

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 28, 2019, at 6:00 P.M.**

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Fresno Irrigation District – Chairman Jerry Prieto, Jr.
City of Kerman – Director Rhonda Armstrong
Bakman Water Company – Director Steve Pickens
Garfield Water District – Director Karl Kienow
City of Clovis – Director Jose Flores
City of Fresno – Alternate Director Mike Carbajal
County of Fresno – Alternate Director Bernard Jimenez

DIRECTORS ABSENT

None

MEMBER STAFF PRESENT

Executive Officer Gary R. Serrato – Fresno Irrigation District
Legal Counsel Kevin Dale
Advisory Committee Chairman Scott Redelfs – City of Clovis
Administrative/Fiscal Subcommittee Chairman Lisa Koehn
Membership/Outreach/Communications Subcommittee Chairman Brandy Swisher –
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
Fiscal Officer DeAnn Hailey – Fresno Irrigation District
Consultant Ron Samuelian – Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
Recording Secretary Lynn B. Rowe – Fresno Irrigation District

OTHERS PRESENT

Luke Serpa – City of Clovis
Bill Stretch – Fresno Irrigation District
Dao Lor – Asian Business Institute & Research Center
Jackie Everwine – KMPH Fox 26 / KMPH Channel 58 Representative
Alex Ruiz – KMPH Fox 26 / KMPH Channel 58 Representative

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Prieto called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW AGENDA

Mr. Serrato stated there will be two presentations. The SGMA Town Hall Event presentation (item 4. a.) will follow the Asian Business Institute (item 1. a.) presentation.

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REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Mr. Serrato stated the November and December meetings are listed as TBD. These meetings will be rescheduled in anticipation of Board and community input needed prior to adopting the GSP during the January 2020 Board meeting.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (for items not on agenda) – 3 Minutes Maximum Per Person, 10 Minutes Maximum Per Subject

Mr. Don Wright stated he is now working for CSU Fresno's Water, Energy, and Technology (WET) Center. They are actively looking for partners as they would like to take a more proactive role in agricultural water in the valley.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Any Board Member who has a potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse themselves from discussing and voting on the matter. [FPPC §87105]

None stated.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- a. Asian Business Institute & Resource Center (ABIRC) Southeast Asian Groundwater and Sustainability Advocacy and Outreach Project – Presentation**

Mr. Dao Lor from the Asian Business Institute & Resource Center stated the organization was established in 2009 and serves small businesses and farmers in the area. Mr. Lor stated the Center is involved in community services and outreach programs; some of which are weekly radio programs and SGMA workshops. Mr. Lor has acted as the translator during the SGMA outreach programs.

4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

- a. SGMA Town Hall Event (Fox 26/CW 59) – Action Item**

KMPH representatives from Fox26 / CW59 outlined the details of the proposed Town Hall program set for May 23, 2019, from 6:00 – 7:00 pm on KMPH Fox 26. The moderator will be Rich Rodriguez with a panel of (yet to be named) experts. Sponsorship elements include audio / logo mentions; three :30 second commercials on LIVE stream and during the live broadcast; live audience participation with social media opportunities for viewer questions; and an opportunity for a SGMA representative to ask a question or make a statement during telecast. Cost of sponsorship is \$5,000.

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Chairman Prieto stated that May 23 is a NKGSA Board meeting night. The KMPH representative stated that another meeting date would be investigated.

A memorandum written by the executive officer and membership/outreach chairperson was provided to the Board which outlined the benefits of sponsoring this live televised town hall meeting. The logo used would be that of the NKGSA. Mr. Serrato recommends including the other Kings Basin GSAs so the entire basin is represented and also share in the \$5,000 fee. KMPH station reaches from Los Banos to Porterville.

M/S/C (Jimenez/Flores) That the Board of Directors approved spending the \$5,000.00 but instructed the executive officer to contact other members of the Kings Basin to see if they are interested in participating in the Town Hall sponsorship by the following vote. (Ayes –Pickens, Kienow, Armstrong, Prieto, Jr., Carbajal, Flores, Jimenez; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

Director Flores stated that even through “Battle for our Groundwater” grabs your attention, it could come across as being combative. The NKGSA is working cooperatively with other agencies, organizations, and the public. It was suggested coming up with a different title. The KMPH representatives stated they will discuss this suggestion with their associates.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS continued

b. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes – January 24, 2019 – Action Item

There were no corrections or amendments to the minutes.

