

**MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

SUMMARY MINUTES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016 – 3:00 p.m.

City of Tulare

411 E. Kern Avenue – Tulare, CA 93274

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Boyes, Eric Charles, Richard Garcia, Ed Henry, Soapac Mulholland, James Nichols, Jessi Snyder, Blake Wilbur, Brett Taylor

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: None

GSA MEMBER STAFF PRESENT: Leslie Caviglia, Aaron Fukuda, Paul Hendrix, Beth Holmes, Joe Carlini; Larry Rodriguez, John Ayres (GEI Consultants)

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Malcolm Jones, Michael Tharp, Larry Dotson, Matt Klinchuch, Mark Gravtor, Tricia Stever Blattler

1. **CALL TO REGULAR ORDER:**
The meeting was opened by L. Caviglia at 3:00 p.m.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
No public comment was presented.
3. **INTRODUCTIONS:**
Self-introductions of the Committee members, GSA member staff and general public were made.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
L. Caviglia brought to the Committee's attention the draft minutes of the May 9th committee meeting for review. With the motion of S. Mulholland, second by J. Nichols and unanimously carried by all members, the minutes of the meeting were approved for filing.
5. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR/VICE CHAIR:**
L. Caviglia next described the need for the Committee to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee. S. Mulholland inquired as to the workload of these positions, to which Ms. Caviglia answered that the Chair would be called upon to assist in meeting coordination and in bringing recommendation reports on occasion to the GSA board, with the Vice Chair serving as an alternate in such capacities. Committee members B. Wilbur and J. Nichols were offered as candidates by M. Boyes. S. Mulholland suggested that others representing different stakeholder interests might be considered as well. Upon the motion of M. Boyes, second by B. Taylor and unanimously carried by all members, Blake Wilbur was nominated as Chair and James Nichols was nominated as Vice Chair of the Committee.

6. GSA FORMATIONS:

P. Hendrix reviewed the activities of other regions within the sub-basin in regards to GSA formation. Referencing a Kaweah Sub-Basin map, he noted that there is a Greater Kaweah joint powers authority that will file to become a GSA in the near future as well as an Eastern Kaweah group that is discussing the formation process as well.

7. TULARE COUNTY FACILITATION:

P. Hendrix announced that facilitation and GSA coordination efforts led by Tulare County will resume in the near future, aided by state grant funding. E. Henry asked what is meant by "white areas" for GSA coverage, and discussion was held regarding the County's role in that regard. Mr. Hendrix emphasized that communication and coordination, leading to a SGMA-required Coordination Agreement, is of paramount importance as facilitation amongst the GSAs proceeds forward.

8. SGMA REVIEW AND BACKGROUND:

P. Hendrix next summarized the materials presented at the last committee meeting and commented that background information will continue to be brought forth in order for the Committee to later engage and offer recommendations on issues as they arise. He discussed the fundamental SGMA requirements and how SGMA addresses sustainability and significant and unreasonable impacts to groundwater resources. He also presented groundwater supply trends in the Central Valley and within the Mid-Kaweah region.

9. PRESENTATION BY GEI:

L. Rodriguez proceeded to provide an overview of GEI Consultants and the team assigned to the Mid-Kaweah GSA work. He discussed GEI's expertise in the groundwater resources discipline and the Mid-Kaweah project timeline leading to preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). J. Ayres next presented an overview of the KDWCD Water Resources Investigation (WRI) reports. He reviewed how the WRI reports determine water budgets and the key components thereof. He detailed the WRI segregation of the sub-basin in hydrologic units and how the latest WRI incorporates more accurate estimates of plant evapotranspiration. Mr. Ayres stated that the WRI reports are technically appropriate and robust and may be used in the development of a GSP. He noted that additional work will be needed to segregate the WRI data to fit the GSA regions being contemplated and to address sub-basin "natural" supplies versus imported supplies. Mr. Ayres concluded by noting the existence of the WRI reports will mean significant cost savings to the Mid-Kaweah GSA and other sub-basin interests, and that ideally the study area of the WRI work should be expanded to include the entire Kaweah Sub-Basin.

10. INTERESTED PARTY LISTING

L. Caviglia brought to the Committee's attention the Interested Party Listing as submitted to DWR, and asked that committee members review the list and provide input as to its completeness.

11. REVIEW OF BOARD ACTIONS

P. Hendrix thereupon presented the GSA's expense budget for FY 2016-17 as approved by the GSA board of directors. He mentioned the in-kind services being furnished by the three GSA members. He also noted that, of the total budget of \$450,000, most of it is devoted to work to be

conducted by GEI and that contributions are currently one-third each from Tulare ID and the cities of Tulare and Visalia.

Questions were asked by committee members and public in attendance and discussions ensued on topics of interest.

- J. Carlini wanted to know if the City's WWTP effluent will be credited to the overall water budget, noting that the water conservation mandates by SWRCB didn't reflect this water source. J. Ayres said a GSP water budget will take into account all sources of water supply.
 - E. Henry asked what is a hydrologic unit as used in the WRI reports and why they were defined as they were. Mr. Ayres reiterated the delineations used in the WRI studies as being driven by surface water supplies of each such unit.
 - J. Nichols commented on a basin-wide water budget v. individual GSA areas and how the two might differ. He used the example of significant pumping occurring in the western part of the sub-basin as compared to the eastern portion.
 - Members of the public inquired as to whether SGMA applies to the entire state. References were made to Congressman Nunes' recent water forum where SGMA-induced impacts to agriculture were discussed.
 - Comments were made that other regulatory agencies may have data that can be utilized for the purposes of SGMA, and Mr. Ayres confirmed this.
 - E. Henry requested that the summary slide listing the six "undesirable results" as defined in SGMA be disseminated to all committee members.
 - R. Garcia brought up the idea that Lake Kaweah may be dredged someday as a means to gain more water storage, and this idea was discussed by the group.
 - A question arose as to the applicability of SWRCB fees to implement SGMA, and Mr. Hendrix and Mr. Ayres emphasized that such fees will only apply to those regions which do not meet SGMA mandates at the local level. Concerns were expressed that the fees might apply to all groundwater users.
 - B. Wilbur asked how the state's SGMA mandates compare with other states, and Mr. Ayres indicated that there are differences and that other states have implemented groundwater management and regulatory systems long before California has done so.
12. B. Wilbur inquired as to when the next committee meeting should take place. There was consensus that, when staff and consultants had pertinent information to put before the Committee, a meeting should then be scheduled. It was also noted that the agendas and information provided to the Mid-Kaweah GSA board be also sent to the Advisory Committee so that they may be informed as to board issues and discussions.

Chairman Wilbur adjourned the meeting at about 5:00 p.m.

Advisory Committee Chair

Attest:

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Secretary