

MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY BOARD

SUMMARY MINUTES

January 22, 2020 – 3:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Mederos, Dave Martin, Steve Nelsen, David Bixler, Howard Stroman, Greg Collins

STAFF PRESENT: Paul Hendrix, Valerie Kincaid, Kathy Artis, Trisha Whitfield, Roxanne Yoder

OTHERS PRESENT: Blake Wilbur (Chair, Advisory Committee)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mederos opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – The public may comment on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Board, including items on the agenda. Speakers will be allowed three minutes unless otherwise extended by the Board Chair. The Board cannot legally discuss or take official action on items presented under public comment.

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

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting on December 18, 2019
Chair Mederos referred the Board to the draft minutes for perusal and acceptance. It was moved by H. Stroman, seconded by S. Nelsen, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes as presented.
- b. Financial Report
 - i. Financial Statements – Year-to-Date
K. Artis provided the report for the Board’s review and consideration. She pointed out highlights in the balance sheet, profit and loss statement, and list of recent transactions. It was moved by Vice Chair Martin, seconded by S. Nelsen, and unanimously carried to accept the report as presented.
 - ii. FY 2018-19 Financial Statements – Auditor Report
K. Artis referred the Board to the subject report by Cuttone & Mastro, CPAs, for review and consideration. She reviewed the independent auditor’s report, various financial tabular entries, and significant accounting principles sections thereof.

Combined with the motion and second for agenda item 3.b.i, it was moved by Vice Chair Martin, seconded by S. Nelsen, and unanimously carried to accept the auditor's report for FY 2018-19 as presented.

c. Legal Counsel Report

i. Approval of Kaweah Subbasin Coordination Agreement

V. Kincaid stated that the Agreement had few and minor edits since presented to the Board at the December 2019 GSA meeting. She added that the other two Subbasin GSAs have now approved it. Questions and discussion by the Board occurred regarding the limited role of the Plan Manager, interactions with "white areas," consequences of a continued downward path for depth to groundwater, and fate of the Agreement should a GSA choose to withdraw. Upon conclusion of such discussions and input from legal counsel, it was moved by Vice Chair Martin, seconded by D. Bixler, and unanimously carried to approve the Agreement and authorize execution thereof.

d. Groundwater Sustainability Plan

i. Status of Submittal to DWR

P. Hendrix indicated that Mid-Kaweah and Greater Kaweah GSAs are working with GEI to upload their respective Plans in the manner prescribed by DWR through their SGMA web platform. East Kaweah GSA is doing the same with Provost & Pritchard. He added that all three Plans should be uploaded no later than next Friday.

e. Kaweah Subbasin Coordination

P. Hendrix noted that the Subbasin Coordination Agreement has now been approved by all three GSAs as previously covered in the agenda.

f. Advisory Committee Appointment Policy – Revisions

P. Hendrix referred the Board to a staff report on the matter for the Board's review and consideration. The Board thereupon discussed the two proposed alternatives to incorporate an interim appointment for the existing Committee members to ultimately arrive at staggered three-year terms in groups of three to four members. It was moved by S. Nelsen, seconded by D. Bixler, and unanimously carried to table this matter to the next board meeting and have the Committee decide as to interim terms and selection and then report back to the Board at its next meeting.

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

5. CLOSED SESSION

Chair Mederos adjourned to closed session at 3:45 p.m.

a. Gov't Code §54956.9(b)(1) – Discuss Appointment and Employment

Chair Mederos reconvened from closed session at 4:15 p.m. and advised there was reportable action. V. Kincaid stated for the record that P. Hendrix submitted notice of impending retirement. The Management Committee was given direction to begin the recruitment process in the coming months regarding a replacement for the GSA Manager position.

6. ADJOURNMENT Next Regular Meeting – February 11, 2020

After discussion, the Board determined to cancel the February meeting and hold the next meeting on the regular March date. Chair Mederos then adjourned the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Chair

Attest:

Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Board Secretary