

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

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

Tuesday, September 13, 2016 3:00 pm

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carlton Jones<sup>(3:04 p.m.)</sup>, Craig Vejvoda, David Bixler, David Martin, Steve Nelsen, Greg Collins

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

OTHERS: Larry Rodriguez and John Ayers, retained consultants with GEI, Bakersfield

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 May 10, 2016 GSA meeting – It was moved by Vice Chair Nelsen, seconded by Director Vejvoda and unanimously carried 5 to 0 (Director Jones absent), to approve the minutes as presented.

b. Fiscal

- i. Approval of Bank Account\* – K. Artis provided a report for the Board's review and consideration regarding approval of opening a bank account at Citizens Business Bank and authorizing persons to conduct transactions and sign checks issued on the account. Following discussion it was moved by Director Vejvoda, seconded by Director Martin and carried 5 to 0 (Director Jones absent), to approve the request as presented.
- ii. Financial Report – Income/Expenses To-date\* – K. Artis provided a report for the Board's review and consideration. She cited key figures from the balance sheet and profit & loss statements for last fiscal year and this year to-date. Following discussion it was moved by Vice Chair S. Nelson, seconded by Director Vejvoda and unanimously carried to approve the report as presented.

c. Tulare County Activities

- i. Prop 1 Grant – Facilitation Process – L. Caviglia provided a report for the Board's review and consideration. She indicated that the facilitation effort will focus on three GSAs within the Kaweah Sub-Basin working together to develop compatible

GSPs. She added that the County has secured a state Prop 1 grant and will devote some of the funds towards this effort. Director Collins inquired as to how this joint effort will coincide with Mid-Kaweah's technical evaluations, and P. Hendrix responded that the need to avoid duplication is understood and that some of the County grant funds may be applicable to Mid-Kaweah's technical work.

- ii. Appointments to Kaweah Sub-Basin Management Committee\* – L. Caviglia provided a report for the Board's review and consideration. She described the emergence of a basin-wide management committee to work on a coordination agreement, and recommended that the Management Committee serve in that capacity representing the Mid-Kaweah GSA. Following discussion it was moved by Director Vejvoda, seconded by Director Collins and unanimously carried by all board members present to appoint the City Managers of Tulare and Visalia, as well as the General Manager of the Tulare Irrigation District and their designated alternates to serve on this committee.
- d. Status Update DWR Regulations for GSPs – P. Hendrix provided an update for the Board's review and consideration. He stated that the regulations have been finalized and adopted by the state, and are being taken into consideration as staff compiles information to ultimately prepare a GSP.
- e. SWRCB Intervention Process and Fees – P. Hendrix provided an update for the Board's review and consideration, noting that the state-imposed fees would not be applicable to our area provided that the Kaweah Sub-Basin demonstrates compliance with SGMA provisions. A workshop was held in Tulare recently to seek public input concerning the fee schedule. He noted that proposed fees are in the \$25 to \$30/AF range, plus fixed fees per well site. Fees may apply only to "unmanaged areas" within a basin, subject to the State's discretion. Mr. Hendrix indicated that fees would be collected to recoup costs incurred by the state to, among other things, develop an interim plan to achieve groundwater sustainability, and that such a plan may consist of across-the-board pumping restrictions. Chairman Bixler inquired as to the existence of unmanaged areas within the sub-basin, to which Mr. Hendrix noted that none appear to be emerging.
- f. Inter-Basin Practitioners Group\* – P. Hendrix provided a report for the Board's review and consideration. He indicated that SGMA requires that neighboring sub-basins interface and exchange information regarding GSP content and management efforts. He referred the Board to a map depicting the adjacent sub-basins, those being the Kings, Tulare Lake and Tule. He said that the first meeting of representatives of a group of South Valley water managers met in July in Tulare to begin this communication process. Director Collins asked who would serve as a referee should the sub-basin GSPs conflict in any way, to which Mr. Hendrix indicated that SGMA calls for the state to make a determination if the GSP management practices of one sub-basin interfere with those of another.
- g. Advisory Committee Meeting Update – L. Caviglia provide an update for the Board's review and consideration. She advised that the committee will hold its second meeting tomorrow, September 14<sup>th</sup>, where they plan to elect their Chair and Vice Chair. She also noted that the committee will be reviewing the Mid-Kaweah Interested Parties listing as

well as be provided a summary presentation by GEI. She further advised that the Board still has two positions to fill on this committee as may be needed in the future.

- h. GEI Presentation\* – L. Rodriguez and J. Ayres of GEI Consultants provided a PowerPoint slide presentation for the Board’s review and consideration. They introduced the firm and team members, addressed the SGMA timeline, and key findings of the Water Resources Investigation (WRI) reports prepared for Kaweah Delta WCD by Fugro. Their conclusion was that the WRI reports provide a solid foundation from which to prepare a GSP and that the reports should render considerable cost savings to the Mid-Kaweah and other GSAs within the sub-basin towards such preparatory efforts. Numerous questions by the Board were fielded by the GEI representatives. These included inquires about the components of water budgets, treatment of surface water rights, and considerations given to groundwater underflows leaving the Kaweah Sub-Basin to other sub-basin areas. Members of the public in attendance also provided comments on the information presented by GEI.
- i. Other Business – There was no other business to come before the Board.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Bixler adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

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Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Board Chair

Attest:

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Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Board Secretary