

North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Regular Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.
Riverdale Community Education Center
Board Room Utility District Annex

Members Present:

Buddy Mendes, Division 1
Frank Zonneveld, Division 2
Mark McKean, Division 4 (Chair)
Leonard Acquistapace, Division 5
Steve Schultz Jr., Division 6 (alternate)

Members Absent:

Division 3
Division 7

Others Present:

Eric Osterling, Kings River Conservation District
Cristel Tufenkjian, Kings River Conservation District
Jerry Gagnani, Stinson Canal & Irrigation Company
Maria Herrera, SHE
Julianne Phillips, Kings County
Don Wright, WaterWrights
Glenn Allen, Fresno County

Ben Nydam, Dellavalle Lab/grower
Jeff Coehlo
Jim Verboon, Verboon Farms
Arnie Netto, A&A Netto Farms
Grasan Batth, Batth Farms
Ted Raven
Amanda Monaco, Leadership Counsel
Terry Erlewine

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 McKeanDiscussion:

Maria Herrera, Self-Help Enterprises is working with Provost & Pritchard and Riverdale Public Utilities District to help complete an income survey in order to qualify for funding for a wastewater project. Herrera explained how the surveys are conducted and their expected results.

Actions: None.

Item 3: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES**Presenter:** Chair McKeanDiscussion: None.Actions:

Director Acquistapace motioned, Director Schultz seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the January 10, 2018 meeting minutes as presented.

Item 4: DIRECTOR REPORTS**Presenter:** Chair McKeanDiscussion:

Director Mendes reported that the Fresno County Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Working Group meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2018 in Downtown Fresno.

Actions: None.

Item 5: STAFF UPDATES **Presenter:** Eric Osterling

Discussion:

Program Administrator Eric Osterling updated the Board on the Kings Subbasin’s grant application for Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) funds. The Kings Basin Coordination Group received a conditional award of 100% of its requested funding. Once the contract with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is finalized the North Fork Kings (NFK) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) will be negotiating sub-contracts with the other GSAs in the Kings Subbasin.

Actions: None.

Item 6: RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE EXECUTION OF SOUTH FORK KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY DATA SHARING AGREEMENT **Presenter:** Eric Osterling

Discussion:

Osterling explained the Agreement up for the Board’s approval has the same terms as the recently approved Data Sharing Agreement with Westlands Water District.

Actions:

Director Mendes motioned, Director Zonneveld seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the South Fork Kings GSA Data Sharing Agreement.

Item 7: REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR RCAC APPOINTMENT **Presenter:** Chair McKean

Discussion:

The Board discussed tabling the item in order to solicit additional applications promoting good geographic representation on the RCAC for municipal and domestic well interests in the GSA area. The Board affirmed Herrera and Monaco’s public comment that the Board acknowledge the commitment from community residents who applied by taking action at the next meeting.

Actions:

This agenda item was tabled for April 25, 2018 Regular Board meeting.

Item 8: STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS **Presenter:** Cristel Tufenkjian

Discussion:

Staff Cristel Tufenkjian reported to the Board outreach conducted on behalf of the GSA, with special emphasis on the GSA’s website activity and efforts to translate the GSA’s introductory video into Spanish. Tufenkjian drew the Board’s attention to mailers sent to landowners regarding landowner community workshop meetings and explained how technological issues were addressed and remedied. Osterling reported that the questions asked by landowners were positive and were to clarify the necessity of the Prop 218 election and how the GSA’s activities relate to the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

Actions: None.

Item 9: OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Presenter: Chair McKean

Discussion: None.

Actions: None.

Item 10: NEXT MEETING DATE

Presenter: Chair McKean

Discussion: None.

Actions:

Regular meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 5:30 pm at the Riverdale Community Education Center Board Room Utility District Annex.

Study Session

Item 11: STRATEGIES AND POLICIES RELATED TO GSP
DEVELOPMENT

Presenter: Kevin Johansen

Discussion:

The Agency's Technical Consultant, Kevin Johansen, updated the Board on data collection for the GSP, the Coordinated Kings Basin effort, groundwater conditions, and a brief update on the Prop 218 process. Johansen began by providing a history of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014, the GSA's strategy to comply with the Act and associated deadlines, groundwater conditions including over-pumping and land subsidence, and what the State's intervention may look like should the GSA fail to meet its requirements.

The Kings Subbasin must submit a complete GSP coverage package to DWR by January 31, 2020. Each GSA in the subbasin is first preparing and will submit its own unique GSP to the Coordination Group so that the required coordination agreement can be prepared to exhibit to DWR that there is cooperation and technical cohesion between the plans. Draft GSPs are scheduled for completion by January 2019. The GSAs will have 20 years to implement their GSPs. The GSA is using existing data and will identify data gaps in order to better manage the groundwater resources within the GSA's boundaries. After its initial submittal, annual reports will be required and performance of the GSP's implementation and continued development will be reviewed by DWR every five years.

Johansen presented historical hydrologic data to the Board and the need to prepare a GSP that will account for the GSA's portion of overdraft and its responsibility to meet the minimum threshold of groundwater supply. Using the information and tools currently available, initial draft data (based on 1998-2010 patterns) demonstrates that the Kings Subbasin has an annual overdraft of 206,000 acre feet (ac-ft), of which the GSA is responsible for 73,000 ac-ft. Additionally, 22% (35,000 acres) of the GSA's territory does not have access to surface water deliveries and 14,300 acres out of 18,000 acres of farmland within the GSA's territory are cropped, according to DWR 2014 Land Use data. Average water use has also been roughly calculated however these numbers will be adjusted once data gaps (i.e. river seepage) are covered and included in the Coordination Group's calculations.

Johansen presented on how water flows, unconfined wells, confined wells and clay types within the GSA's complex geology affect current calculations and areas in which further assessment, research and fine tuning needs to be done. Johansen explained that a data management system with hydrological information will be made accessible to the GSA.

The Board discussed the potential benefits installing monitoring data wells and working with farmers to flood and over-irrigate actively farmed ground for the purpose of groundwater recharge and reduced pumping.

Johansen updated the Board on Prop 218 activity stating that ballots will be mailed March 12th to landowners with a self-addressed and postage paid return envelope. The Board discussed potential projects and what would happen to projects and ongoing assessments should the State intervene.

Actions: None.

Item 12: ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned: 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Maddox Jr., Board Secretary

approved on April 25, 2018
Mark McKean, Board Chair