North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Regular Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.
Riverdale Community Education Center Board Room

Members Present:
Frank Zonneveld, Division 2
Lucy Nino, Division 3
Mark McKean, Division 4
Leonard Acquistapace, Division 5
Stephen Maddox Jr., Division 6
John Coelho, Alternate Division 7

Members Absent:
Buddy Mendes, Division 1

Others Present:
Cristel Tufenkjian, Kings River Conservation District
Brian Trevarrow, Kings River Conservation District
Charlotte Gallock, Kings River Conservation District
Lawrence O’Leary, Mottich USA
Daniel Errotabere
Scott Sills, Laguna Irrigation District
Ilse Lopez-Narvaez, Self-Help Enterprises
Jesus Rodriguez, Akhavi LLC
Juan Maciel, Akhavi LLC
Kevin Johansen, Provost & Pritchard
Julianne Phillips, Kings County
Frank Coelho, Lasaca Vineyards
Sean Smith, Provost & Pritchard
Jim Petty, Riverdale PUD
Rodney Kamper
Roy Jimenez, County of Fresno
Antonio Solorio, Westlands Water District
Amanda Monaco, Leadership Counsel
Zack Raven, Keenen Farms

Item 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Presenter: Chair McKean

Item 2: PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion: Lawrence O’Leary spoke to the Board about a Motorola solution to bring data from the field to the farm office. This solution could work for growers, GSPs, and GSAs.

Actions: None.

Presenter: Chair McKean

Item 3: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion: None.

Actions:
It was moved by Director Zonneveld, seconded by Director Acquistapace, and unanimously carried to amend the February 27, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes to correct errors regarding who was present and absent, and to approve the March 27, 2019 Board Meeting minutes, as presented.

(AYES: Zonneveld, Nino, McKean, Acquistapace, Maddox, Coelho; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Mendes)
Item 4: DIRECTOR REPORTS
Presenter: Chair McKean
Discussion: None.
Actions: None.

Item 5: STAFF REPORTS
Presenter: Charlotte Gallock
Discussion:
Charlotte Gallock handed out several FAQs sheets from the Water Board. Gallock also reported that Stanford: Water in the West has developed a guide to water quality requirements under SGMA.

Actions: None.

Item 6: RURAL COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT
Presenter: Charlotte Gallock
Discussion: Charlotte Gallock reported that the Committee talked about the DAC funding opportunity; $250,000 is currently available in the Kings Basin Water Area. Applications are being accepted, and the Committee expressed the need for projects that capture more water around the DACs. They also talked about the Kings Subbasin Tour happening on Friday, 4/26/19. They discussed the timeline of the development of the GSP over the coming year and about opportunities to comment on the drafts.

Actions: None.

Item 7: UPDATE ON STRATEGIES AND POLICIES RELATED TO GSP DEVELOPMENT
Presenter: Kevin Johansen; Sean Smith
Discussion:
Kevin Johansen and Sean Smith, from Provost and Pritchard, gave a report on progress for the GSP, with PowerPoint slides. The draft has to be released in May to the Board so there can be internal review and coordination with other GSAs/Stakeholders, followed by a public comment period. There has to be a 90 day notice prior to the public hearing on the GSP, and the goal would be to have that hearing in October (thus noticed in July). January 22, 2020 is the intended final adoption date.

The water budget has three parts: historical, current demands, future budget. There is a goal to do this for each GSA, and then roll them up into one for the Kings Subbasin.

Some of the coordinated efforts are taking longer than anticipated due to each of the 7 GSAs requesting specific elements of protection. There are data gaps that must be filled as well. One key piece of information missing is that there is no way, yet, to calculate how much pumping occurs between different aquifers (since some wells tap multiple aquifers).

One important thing to note on the Kings is that there is not a direct correlation between runoff from the Kings and surface water diversion to irrigate; this can have an impact in calculations. For calculation purposes and historical comparisons, they have gone back to the construction of Pine Flat Dam, since the conditions prior to that were different enough to make the data less usable.

The goal for sampling wells is to choose ones that have enough history to give useful data, but that are not either so old they represent a different water use era, nor so new that they represent mostly drought era info. The historical trend-lines of these wells help set the baseline for reduction in overdraft, such that the rate/amount those wells indicate overdraft occurred becomes the initial number from which each percentage of reduction is derived from for each five year period leading to the 2040 SGMA goal.

Setting an objective for water depth levels is different than the threshold; the objective level will allow for fluctuation between that and the threshold level. The amount of overdraft that cannot be met through water reclamation projects will have to be met through management actions.
Management actions are programs and policies that will focus on data acquisition and reductions in use. The GSP has to be adopted before the details of what management actions will be used, but the GSP will lay out the types of actions that the GSA may consider. The GSA may not want to dictate things at the landowner level, but instead establish a broadly applicable criteria/management actions. Awareness and education are going to be two primary tools the GSA can implement. Gathering the number and location of extraction facilities, as well as adding requirements to new wells that will provide data to the GSA, are other policies and actions that might be considered. Also, prohibition of composite wells that draw from multiple aquifers would help to keep the data on water movement clear.

**Actions:** None.

**Item 8:** **FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Presenter:** Brian Trevarrow

**Discussion:** None.

**Actions:**

a. It was moved by Director Zonneveld, seconded by Director Maddox and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution 19-01, appointing Brian Trevarrow as Assistant Treasurer and updating Bank Signatories.

   (AYES: Zonneveld, Nino, McKean, Acquistapace, Maddox, Coelho; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None)

b. It was moved by Director Maddox, seconded by Director Coelho and unanimously carried to receive the Agency’s quarterly financial report.

   (AYES: Zonneveld, Nino, McKean, Acquistapace, Maddox, Coelho; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None)

c. It was moved by Director Coelho, seconded by Director Acquistapace and unanimously carried to repay the startup costs to the GSA member agencies over the course of two fiscal years, with the exact timing based on cash flow.

   (AYES: Zonneveld, Nino, McKean, Acquistapace, Maddox, Coelho; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Mendes)

**Item 9:** **TOWN HALL ON SGMA – “WATER IN THE VALLEY: BATTLE FOR OUR GROUND WATER”**

**Presenter:** Charlotte Gallock

**Discussion:**

Charlotte Gallock handed out a flyer and put forward the idea that the GSAs of the Kings Subbasin could pool their resources to sponsor participation in the meeting, as well as gaining one audience member to be present and have the right to ask one question. Two already signed on, and North Fork Kings would be the fourth. Some concern was expressed that, if money is paid, the overall tenor of the event could appear to be supported by the GSA.

**Actions:**

It was moved by Director Zonneveld, seconded by Director Acquistapace, and unanimously carried to co-sponsor a representative for the SGMA Town Hall, up to $1,250.00.

   (AYES: Zonneveld, Nino, McKean, Acquistapace, Maddox, Coelho; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Mendes)

**Item 10:** **STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**Presenter:** Cristel Tufenkjian

**Discussion:**

There are still a good number of people actively interested in what is going one, as evidenced by the number of contacts and website hits. Several educational documents are being translated into Spanish.

Cristel Tufenkjian also showed a 4 minute long video about SGMA.
Item 11: OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Discussion: None.

Actions: None.

Item 12: NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion:

May 22, 2019 is the next meeting. The Budget Committee will meet one hour before that meeting in order to begin their work.

Actions: None.

Item 13: ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned: 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Stephen Maddox Jr., Board Secretary

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Mark McKean, Board Chair