

Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Special Board Meeting Minutes

City of Dinuba – Council Chambers
405 East El Monte Way, Dinuba, CA 93618
January 6, 2017

1. **Call to Order:** The Special Board Meeting was called to order by Tulare County, Steven Worthley at 2:05 p.m. “The Pledge of Allegiance” was offered up, then a roll-call was issued by Alta Irrigation, B. Lynn Wooten (Executive Assistant). Those in attendance were; Special Districts (Irrigation/Water), Loren Booth; Alta Irrigation District, Jack Brandt; Cities (Dinuba, Orange Cove & Reedley), Mary Fast; Fresno County, Buddy Mendes; Special Districts (Drinking Water), Fernando Rubalcaba; and Tulare County, Steven Worthley.
2. **Public Comment:** There were no public comments made.
3. **Additions to or Deletions from the Agenda:** None
4. **Review/Approval of Stakeholder Board Meeting Minutes:** It was **M/S/C by Worthley/Mendes** to approve the January 19, 2016 Special Board Meeting Minutes as written.
5. **Communications:** None
6. **Board of Director Reports:** None
7. **Consent Calendar Items – Take Action:** None
8. **Other Board Items –Take Action**
 - 8.1. Approve agreement for Alta Irrigation District (“AID”) to provide Administrative and Fiscal Agent Services to the Kings River East GSA: Chad Wegley explained the agreement in brief and what AID would be providing. Loren Booth asked who would approve the accountant; how disputes would be handled. Mary Fast asked about payroll liability. This was discussed and Steven Worthley explained and answered all questions. S. Worthley also commented that at every step, these are to be “Board” decisions. Buddy Mendes then communicated to the Board how this would be structured. Chad Wegley also commented that insurance would be carried at the minimum until fully adopted. It was **M/S/C unanimously by Mendes/Fast; all members acquiescent.**
 - 8.2. Review applications for Agriculture Production Director and select that Director: Applicants present at this meeting, addressed the Board and explained their desire to serve as the Ag Production Director. One applicant was excluded from the selection process because he does not reside within the boundary of the KRE GSA, which is a requirement under Senate Bill 37. The non-ag production directors commented that all applicants were highly qualified and that if not selected as a director their involvement with the GSA would be appreciated. It was **M/S/C unanimously by Mendes/Worthley** to appoint Steve Boos as the Ag Production Director. It was **M/S/C unanimously by Worthley/Mendes** to appoint Justin Brown as the Ag Production alternate.

- 8.3. Oath of Office to Agriculture Production Director: The oath was given to both the Director, Steve Boos, and Alternate, Justin Brown, for the agriculture production seat.
- 8.4. Select Board Officers: With a full board seated, it was **M/S/C unanimously by Mendes/Brandt** to appoint Steve Worthley as Chair; it was **M/S/C unanimously by Worthley/Mendes** to appoint Mary Fast as Vice Chair; it was **M/S/C unanimously by Worthley/Mendes** to appoint Jack Brandt as Secretary-Treasurer. Chad Wegley relinquished control of the meeting to the newly appointed Chair, Supervisor Steve Worthley.
- 8.5. Review and authorize budget for Coordination Contract from Provost & Pritchard: AID GM Chad Wegley reviewed the proposal from Provost & Prichard to coordinate development of groundwater sustainability plans and to estimate groundwater boundary conditions for each GSA. The projected budget is \$366,000 and would be divided equally among the six GSAs in the Kings subbasin. Quantifying water budgets and groundwater boundary conditions are essential to the development of a groundwater sustainability plan and coordination agreements. It was **M/S/C unanimously by Mendes/Rubalcaba** to authorize a budget up to \$70,000 for the KRE GSA's portion of the costs associated with the first four tasks.
- 8.6. Review draft agreement from Alta Irrigation District to provide administrative services: Attorney Lauren Layne informed the board that she was working on an agreement from Alta Irrigation District to provide administrative and fiscal agent services, similar to an agreement Fresno Irrigation District has with the North Kings GSA. A draft agreement would be circulated to all the Directors for review by their respective legal counsels.
- 8.7. Set Board meeting schedule and location: It was **M/S/C unanimously by Mendez/Brandt** to establish the third Tuesday of each month at council chambers of the City of Dinuba, located at 405 E. El Monte Way, Dinuba CA 93618; as the regular board meeting date and location for the KRE GSA. Meetings will begin at 2:00 p.m.

9. Informational Item(s)

- 9.1. Discuss formation of an Advisory Committee. Chad Wegley explained that the Board should consider formation of an Advisory Committee to guide the Board as to actions, policies, etc. that may be needed to achieve sustainability. Chair Supervisor Steve Worthley commented that those who applied for the Agriculture Production seat should consider serving on the Advisory Committee. Supervisor Mendes offered similar comments.
- 9.2. Invoicing of Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency fees by member agencies. Chad Wegley mentioned that public agencies within the Kings River East GSA would need to send out invoices to their respective users once the Board approves a budget. He also explained that Alta Irrigation District would add a line item to its standard billing statement to landowners and that some agencies may decide to pay the fee directly because the total cost is relatively small when compared to other monthly bills.
- 9.3. Receipt of funding from member agencies. Chad Wegley informed the Board that there is likely to be a time lag, from the time an agency notifies landowners on their bills about GSA costs and when money is received. In the case of Alta, a GSA fee line item will appear on the June or July bills with payments received prior to November.

10. Future Agenda Item(s): None

11. Groundwater Sustainability Activities

11.1. Kings Subbasin Coordination. Chad Wegley explained that existing groundwater sustainability agencies within the Kings Subbasin and those forming groundwater sustainability agencies meet periodically to discuss SGMA related activities and to coordinate on how groundwater boundary conditions would be estimated from available data.

11.2. DWR Best Management Practices. Chad Wegley mentioned that the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) recently released about 5 Best Management Practices (BMPs) covering topics ranging from monitoring protocol, standards, and sites (BMP 1), to modeling (BMP 5). While BMPs are of a technical nature, DWR also issued two Guidance Documents (Preparation Checklist for GSP submittal and GSP Annotated Outline) to assist with the general understanding of what was the intent under SGMA. Wegley also mentioned that this was an imperative DWR issue and BMP on the depletion of interconnected surface waters, as this sustainability requirement is likely to have a major impact on a GSA's water budget and its operations.

12. Adjournment: With no further business to address, the meeting adjourned until the next regularly scheduled board meeting on February 17, 2017.

Sincerely,
Kings River East GSA

Jack Brandt, Secretary to the Board

JB:ipf:blw