

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

SUMMARY MINUTES

Tuesday, January 10, 2017 3:00 pm

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jose Sigala, Greg Nunley, David Martin, David Bixler, Steve Nelsen, Greg Collins

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Olmos, Leslie Caviglia, Aaron Fukuda, Paul Hendrix, Kathy Artis, Ken Richardson, Paul Melikian, Trisha Whitfield, Roxanne Yoder

OTHERS: Larry Rodriguez, retained consultants with GEI, Bakersfield; Jessi Snyder with Self-Help Enterprises

1. **CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION & INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS:**

Chair Bixler opened the meeting at 3:01 p.m. Directors Sigala and Nunley were introduced and commented that they look forward to working with the Board to address groundwater issues.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chair Bixler called for comments from any members of the public present at the meeting. Edward T. Henry requested to address the Board regarding Item 3.g at the time the Board takes it up for discussion and consideration; the Board concurred.

3. **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

a. **Approval of minutes of November 8, 2016 GSA meeting** – It was moved by Vice Chair Nelsen, seconded by Director Martin and carried 5-0-1 (Director Collins abstained as he was not present for the meeting) 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. Following review it was moved by Director Martin, seconded by Vice Chair Nelsen and unanimously carried to accept the statements as presented.

• **Audit Requirements**

K. Artis provided a report regarding required financial statement audits and sought Board direction whether a one-year or two-year audit was preferred. Ms. Artis noted that a unanimous vote of the Board was required to authorize a two-year cycle, as was approval by the Tulare County Supervisors. Following comments it was moved by Director Sigala, seconded by Director Collins to

approve a two-year audit for the nine-month year and the full year ending June 30, 2017; the motion failed with Vice Chair Nelsen voting no. The audit interval is therefore to remain every year per Attorney K. Richardson.

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

P. Hendrix presented a map of the GSA territories within the Kaweah Sub-Basin and discussed the status of each. He made mention of a boundary overlap dispute as between the Greater Kaweah and East Kaweah GSAs, and that it encompasses as much as 15,000 acres. Director Collins asked which entities are involved in the overlap, to which Mr. Hendrix cited the cities of Exeter and Woodlake, as well as some ditch company lands within Exeter ID. He also gave an update on the County facilitation process, noting that about \$193,000 has been earmarked for the Kaweah Sub-Basin work as identified by the County.

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

P. Hendrix advised that this report will be addressed during Item 3.g.

e. **Stakeholder Engagement – Presentation by Self-Help Enterprises**

J. Snyder, Community Development Manager with Self Help Enterprises was introduced by P. Hendrix, to which he added that they can provide assistance with our GSA's outreach efforts to disadvantaged communities (DACs). He recommended that DACs be explicitly represented on the Mid-Kaweah Advisory Committee. She noted that Self-Help has been in existence for over 50 years in its service to low-income people and communities in the area. Ms. Snyder went on to describe the water supply status of Okieville, Waukena, Soult's Tract, Matheny Tract, and the surrounding rural school districts.. She concluded with noting that the various DACs desire involvement in the GSP development and that they be provided the means to understand the implications of the plan to be developed.

f. **Data Management and Public Involvement – Presentation by GEI Consultants**

L. Rodriguez with GEI Consultants provided a PowerPoint presentation for the Board's review and consideration. After a brief overview of GEI's evaluation of the WRI reports, he described what is meant by a data management system and how it can serve as a tool for public outreach. He used as examples some similar management systems developed for other clients, including DWR for the state's SGMA outreach purposes. Upon questioning by Director Collins, Mr. Rodriguez commented that data management does not encompass "what if" scenario evaluations, and that this is undertaken with simulation models of a groundwater basin. Mark Larsen, Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District addressed the Board and provided comments on existing data sets of the region. He also commented on the practicality of broadening the WRI study area to include all GSAs within the sub-basin.

g. **Discussion regarding long term GSA direction and staffing***

M. Olmos provided a management staffing report for the Board's review and consideration, noting that a recommendation and proposed plan will be brought back

for consideration by the Board within the next 60 to 90 days. He and P. Melikian described the mounting workload facing the GSA and inability of volunteer staffing contributions of its three members to satisfy the SGMA requirements and GSA obligations. E. Henry addressed the Board in support of this direction and requested review by the GSA Advisory Committee and a joint meeting between the GSA Board and its several committees. It was moved by Director Sigala, seconded by Director Collins and unanimously carried to direct the Management Committee to move forward as outlined in the report.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Bixler adjourned the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Chair

Attest:

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Secretary