M/S/C (Flores/Armstrong) That the Board of Directors approved the minutes from the January 24, 2019, meeting by the following vote. (Ayes –Pickens, Kienow, Armstrong, Prieto, Jr., Carbajal, Flores, Jimenez; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

c. Water Conditions Update

Mr. Serrato provided the Board with an updated water/snow conditions report for both the San Joaquin River (Millerton Lake) and Kings River (Pine Flat Reservoir). Millerton Lake’s Inflow is at 3,000 cfs and Outflow is at 6,900 cfs – Storage is at 381,000 acre-feet. Pine Flat Reservoir’s Inflow is at 2,800 cfs and Outflow is at 5,900 cfs – Storage is at 585,000 acre-feet. Mr. Serrato stated the snow surveys indicates 178% of the April 1 average.

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d. North Kings GSA Timeline and Milestones Update

Timeline for the GSP is slipping but the Technical Committee still expects to present the draft Plan to the Board in July 2019. Input / comments from the public and public workshops will take place during the second half of 2019.

e. Kings Subbasin Coordination Update

Mr. Samuelian stated the grant for the GSP (Groundwater Sustainability Plan) development has been executed and expenses have been submitted for reimbursement. There is no timeframe as to when the DWR will send payment. The NKGSA submitted for its whole share of reimbursement.

Mr. Samuelian also reported on:

- All GSAs progressing with the GSP development
- Coordinated Tasks continue
 - Confined Aquifer Flows estimation complete
 - Data Management System for annual reporting progressing (first report due April 2020)
 - Coordinated Water Budget – calibration/adjustments continue
 - Sustainable Management Criteria – water level and other indicators
 - DWR Technical Support Services for monitor well construction (no response from DWR)
 - Common language being developed for the “basin” for each GSAs GSP
 - Draft Coordination Agreement being revised

f. Advisory Committee Update

Mr. Scott Redelfs stated there was nothing to report.

i. Technical Subcommittee Update

Mr. Samuelian reviewed the progress taking place in developing the groundwater sustainability plan (GSP). The subcommittee is currently working on:

- Sustainable management criteria
 - Continuing work on draft SMC Sections
 - (Water Level, WQ, SW-GW, Subsidence)
- Base Period Water Budget complete (in coordination w/Kings) (1997-2011)
 - Reviewing draft estimate GW Impact by agency with each agency

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- Working through future (2040) forecast by agency
- Implementation intended to be by agency with GSA
- Projects and Implementations
 - Agencies beginning to identify projects (particularly recharge projects)

ii. Administrative/Fiscal Subcommittee Update

Ms. Koehn reported the subcommittee has reviewed the fiscal budget for the rest of the year. The cost share memo has been forwarded to the Technical Subcommittee and to date has received comments from Fresno County. The subcommittee plans to start work on next year's fiscal budget.

Mr. Serrato stated he spoke to Tommy Esqueda from the California State University Fresno (CSUF) on the status of their participation as a member of the NKGSA Board. Mr. Esqueda reported the delay is with the CSUF Finance Department and it is most likely that CSUF will not become a member of the NKGSA Board. Mr. Esqueda did state that a letter will be forthcoming indicating CSUF's interest in participating as an interested party. Mr. Serrato will share the letter with the Board when it is received.

iii. Membership/Outreach/Communications Subcommittee Update

At the request of Ms. Swisher, Mr. Stretch was asked to report on the Fresno Irrigation District's growers meetings which were held February 22, 26, and 27 in Easton, Kerman, and Clovis. Major topics covered were FID water supply and SGMA. Mr. Stretch stated the meetings were fairly well attended and the main interest from growers was on SGMA issues.

Ms. Swisher reported on the following:

- Hmong Small Farmer Focus Group – March 20, 2019
 - Target audience: Hmong small farmers (2-20 acres)
 - Participants: UC Cooperative Extension's Small Farm & Specialty Crop Advisor and Irrigation Specialist, ABIRC, and NKGSA
 - General SGMA information shared, then information specific to small growers
 - Potential small farm groundwater benefit projects discussed
 - On-farm recharge
 - Increasing surface water irrigation
- Ahead of GSP Draft Release – Upcoming and Proposed Engagements
 - Working to identify remaining stakeholder groups that haven't been reached
 - Second public workshop for rural residential and small farmers west of the City of Fresno – April 30

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- Encourage Directors and Staff to continue to speak at professional organizations and civic groups events
- Collaboration on effective workshop engagement – Self Help Enterprises, Asian Business Institute and Resource Center, and Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
- SGMA/NKGSA PowerPoint presentation available for all members to use in outreach to the people they serve

g. Letters of Support for IRWM Grant Projects – Action Item

Mr. Samuelian reported the following projects are submitting applications for DWR grant funding. DWR requires letters of support from the projects' local GSA to be included with the applications. DWR has \$11.5 million dollars of grant money available exclusively for the Kings Subbasin area which covers San Joaquin to Bakersfield.

