

**EAST KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING ON March 19, 2018**

The East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“EKGSA”) Advisory Committee duly met for the regular meeting on March 19, 2018, 4:00 PM at the City of Lindsay Wellness Center located at 860 N. Sequoia, Lindsay, CA 93247.

**OPEN SESSION:** Was called to order at 4:03 PM by Joe Ferrara.

- 1. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS:** A quorum was established, and public attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joe Ferrara, Adriana Renteria, Carlos Bravo, Matthew Watkins, Joe Russell, Alan Lombardi, Dan Dreyer.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Carole Combs, Soapy Mulholland, Graham Burt, Vito DeLeonardis

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Trilby Barton (P&P), Matt Klinchuch (P&P), Trent Sherman (DWR), and various members of the public. Michael Hagman was present by phone for agenda items 1-6.

- 2. APPROVE THE AGENDA:**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Lombardi, and carried by the following vote:

**AYES:** Renteria, Russell, Bravo, Watkins, Dreyer, Rivera, Lombardi

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** Combs, Mulholland, DeLeonardis, Burt

- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Renteria, seconded by Mr. Watkins, and carried by the following vote:

**AYES:** Renteria, Bravo, Watkins, Dreyer, Russell, Lombardi, Rivera

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** Combs, Mulholland, Rivera, DeLeonardis, Burt

- 5. EKGSA Activity Report: Michael Hagman**

**a. Technical Committee**

The Executive Director reported the EKGSA TAC work continues in collecting and developing pertinent water budget data to help the GSA consultants understand the demand conditions of the basin. Most of this data is coming from member agencies who

are federal water contractors. Me. Hagman explained that 38% of the GSA is white space which has a limited amount of data. Well logs from this area will be used to assist the consultants with mathematical extrapolation between known data points of the member agencies, Kaweah Delta WCD on the south, and Kings River sub-basin on the north. Preliminary discussion was had concerning this water accounting including “natural supply”, and other variables that will need to be considered.

The EKGSA TAC will provide a recommendation to the Board to participate in Sky-TEM study to understand the supply side of water and hydrogeology of the sub-basin down to as much as 2,000 feet below the surface. This information will be compared and correlated with existing well log. This effort will provide a second level of understanding the sub-basin cross section. It will likely not be available in a substantially useful form for the first version of the sub-basin and corresponding GSP’s. However, this information will be available for the five-year update of the GSP. Substantial funding for this effort will be paid for by DWR and Stanford, with shared cost for the sub-basin of about \$180,000.

EKGSA TAC had a very preliminary discussion about questions and goals to be considered in developing a market-based system. A list of questions and considerations were distributed. Potential projects/programs/actions to better manage wet year supplies, were discussed to avoid undesirable results.

**b. Board of Directors** will have a Special Meeting March 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss above items as well as other administrative items.

*Vito DeLeonardis arrived during item 5&6 discussion.*

## **6. Kaweah Sub-Basin Activity Report: Michael Hagman**

### **a. Kaweah Sub-Basin Management Team and Sub-Basin TAC**

The Executive Director reported on the Kaweah Sub-basin Management Team and TAC activity. The Sky-TEM proposal was discussed and agreed upon to take to each GSA for consideration to participate in the study to help understand our hydrogeology, as another tool with an expanded area and view of the underground.

GEI is working on the Basin Setting and Hydro Conceptual Model for the sub-basin. GEI has requested to add David’s Engineering ET Expansion and Update Study to their (GEI) scope of work to better understand the ag demand side of water using satellite imagery and ground tools to develop an understanding of the demand on a sub-basin wide level. additional scope of work is to be taken to the GSA’s to accept as a usable tool for understanding/estimating demand. Cost is approximately 40,000 for the sub-basin, to expand study to include areas not within the KDWCD WRI and provide data for sub-basin or GSA level as an alternative to metering every well.

