

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

SUMMARY MINUTES

Monday, September 14, 2015

3:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carlton Jones, Craig Vejvoda, David Bixler, Mike Thomas, Steve Nelson, Mike Olmos (alt.)

STAFF PRESENT: Leslie Caviglia, Aaron Fukuda, Paul Hendrix, Kim Loeb, Ken Richardson, Ben Siegel, Roxanne Yoder; Alternate Board Member Phil Smith

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

M. Olmos opened the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

M. Olmos called for public comment; no made.

3. **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

a. Introductions.

M. Olmos initiated introductions of GSA member representatives, starting with himself and balance of the board.

b. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair.

M. Olmos called for nominations for Chair. C. Vejvoda nominated D. Bixler for Chair, seconded by C. Jones and unanimously carried.

Chair Bixler called for nominations for Vice Chair. M. Olmos nominated S. Nelsen as Vice Chair, seconded by C. Vejvoda and unanimously carried.

P. Hendrix sought clarification of terms for the positions. It was moved by C. Vejvoda, seconded by Vice Chair Nelsen to approve the terms for two-years.

c. Discuss appointment of legal counsel for the "Agency".

P. Hendrix noted that the firm of Peltzer & Richardson has been doing the legal work for the GSA thus far. He suggested the appointment of Ken Richardson of legal counsel, due to his extensive water law knowledge and experience as counsel with both TID and the City of Visalia in setting up the GSA.

K. Richardson advised that a Conflict of Interest Waiver would need to be prepared if he was appointed as the Agency's legal counsel.

Vice Chair Nelsen requested a budget estimate from K. Richardson for GSA legal counsel services for the Agency, prior to making an appointment. Mr. Richardson agreed to provide an estimated budget for the first year of services at the next meeting.

The item was tabled until next meeting.

d. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)/Kaweah Sub-basin Overview & Discussion.

P. Hendrix summarized the status of DWR regulations, Prop 1 monies for groundwater sustainability, Tulare County GSA facilitation process, and the Mid-Kaweah GSA pending notice of formation to DWR.

e. Review, discuss & direct staff on establishing the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sub-basin Joint Powers Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Initial Budget.

P. Hendrix noted that a starting budget will need to be adopted by the Board within 90 days; and there was not sufficient information to act now. Vice Chair Nelsen inquired as to current cash flow needs, Mr. Hendrix responded that JPA members are contributing staff time on in-kind basis for now and that the upcoming major expenses will be related to the retention of a groundwater hydrologist. Following discussion, it was moved by Vice Chair Nelsen, seconded by C. Jones and unanimously carried to table the item to be considered at future meetings within the next 60 to 90 days.

f. Approval to prepare and distribute Request for Proposals – Consulting Hydrogeologist.

P. Hendrix provided an update for the Board's review and consideration. C. Vejvoda requested consideration of 5 points in favor of a local firm. Following discussion, it was moved by Vice Chair Nelson, seconded by C. Vejvoda and unanimously carried to approve the RFP as presented with consideration toward local preference.

g. Committee Appointments

i. Advisory Committee

There was discussion regarding the importance of outreach to and coordination with other basin entities and the public, and the Board expressed a need for more information as to who the stakeholders pertinent to the GAS activities are. A list of recommended members will be presented to the board to be approved at the next meeting.

ii. Management Committee

The Board discussed the participants of the Management Committee. It was moved by C. Vejvoda, seconded by C. Jones and unanimously carried to appoint P. Hendrix, M. Olmos and D. Dorman to lead this committee, with appropriate agency alternates to be selected by them to serve in their place as needed.

iii. Technical Subcommittee

The Board discussed the participants of the Technical Subcommittee; suggestions were Kim Loeb, Ben Siegel, Aaron Fakuda and a representative from Cal Water as well. It was moved by Vice Chair Nelsen, seconded by C. Jones and unanimously carried that the Management Committee would make the appropriate selections to this subcommittee.

iv. Ad-Hoc Candidate Review Committee

P. Hendrix sought the Board's input on member criteria. The Board concurred that staff members experienced in the process are to be a part of the ad-hoc committee and that they were okay with the committee bring a single recommendation to the board after screening all candidates. C. Vejvoda specifically noted that at minimum from Tulare the City Manager and Public Works Director participate in this review. Following discussion, it was moved by Vice Chair Nelson, seconded by M. Thomas and unanimously carried to move forward with appropriate, topic experts from each of the entities.

h. Discussion and direction to staff regarding future meeting locations, times, dates.

Staff advised that the initial meetings will likely be every month, then tapering off to bi-monthly by early next year. Meeting intervals subject to change as GSA establishes a routine set of activities and workload. Following discussion, it was moved by Vice Chair Nelsen, seconded by C. Jones and unanimously carried to hold meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 3 p.m. at the Tulare Public Library & Council Chambers.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Bixler adjourned the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

Future meeting topics/discussions: Agency Legal Services & estimated budget for first year, Initial Budget, Advisory Committee nominations, Pros/Cons of Lobbying Firm.