

**MID-KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUB-BASIN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY BOARD**

SUMMARY MINUTES

Tuesday, October 13, 2015
3:00 p.m.
Tulare Public Library & Council Chambers
491 North "M" Street, Tulare, CA 93274

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carlton Jones, Craig Vejvoda, David Bixler, Dave Martin (alt.), Steve Nelson, Greg Collins

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Thomas

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Olmos, Leslie Caviglia, Aaron Fukuda, Paul Hendrix, Kim Loeb, Ken Richardson, Don Dorman, Ben Siegel, Roxanne Yoder, Phil Smith (alt.)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Bixler opened the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Bixler called for public comment.

Ed Henry addressed the board regarding news stories and articles, which highlight efforts toward replenishing groundwater systems and tertiary water treatment as practiced in Orange County.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS:

a. Approval of minutes of September 14, 2015 GSA meeting

It was moved by Vice Chair Nelsen, seconded by C. Vejvoda and unanimously carried to approve as presented.

b. Local groundwater and SGMA review

P. Hendrix provided a PowerPoint slide presentation regarding groundwater development and dependence in Tulare County for the Board's review and consideration.

c. Review of Joint Powers Agreement

K. Richardson provided a review of the JPA for the Board's consideration. He discussed some of the salient provisions of the document, including its purposes and responsibilities, ability for member withdrawal, utilization of existing staff resources, and application of SGMA authorities for groundwater management.

d. County facilitation process – status report

L. Caviglia provided a status report for the Board. She addressed the origins of the facilitation effort, progress to-date and next steps.

e. Appointment of Treasurer

P. Hendrix provided a report for the Board's review and consideration. He summarized Ms. Kathi Artis' experience and background in handling the books of other water-related organizations. It was moved by C. Jones, seconded by D. Martin and unanimously carried to approve to appoint Kathi Artis as Treasurer of the Authority. The Board proceeded to inquire as to the intended financial practices of the Authority and its Treasurer, including handling of funds on hand and payment of bills. L. Caviglia responded with a suggestion to bring a financial policy to the Board for its consideration and approval at the next meeting; the Board concurred.

f. Review and adopt the Mid-Kaweah GSA Initial Budget

P. Hendrix provided a report for the Board's review and consideration. He noted that the Initial Budget is to provide sufficient funds to carry the Authority through June 2016. Mr. Hendrix reviewed in-kind administrative costs, anticipated legal costs, and consultant budget projections, all totaling \$125,000. He and Mr. Dorman indicated that some funding has been pledged by Tulare ID and the City of Tulare, respectively. Following discussion, it was moved by Vice Chair Nelsen, seconded by C. Vejvoda and unanimously carried to approve as presented.

g. Appointment of legal counsel

D. Dorman provided a report for the Board's review and consideration. It was moved by C. Vejvoda, seconded by Vice Chair Nelsen and unanimously carried to appoint the firm of Peltzer & Richardson LC to serve as the agency's legal counsel with disclosure and appropriate waivers of conflict of interest to be filed. He summarized the various needs, which may necessitate the need for legal counsel and the inherent difficulty in projecting the extent of such needs at this time.

h. Discussion of outreach/public participation plans

L. Caviglia provided a brief report for the Board's review and consideration. She underscored the outreach requirements as delineated in SGMA and staff's pending review of recently published guidelines on stakeholder participation. Ms. Caviglia commented that the Authority's efforts in regards to public outreach will evolve over time and further consultation with the Board will likewise occur.

i. Review and adopt recommended policy on GSA Committees

L. Caviglia provided a report for the Board's review and consideration. She explained that the policy provides that the Management Committee shall be appointed by the managers of each Authority member, which will amend the action took by the Board at the last meeting to appoint individual members. She also explained the makeup of Technical Sub-Committee and its members being appointed by the Management Committee. She lastly reviewed the composition of the Advisory Committee and its membership to be initiated by application submittals, which are due by December 11. It was moved by Vice Chair Nelsen, seconded by G. Collins and unanimously carried to adopt the policy as recommended.

j. Other business

No further business was brought before the Board.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Bixler adjourned the meeting at 4:06 p.m.