- i. **Fresno Irrigation District Wagner Recharge Basin**
- ii. **FMFCD Basin SS (Southwest Fresno) Stormwater Recharge & Flood Protection Project**
- iii. **FMFCD Basin CF (near Easton) Stormwater Recharge & Flood Protection Project**
- iv. **FMFCD Basin CE (near Malaga) Stormwater Recharge & Flood Protection Project – DAC Implementation Funding Category**
 - **DAC Implementation Funding Category**

M/S/C (Kienow/Jimenez) That the Board of Directors approved the Executive Officer to write letters of support for the projects listed under 1. g. by the following vote. (Ayes –Pickens, Kienow, Prieto, Jr., Flores, Carbajal, Jimenez; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

h. Updated Requirements for Harassment Prevention Training Certificates – Reminder

Mr. Serrato reminded the Directors that as Board members they are required to attend AB1825 (Harassment Prevention training) every two years. Starting in 2019 there were changes made to the AB1825 requirements and everyone who has not taken training in 2019 will need to do so by January 2020. Chairman Prieto stated the Fresno County Farm Bureau will be holding a training course at their facility on April 19 sponsored by the Nisei Farmers League.

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2. LEGAL MATTERS

None.

3. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a. Expense Report for January and February 2019 – Action Item

Ms. Hailey reported expenses have been paid for January and February 2019. There were no questions from the Board.

M/S/C (Flores/Carbajal) That the Board of Directors approved the Expense Report for January and February 2019 as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes –Pickens, Kienow, Prieto, Jr., Carbajal, Flores, Jimenez; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

b. Financial Statements as of February 28, 2019 – Action Item

Ms. Hailey reviewed the current balance, income statement, and paid invoices (CSU Fresno is no longer being listed).

M/S/C (Carbajal/Armstrong) That the Board of Directors approved the Financial Statements as of February 28, 2019, as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes –Pickens, Kienow, Armstrong, Prieto, Jr., Carbajal, Flores, Jimenez; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

c. 2018-2019 Revised Budget – Action Item

Ms. Hailey reviewed the 2018-2019 Budget. Grant income has yet to be received and CSU Fresno has been removed as a participating member. Expense categories have remained the same with the exception of the Executive Officer position (under Staff Expense) which was revised. Supporting Staff expenses have remained low. Work on the 2019-2020 Budget will begin soon.

M/S/C (Flores/Jimenez) That the Board of Directors approved the 2018-2019 Revised Budget, as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes –Pickens, Kienow, Armstrong, Prieto, Jr., Carbajal, Flores, Jimenez; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

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4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT continued

b. Executive Officer Recruitment - Update

There were a number of applications submitted for the executive officer position. Mr. Serrato stated the Ad Hoc Committee reviewed the applications and selected four to be interviewed in mid-April in front of a panel comprised of Chairman Prieto, Director Flores, Executive Officer Gary Serrato, and NKGSA Staff. The remainder of this item will be discussed during the Closed Session portion of the meeting.

5. DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Pickens – none.

Director Kienow – none.

Director Armstrong – none.

Director Prieto – none.

City of Fresno – none.

Director Flores – none.

Director Pacheco – none.

Open Session was suspended at 6:57 p.m. with the Board of Directors, the Executive Officer, and some management Staff going into Closed Session at 6:59 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Public Employee Appointment – Government Code 54957

Title: Executive Officer (Discussion Only)

Conference with Labor Negotiators – Government Code 54957.6

Agency designated representative: Board Chairman

Unrepresented employee: Future Executive Officer

Closed Session was adjourned at 7:19 p.m. and Open Session resumed immediately afterwards.

6. REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Prieto stated there was nothing to report out of Closed Session.

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7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion or action, Chairman Prieto adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Gary R. Serrato, Executive Officer-Secretary/Treasurer