

**North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency**  
**Board Meeting | January 11, 2107 | 20896 Malsbary Street, Riverdale, CA 93656**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency held January 11, 2017 at the Riverdale Public Utility District Annex.

1. Call to Order

Eric Osterling called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**Directors Present:**

Buddy Mendes, Division 1  
Scott Sills, Division 2 (alternate)  
Carol Hall, Division 3  
Mark McKean, Division 4  
Leonard Acquistapace, Division 5  
Stephen Maddox, Division 6  
Tony Campos, Division 7

**Directors Absent:**

None

**Others Present:**

Paul Peschel, Kings River Conservation District  
Randy Shilling, Kings River Conservation District  
Cristel Tufenkjian, Kings River Conservation District  
Eric Osterling, Kings River Conservation District  
Sandra Soares, Kings River Conservation District  
Aubrey Mauritson, Ruddell, Cochran, Stanton, Smith & Bixler, LLP  
Nicholas Buss, Ruddell, Cochran, Stanton, Smith & Bixler, LLP  
Amanda Monaco, Leadership Counsel  
Augustine Ramirez, County of Fresno  
Steven Sopp, County of Fresno  
Maria Herrera, Self-Help Enterprises  
Sue Ruiz, Self-Help Enterprises  
Stanley Soares, private citizen

2. Governing Board Appointments

Eric Osterling asked the group to provide self-introductions. The Directors and Alternates appointed by the agencies in each division introduced themselves as did everyone in the audience. Eric explained that officers of the Board of Directors will be selected by the Board at the February 9 meeting.

3. Appointment of Interim Chair

It was moved by Alternate Director Sills, seconded by Director Campos and unanimously carried that Director Mark McKean serve as Interim Chair for the meeting.

#### 4. Oath of Office

Kings River Conservation District Notary Sandra Soares administered the Oath of Office to Directors Buddy Mendes, Division 1, Scott Sills, Division 2, Carol Hall, Division 3, Mark McKean, Division 4, Leonard Acquistapace, Division 5, Stephen Maddox, Division 6, and Tony Campos, Division 7.

#### 5. Public Comment

None

#### 6. Director Reports

None

#### 7. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update

A map handout was provided to illustrate the general layout of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) forming in the Kings River service area. Eric Osterling reported that the Kings River East GSA and James Irrigation District GSA completed their filings and are now designated as “exclusive” GSAs by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The remaining four GSAs anticipate submitting their filings by March 2017. Osterling commented that one of the next steps for the NFKGSA is to hire the technical expertise to provide information that is necessary to inform the development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

#### 8. Consider Actions for Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation

Eric Osterling referred to the schedule in the agenda packet and reported on the timeline of critical milestones for the NFKGSA. Eric commented that due to the special-act legislation of the NFKGSA, the NFKGSA is excused from going through the 90-day public comment period, but is still required to hold a public hearing and file a notification of GSA formation with DWR. Referring to the schedule, Eric reported that a public notice of GSA formation will be published in a local newspaper 14 days prior to the GSA Formation Public Hearing. Eric recommended that the public hearing be scheduled for February 9 at 6pm at the Riverdale Public Utility Annex followed by notification of NFKGSA formation being filed with the DWR. It was moved by Director Mendes, seconded by Alternate Director Sills and unanimously carried that KRCD staff take the steps necessary to fulfill statutory requirements for the NFKGSA.

#### 9. Consider Appointment of Interim Legal Counsel

It was moved by Director Mendes, seconded by Alternate Director Sills and unanimously carried that Aubrey A. Mauritson from Ruddell, Cochran, Stanton, Smith & Bixlar serve as Interim Legal Counsel.

#### 10. Consider Appointment to Kings Subbasin Coordination Group

The Kings Subbasin Coordination Group, composed of representatives from the six GSAs in the Kings Subbasin, has been meeting to develop a technical methodology to support formation of a coordination agreement for the Kings Subbasin GSAs and to coordinate with GSAs outside of the Kings Subbasin. It was moved by Director Mendes, seconded by Director Maddox and unanimously carried that Director McKean represent the NFKGSA at the Kings Subbasin Coordination Group meetings, and Alternate Director Sills act as alternate.

11. NFKGSA Initial Budget

Randy Shilling referred to the budget handout in the agenda packet and reported the estimated budget for the next six months is \$57,325.00 with an expected carryover from the pre-formation efforts of \$8,000. It was moved by Alternate Director Sills, seconded by Director Campos and unanimously carried that the budget be approved as presented and that each of the 11 member agencies be assessed \$5,000.

12. NFKGSA Insurance

Randy Shilling referred to the Glatfelter Public Practice Insurance Proposal included in the agenda packet and reported on the cost for the total annual premium and coverage. It was moved by Director Mendes, seconded by Alternate Director Sills and unanimously carried that the NFKGSA approve purchase of the Glatfelter Public Practice Insurance Policy.

13. Consider Approval of Reeb Government Relations Contract

Director McKean provided an update on the proposed revisions to the North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act. Lobbyist Bob Reeb had put together a proposal and memo explaining the revisions to the special act legislation which were provided in the agenda packet. Eric Osterling noted that the costs for Reeb’s services are \$6,000 and that the current budget has a line item for his work. It was moved by Alternate Director Sills, seconded by Director Mendes and unanimously carried that the NFKGSA approve the Reeb Government Relations, LLC contract for legislative services regarding revisions to the North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act.

14. Other Items for Discussion

Cristel Tufenkjian noted that KRCD will be working to establish the Rural Community Advisory Committee as written into the NFKGSA legislation. Additionally, KRCD will be developing in-house a website for the NFKGSA to post the meeting agendas, minutes and other information about the GSA. Cristel noted the cost for developing the website is already covered in the current budget approved by the Board.

15. Next Meeting Date:

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on February 9 at 6:00 pm at the Riverdale Public Utility Annex.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Director McKean adjourned the meeting at 6:37 pm.

Submitted by:

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Secretary/Treasurer

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Approved