

North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Special Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.
Riverdale Public Utility District Annex

Members Present:

Buddy Mendes, Division 1
Frank Zonneveld, Division 2
Danielle Roberts, Division 3
Mark McKean, Division 4
Leonard Acquistapace, Division 5
Stephen Maddox Jr., Division 6
Tony Campos, Division 7

Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Eric Osterling, Kings River Conservation District
Linda Mendez, UC Davis
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County
Glenn Allen, Fresno County
Maria Herrera, Self-Help Enterprises
Ron Allvin, Clark's Fork Reclamation District

Kevin Johansen, Provost & Pritchard
Bill Miguel, Clark's Fork Reclamation District
Scott Sills, Laguna Irrigation District
Randy Shilling, Kings River Conservation District
Cristel Tufenkjian, Kings River Conservation District

Item 1: CALL TO ORDER **Presenter:** Chair McKean

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

Item 2: PUBLIC COMMENT **Presenter:** Chair McKean

Discussion:

Maria Herrera, Self-Help Enterprises (Self-Help), informed the Board that Self-Help is drafting an application for Proposition 1, Category 1 grant funding from the Department of Water Resources. The awarded monies would fund technical assistance programs and other services (i.e. conduct education and outreach to their members, workshops, hire consultants, cover legal expenses) intended to help Disadvantaged Communities in their service territory. Self-Help hopes to be a resource to the GSAs, including offering translation services, and asked to be included on the next Board Meeting agenda to present their draft scope of work and submit a letter of support for the Board's consideration.

Additionally, Self-Help is co-hosting a public event titled "Sustainable Groundwater Management Planning: Toolkit Release and Panel Discussion" with the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Community Water Center on September 19, 2017 at Fresno State. The intent of the discussion is to help the public access and break down the technical components of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). A final time for the event will be provided via Eric Osterling.

Actions: None.

Item 3: DIRECTOR REPORTS **Presenter:** Chair McKean

Discussion: None.

Actions: None.

Item 4: CONSIDER A RECOMMENDATION TO SELECT PROVOST & PRITCHARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES **Presenter:** Chair McKean

Discussion:

Two applicants responded to the North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency's (NFKGSA) Request for Qualifications. The Ad Hoc Steering Committee recommends that the Board select Provost & Pritchard due to their existing knowledge and familiarity with the groundwater issues. Chair McKean explained to the Board the scope of professional engineering services Provost & Pritchard would offer to NFKGSA, including assistance with the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Staff Eric Osterling provided more detail about the two task orders within Provost & Pritchard's contract, including developing a financial plan that may include successful Proposition 218 and/or Proposition 26 elections. Staff expects Provost & Pritchard to present a recommendation to the Board regarding a financing strategy at the October 2017 Board meeting.

Chair McKean invited Scott Sills to share about a recent California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) meeting he attended regarding a Kings Subbasin coordination meeting. Sills expressed CDWR's preference for a model that includes climate change data and the preference that if GSAs within a Subbasin choose to submit multiple Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) instead of one Subbasin-coordinated GSP, that they utilize a common index (or table of contents) for readability concerns. CDWR intends to assign a staff member to each Subbasin, but has yet to provide names. Lastly, CDWR announced that they will be releasing the final Proposition 1 Planning Grant solicitation within in the next one to two weeks that will provide an opportunity to apply for \$1.5 million of grant money for the seven GSAs in the Kings Subbasin.

Actions:

It was moved by Director Zonneveld, seconded by Director Maddox, and unanimously carried that the Board contract with Provost & Pritchard Consultants for technical engineering consultant services.

Item 5: CONSIDER ADOPTION OF FUNDING MECHANISM **Presenter:** Chair McKean

Discussion:

Chair McKean summarized the discussion of the funding mechanisms presented to the Board at the July 12, 2017 meeting. The collective Directors' Boards' consensus was that the acreage fee was the most equitable option, with an exception made within Division 3, who requested a different financing option as represented in the agenda packet materials.

Chair McKean and Osterling reminded the Board and Public that this is a short-term solution with hopes of a successful Prop 218 election and a different funding mechanism adopted in 2018-2019. Osterling anticipates that if the election is successful and if it includes a reimbursement for the irrigation districts charged under the funding mechanism under review, the earliest a check would arrive from the County would be April 2019. At that time, the current plan is that the irrigation districts and those that paid the startup costs would be reimbursed.

The Board expressed concerns on how to best inform property owners and irrigation districts about this plan and concurred that a property tax-assessed fee would be the best option for the NFKGSA. Staff Randy Shilling informed the board that Southwest Kings GSA and Westlands Water District GSA recently conducted successful Prop 218 elections.

Actions:

It was moved by Director Zonneveld, seconded by Director Maddox, and unanimously carried that the Board adopt the acreage-based funding mechanism to fund FY 2018 budget expenditures.

Item 6: OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Presenter: Chair McKean

Discussion:

Chair McKean updated the Board of the Kings Subbasin Technical Group's progress and hopes to present NFKGSA with reports after they are received.

Staff Osterling explained that his staff is working on a data-sharing agreement with Westlands Water District that includes chain of custody expectations to ensure consistency on our boundaries. At this time it appears that an agreement will be reached.

Staff Cristel Tufenkjian informed the Board that the NFKGSA website (northforkkings.org) now has an outreach video on the home page, which will be included the next e-news update along with the announcement that Provost & Pritchard were selected as NFKGSA's technical engineering consultants.

Staff Osterling reported that the Rural Community Advisory Committee (RCAC) was approved, but have yet to receive an application on file; one application was received and then withdrawn. Although a deadline was set for September 15, 2017, the current draft Bylaws for RCAC member appointments allow the Board to keep the application period open until the Board fills the slots needed.

Actions: None.

Item 7: NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

Presenter: Chair McKean

Discussion:

The Board should expect to review Technical Coordination materials at the next Board meeting.

Staff is continuing work on the Bylaws and may ask the Board to put together a formal committee.

Actions:

Tuesday, October 10, 2017 5:30 p.m. at 20896 Malsbary Street, Riverdale, CA 93656.

Item 8: ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned: 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Maddox Jr., Board Secretary

_____ approved on October 10, 2017
Mark McKean, Board Chair