint 9 of the 11 positions as follows: Mark Boyes (at-large Tulare), Eric Charles (at large Visalia), Richard Garcia (environmental Visalia), Edward Henry (government Tulare), Soapy Mulholland (environmental Visalia), James Nichols (ag Tulare), Brett Tayler (at large Visalia), Jessi Snyder (disadvantage communities Visalia) and Blake Wilbur (ag Tulare).

c. Approve a professional services agreement with GEI Consultants for hydrogeologic consulting services for an amount not to exceed \$381,000.* P. Hendrix provide a report for the Board's review and consideration. Six firms submitted proposals. GEI Consultants was selected as the top firm due to their long history in groundwater management and

related projects, and as possessing enough breadth in expertise to address all aspects of the scope of work. Vice Chair Nelson inquired as to the costs to be incurred by other would-be GSAs in the County and whether any joint planning efforts might save money. Mr. Hendrix responded that, some cost control decisions will be retained by Mid-Kaweah under the current arrangement, and that considerable work will be shared by all in the development of a coordination agreement amongst all GSAs. Mr. Vejvoda further asked about the availability of grant funding for this effort, to which it was acknowledged that state Prop 1 monies will be available for application. Lastly, Vice Chair Nelson asked when additional funds will be needed to complete the GSP development process, to which it was noted that the \$381,000 was likely to be spent over a two-year time frame, with additional sums required to undertake actual preparation of the GSP.

Following discussion it was moved by Vice Chair Nelsen, seconded by D. Martin and carried 5 to 0 approving the item as recommended.

d. Dept. of Water Resources Draft Emergency Regulations for GSPs.*

- i. Overview of regulations.** P. Hendrix provided a report for the Board's review and consideration. He reviewed the SGMA and its requirement that DWR prepare emergency regulations on GSP content by June 2016, which regulations are now disseminated in draft form. He further noted that comments are due by March 25th and that staff was intending to submit both technical and broader governance-related comments. Kim Loeb then elaborated on the draft regulations and implied emphasis therein on a central GSA to provide oversight and serve as a point of contact with DWR. He commented that this appears to be beyond what is called for in SGMA. Mr. Hendrix added that DWR has noted such concerns as expressed by many agencies, and has indicated that clarification is needed in the regulations in this regard. Mr. then Vejvoda expressed his concern that the regulations create the need for considerable funds to implement.
 - ii. Authorize staff to prepare comments and to participate in related public comment sessions regarding said regulations.** It was the consensus of the Board to authorize staff to move forward and to submit comments, and to emphasize that state funding should be made available to comply with the regulations.
- e. Award of the Prop 1 "Stressed Basin" grant to Tulare County.** P. Hendrix provided an update on the Prop 1 Grant funding, summarizing the grant awards given to entities by DWR within the San Joaquin Valley. He then noted that some of these funds awarded to Tulare County are earmarked for coordination efforts within the Kaweah Sub-basin and, as such, may be able to supplement the planning and coordination expenditures of Mid-Kaweah.
- f. Dept. of Water Resources response to Cal Water Services Co. objection to GSA formation.*** M. Olmos first reviewed the series of request letters of Cal Water to be considered for appointment to the Mid-Kaweah GSA board and its appeal to DWR in this matter. Mr. Olmos then proceeded to summarize the written DWR response regarding Cal

Water's objection to the alleged improper formation of the Mid-Kaweah GSA and its related objection to excluding Cal Water from serving on the board thereof. The DWR letter affirms that MKGSA was formed properly, and states that it is up to local joint powers authorities to specifically invite mutual water companies and utilities regulated by the PUC such as Cal Water to serve on the governing board.

- g. Other business.** The April 12, 2016 meeting is cancelled. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, May 10, 2016.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Bixler adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Chair

Attest:

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Secretary