Mr. Dreyer asked if ET takes into account individual crop coefficients for citrus as it can have a significant impact if using old numbers. Mr. Lombardi asked why safe yield couldn’t be determined by taking the annual inflow from the River over the whole sub basin area. Much discussion ensued that we aren’t ready to determine how allocations will be set. To fix our position on a sub-basin wide number and not have relevant science to determine accessibility is premature. After substantial discussion about groundwater rights and the allocation of water, Mr. Hagman explained that the Board wants to make a science based determination and that at the current position, with the lack of substantial data, the Board is unwilling to formulate a public policy position.

Mr. Hagman stated preliminary discussions of a sub-basin water accounting framework and the hydrologic baseline period was discussed with the consideration of existing data gaps and additional time with longer period occurred at the sub-basin meetings.

Mr. Lombardi again asked that we consider setting allocations based on a straight per acre amount throughout entire basin. Substantial discussion ensued. Mr. Hagman explained that the allocation decision will need science and we do not have the necessary science. Once we have the science, the allocation policy will be developed by the sub-basin coordination effort. This policy therefore is not GSA specific and we will need 100% buy in from the other GSA's in the sub-basin. They will need to agree on an allocation process that will occur based on our best understanding of the geohydrology of the sub-basin, our best understanding of legal precedent surrounding water rights and socio-political considerations.

Karen Yohannes commented the need to consider white areas that will be impacted the most economically due to the high level of pumping and the importance of projects to minimize this impact.

Mr. Russell stated he wanted a plan in place before the studies to know what we are going to get asking why should I be able to pump more water next to a river than others away from it? Much discussion with the goal of a measured approach ending.

**Matt Klinchuch gave a high-level presentation of HCM and DWR BMP.**

Ms. Renteria asked how ET would be used for small communities. Hagman explained that demand in communities will likely not use ET per se. Typically, domestic demand is calculated by estimated use. Places like City of Lindsay know their demand because they treat their water, or it is all metered. Places like Plainview, Tonyville, Tooleville and other smaller communities will be assigned a demand based on typical human consumption, at least to start. We will refine that as we go along in the process.

Additional questions and discussion about natural basin supply, small watershed baseflows of groundwater from higher elevations and allocations occurred.

*Alan Lombardi and Mr. Hagman left meeting after discussion.*

**7. COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN: TRILBY BARTON (P&P)**

**a. Amendment Considerations and C&E Plan Update Process**

Trilby Barton gave a quick review of the changes to the C&E Plan the committee discussed last month. Mr. Ferrara noted the C&E Plan is a living document and suggested the Board of Directors find a way to make provisions without holding up the progress of outreach and suggested a sub-committee of the Board to serve in this capacity. A motion was made by Mr. Watkins to accept the revisions and amendments to provide a recommendation to the Board of Directors to accept the revisions and amendments in the C&E Plan, seconded by Mr. Rivera and carried the following vote:

**AYES:** Dreyer, Renteria, Rivera, Bravo, Watkins, Russell, DeLeonardis  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None  
**ABSENT:** Combs, Mulholland, Lombardi, Burt

**b. Fact sheet Final Review/Discussion**

Ms. Renteria suggested to simplify and remove duplication by removing the second box and was concerned about the water users wording. Consensus from the Committee was to remove the second box and reword to Top Issues Concerning Groundwater.

**c. What's Next- Fact Sheet and Stakeholder Survey Distribution**

Ms. Barton announced the Stakeholder Survey is now live on ekgsa.org website. Some distribution ideas mentioned were mail, contacting community organizations, public agencies, asking for help with distribution to members, Self Help door to door outreach and school districts. Spanish translation of the documents will also be done.

**8. GROUNDWATER RIGHTS, QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION: RAVI PATEL (COUNSEL)**

This item was tabled in the absence of Mr. Patel.

**9. OTHER MISCELLANEOUS:**

Mr. Renteria asked about future meeting locations. Karen Yohannes updated the Committee on two considerations Woodlake Veterans Memorial Building and the Exeter Courthouse Museum.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Watkins and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 PM.