

**EAST KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING ON JULY 27, 2020**

The East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“EKGSA”) Board of Directors duly met for a Regular meeting on Monday July 27, 2020, via video/phone conference only – COVID -19 protocol.

**OPEN SESSION:** Convened at 3:06 p.m.

1. **DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Camarena (for Watson), Crosson (for Ferrara), Peltzer (arrived at 3:30), Buldo, Roberts, George, Crocker, Gobler. Both President Milanesio and Vice-President Ferrara were not present. Secretary/Treasurer Hagman ran the meeting.

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Rivera, Milanesio, Burkett.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michael Hagman, Executive Director; Joe Hughes, Legal Counsel; Matt Klinchuch, Consulting Engineer; Cruz Romero, Staff Engineer; Kathy Bennett, Senior Analyst; Trilby Barton, Provost & Pritchard; and various members of the committees and public.

2. **APPROVE THE AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda was made by Director George, seconded by Director Crocker, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Camarena, Crosson, Buldo, Roberts, George, Crocker, Gobler.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Rivera, Milanesio, Burkett, Peltzer.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No comments.

4. **MINUTES:** Motion to adopt and ratify the minutes provided by the Secretary from the April 27, 2020 Board meeting was made by Director Crocker, seconded by Director Gobler, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Camarena (for Watson), Buldo, Roberts, George, Crocker, Gobler.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Crosson

ABSENT: Rivera, Milanesio, Burkett, Peltzer.

5. **ADMINISTRATION:**

a. Financial Reports:

Director Peltzer arrived at this point in the meeting at 3:30 PM.

Substantial discussion was had regarding the accumulation of cash at the EKGSA. Hagman brought this issue up to let the Board know, due to external factors, the use of cash for implementation has been much slower than forecasted last year in the budget development. He recommends not collecting the final Implementation Call for Funds in October.

After the discussion a motion to approve the financial reports as presented by Senior Analyst was made by Director Roberts, seconded by Director George, and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Camarena, Crosson, Buldo, Roberts, George, Crocker, Gobler, Peltzer.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Rivera, Milanesio, Burkett.

Another motion directing the Executive Director to not collect the final Implementation Call for Funds was made by Director George and seconded by Director Crocker and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Camarena, Crosson, Buldo, Roberts, George, Crocker, Gobler, Peltzer.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Rivera, Milanesio, Burkett.

b. Payments:

Bennett provided the EKGSA check register. Hagman noted that two payments were made to members of his family to put together a mailing of the Annual Report. The total payments were less than \$1,200. He noted that bids for this work were in the range of \$0.60 per piece or about \$3,500. After some brief discussion, a motion to ratify payments made to meet the obligations of the EKGSA was made by Director Roberts, seconded by Director Buldo, and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Camarena, Crosson, Buldo, Roberts, George, Crocker, Gobler, Peltzer.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Rivera, Milanesio, Burkett.

- c. Proposition 218 – Executive Director and Matt Klinchuch reported on the status of the Proposition 218 process. Hagman noted the timeline was narrow and there has been substantial concern by some folks on the timing of this assessment vote. After further direction, no action to change the course of the Proposition 218 was taken. Hagman noted that there will be three meetings in August. He would also be meeting with several landowners and some districts to ascertain their perspective and to seek their support.
- d. Update: Proposition 68 – RCIS Effort: Executive Director reported on the status of the RCIS effort. He noted that there were several farming interests on the Steering Committee. It was reiterated that this effort will focus on identifying species and areas for conservation efforts. The product of this effort will not be a policy document only a strategy document. This RCIS will allow for future public money and mitigation credits.

Hagman asked Director Roberts to provide his insight. Director Roberts remains skeptical. He noted that he will see this out and realizes this document in the end will be in the hands of the EKGSA.

- e. Proposition 68: Basin Planning Grant – Executive Director provided an update.
- f. KSB Annual Report – Matt Klinchuch provided an update and Hagman noted that 6,500 annual report summary flyers were sent out to EKGSA landowners.
- g. Shared Resources Agreement – Director Gobler provided a summary of the recent Ad Hoc visit with Lindmore Irrigation District. From each perspective things are working well.
- h. Advisory Committee Assignment – Hagman noted that two approved AC Committee members no longer participate. AC Chair Ferrara recommended adding Luis Sanchez-Balle of Self-Help Enterprises as a member replacing Adrianna Renteria. A motion to appoint Sanchez-Balle was made by Director Crocker, seconded by Director George, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Camarena, Crosson, Buldo, Roberts, George, Crocker, Gobler, Peltzer.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Rivera, Milanesio, Burkett.

Hagman also noted that AC member Cruz Rivera has not participated for some time in the AC. Mr. Rivera is also a Board member. Hagman recommended relieving Director Rivera of both his AC member role and Board of Director's role. This would leave a vacancy in both the AC and the Board. After some discussion Director Roberts made a motion to relieve Mr. Rivera of both his AC and Board roles and for Hagman to work to find replacements, seconded by Crocker and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Camarena, Crosson, Buldo, Roberts, George, Crocker, Gobler, Peltzer.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Rivera, Milanesio, Burkett.

Hagman also noted that the AC would like the Board to allow the AC members to provide an alternate representative which is currently not allowed in the by-laws approved by the Board of Directors. Alternate Weddle recommended that if they do, the alternate should come to some number of meetings so that they understand the issues and not lose issue continuity. Director Crocker suggested the AC provide to the Board a redline/strikeout of the by-laws with the desired changes. Hagman noted he would provide that at the next meeting.

## **6. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:**

- a. Advisory Committee Efforts: Hagman provided a report. Noting that most of the AC work has been regarding allocation of groundwater supply. Hagman noted that because of the threat of lawsuits, the committees and ultimately the Board of Directors should consider all sides of allocation to avoid adjudication. The Board asked to be kept up to speed on the process. Hagman noted that he will send the Board the AC packets that will include work on the policy.
- b. Technical Advisory Committee Efforts: Director Gobler and Consulting Engineer Klinchuch gave a report.
- c. Subbasin Efforts: The Executive Director gave a brief report on subbasin efforts.
- d. GSP Implementation: Presentations on monitoring network efforts were provided by Romero, Klinchuch and Hagman. It was reported that the EKGSA will be moving forward with installing seven monitoring wells, LandIQ has provided the May ETA report, work on stream gauging will be working with UC Riverside efforts, and other reporting, well videoing continues and is part of the Planning Grant as well, and other activities in the EKGSA implementation efforts.

## **7. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:**

The Executive Director reported that the next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on October 26, 2020. But discussion was had regarding the need for a separate meeting to accept the Engineer's Report for the land assessment vote and to set a hearing date. The Board directed the next meeting to be held on August 31, 2020 to consider accepting the Engineer's report and set a public hearing on the assessment vote.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Director Crocker, seconded by Director Gobler, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Camarena, Crosson, Buldo, Roberts, George, Crocker, Gobler, Peltzer.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Milanesio, Burkett, At Large Director.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.