

# MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY BOARD

## SUMMARY MINUTES

July 9, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Mederos, Howard Stroman, Aaron Fukuda <sup>(Alt.)</sup>, Dave Martin, Steve Nelsen, Greg Collins

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Bixler

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Aaron Fukuda

STAFF PRESENT: Paul Hendrix, Leslie Caviglia, Kathi Artis, Rob Hunt, Andrew Bettencourt, Roxanne Yoder

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Petersen, GEI Consultants

### 1. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION:

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

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

### 3. GENERAL BUSINESS

#### a. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on June 11, 2019

It was moved by Director Martin, seconded by Director Collins and carried 6 to 0, to approve the minutes of June 11, 2019, as presented.

#### b. Election of Chair, Vice Chair

P. Hendrix made reference to the staff report summarizing the board officer elections and appointments since GSA formation. Following comments, it was moved by Director Stroman, seconded by Director Martin and unanimously carried, to select Director Mederos as Board Chair; it was further moved by Director Mederos, seconded by Alternate Director Fukuda and unanimously carried, to select Dave Martin as Board Vice Chair.

#### c. 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 pointed out highlights on the balance sheet, profit & loss statement, and listing of transactions. It was moved by Director Stroman, seconded by Director Collins and unanimously carried, to approve the report as submitted.

d. Legal Counsel Report

i. Review of Draft Subbasin Coordination Agreement

V. Kincaid reviewed the draft coordination agreement, pointing out that its execution by all three GSAs is a requirement of SGMA. She addressed the identification of the Greater Kaweah GSA's manager as the Plan Manager, GSA exchange of data/information, common methodologies and assumptions, monitoring networks, coordinated water budget and data management system, agreement adoption, and Subbasin organizational structure. She added that preparation of six appendices to the agreement are underway. Director Mederos inquired as to the selection of the Plan Manager, and Director Stroman suggested language for future appointment to this position by the Subbasin Management Team to alleviate the need for an agreement amendment.

e. Public Workshop – GSP Overview

i. Section 1 – Introduction

C. Petersen provided a PowerPoint presentation for the Board's review and consideration. He discussed elements of the GSP introductory section, including future implementation cost estimates and outreach documentation. He then discussed the initial computer model simulations undertaken by the three GSAs.

ii. Section 5 – Minimum Thresholds, Measurable Objectives

Mr. Petersen next discussed the approaches being utilized in establishing minimum thresholds, measurable objectives and interim milestones as required under SGMA. Director Collins expressed concern that the measurable objectives would allow for continued drawdown of water levels by 2040, and that an objective of raising water levels would be more appropriate. P. Hendrix added that an optimal objective is described in this section for that purpose.

iii. Release of Public Draft

Mr. Petersen concluded the presentation with a proposed schedule to produce the administrative draft for Board review on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, and subsequent release of a public draft by July 31<sup>st</sup>. Board discussion then ensued regarding adequate time for review and protocol for board action on the draft document. Following discussion, it was moved by Director Mederos, seconded by Director Collins and unanimously carried, to authorize release of the public draft GSP on July 31<sup>st</sup> with the caveat that the Board receives an administrative draft on July 23<sup>rd</sup> for review and potential comment. Included in the motion was the understanding that, should a Board member or members have significant concerns regarding the Plan's content, a special meeting tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at 4 p.m. will be held to discuss the Plan and potentially delay release of a public draft.

f. Kaweah Subbasin Coordination – Status Report

i. Coordinated Sustainability Goal, Undesirable Results

P. Hendrix provided a report for the Board's review and consideration. He noted that a sustainability goal has been essentially drafted and vetted with the other two GSAs, and that language additions are being considered to ensure that the listing of undesirable results is copasetic with the minimum thresholds of each Subbasin GSA.

- g. Advisory Committee – Activity Report
  - i. GSP Section Reviews  
P. Hendrix reported that the Committee has completed its review of all draft GSP sections.
  - ii. Formulation of Outreach Communications – GSP Content  
Mr. Hendrix indicated that a special meeting of the Committee is being set for late July to develop a stakeholder outreach program regarding the key elements of the draft GSP. Items under discussion include an executive summary, tailored presentations to urban and agricultural stakeholders, and summaries of proposed projects and management actions.
- h. Tulare County Well Drilling Permit – Proposed Changes  
P. Hendrix began with mentioning that Tulare County has retained the firm of Tully & Young to review all GSPs having jurisdictional areas within the County. He then continued with describing some of the changes being proposed to the County’s well-drilling permit to accommodate the interests and authorities of GSAs.
- i. Resolution No. 2019-02 – Expression of Support for ACWA Reg. 7 Candidacy  
P. Hendrix expressed a desire to continue in his service on the ACWA Region 7 board, which represents ACWA member agencies within Kern and Tulare counties. It was moved by Director Mederos, seconded by Director Martin and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2019-02 as presented.

Chair Nelsen adjourned to closed session at 5:08 p.m. for items as noted on the agenda.

**4. CLOSED SESSION**

- a. Gov’t Code §54956.9  
Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

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

The Board thereupon returned to open session with no reportable actions taken in closed session. Director Mederos requested that future agenda items and other topics of interest be listed and heard prior to closed session on future agendas having same.

**5. ADJOURNMENT: Next Regular Meeting – August 13, 2019**

Chair Nelsen adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

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Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Board Chair

Attest:

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Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Board Secretary