

**Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority
Advisory Committee Minutes, December 21, 2016
Fresno County Farm Bureau, 1274 W. Hedges, Fresno, 93728**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee (Committee) of the Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (Water Authority) held December 21, 2016.

1. Call to order

Advisory Committee Vice-Chair William Stretch called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

Directors/Alternate Directors Present:

Lisa Koehn, City of Clovis (alternate)
Ken Moore, City of Kerman (alternate)
Mary Fast, City of Reedley
Frankie Olivares, City of Selma (alternate)
Denise England, County of Tulare (alternate)
Phil Desatoff, Consolidated Irrigation District
Bill Stretch, Fresno Irrigation District (alternate)
Peter Sanchez, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (alternate)
Paul Peschel, Kings River Conservation District (alternate)
Don Cameron, Raisin City Water District (alternate)

Members Absent:

Alta Irrigation District
City of Dinuba
City of Fresno
City of Parlier
City of Sanger
Kings County Water District
County of Fresno

Interested Parties Present:

Jim Maciel, Armona Community Services District
Sarge Green, California State University, Fresno
Steve Stadler, James Irrigation District
Maria Herrera, Lanare Community Services District, Self-Help Enterprises
Don Cameron, Terranova Ranch, Inc.

Interested Parties Absent:

Bakman Water Company	Liberty Canal Company
Biola Community Services District	Liberty Water District
California Native Plant Society, Sequoia Chapter	London Community Services District
Community Water Center	Malaga County Water District
City of Kingsburg	Mid-Valley Water District
City of Orange Cove	Orosi Public Utilities District
City of San Joaquin	Pinedale County Water District
County of Kings	Riverdale Irrigation District
Cutler Public Utilities District	Riverdale Public Utility District
East Orosi Community Services District	Sanger Environmental Fund
Easton Community Services District	Sultana Community Services District
El Rio Reyes Conservation Trust	Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter
Hardwick Water Company	Sierra Resource Conservation District
Kings River Conservancy	Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners
Kings River Water Association	US Cooperative Extension – Fresno
Laguna Irrigation District	

Others Present:

Eric Osterling, KRCD	Abigail Solis, Self-Help Enterprises
Cristel Tufenkjian, KRCD	Steve Johnson, California Water Service
Soua Lee, KRCD	Ronald Samuelian, Provost & Pritchard
Bethany Soto, Regional Water Quality Control Board	

2. Addition to or Deletion from the Agenda

None

3. Public Presentations

None

4. Approval of the September 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Alternate Director Cameron, seconded by Alternate Director Peschel and unanimously carried that the minutes of the September 21, 2016 meeting of the Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

5. Work Group Report and Recommendations

Ronald Samuelian provided an update on the Proposition 1 IRWM Plan (IRWMP) Update. Samuelian reported that the KBWA's application for a plan update was recommended for funding. The IRWMP will be updated to meet the requirements of AB 1249, which requires discussion on constituents of concern such as nitrate, percolate, arsenic, and hexavalent chromium. Future DWR funding will require a Storm Water Resources Plan as an eligibility criterion; therefore, the IRWMP update will also include a Storm Water Resources Plan to cover the KBWA region not already covered by the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District's functionally equivalent plan. It is anticipated that a contract will be finalized with DWR by May or June 2017. The Plan update is anticipated to be a six months to year long process.

6. Staff Reports

Planning and Implementation Contracts – Authority staff member Soua Lee reported on the status of planning and implementation contracts. Lee referred to the contracts matrix included in the agenda packet and reported that under Proposition 84, Round 1 Implementation Grant, Consolidated ID's Project Completion Report was approved and awaiting final retention payment, County of Fresno's project is near completion, and East Oroshi CSD's project remains behind schedule. Under Proposition 84, Round 2 Implementation Grant, DWR executed a scope amendment with Bakman Water Company to include a nitrate treatment component to their work plan, the City of Kerman will begin construction of their water meters in January 2017, and the City of San Joaquin completed construction of their project.

Inter-regional and Statewide Coordination – None.

Public Information – Authority staff member Cristel Tufenkjian reported that the Board had authorized the printing of 3,000 fall outdoor watering tips handouts for roughly \$500. Members and Interested Parties were welcomed to take the handouts for use as outreach materials.

Legislation – Tufenkjian reported on the following: the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee is looking for a new Chair due to the leave of Senator Pavley, the legislature will reconvene on January 4th, the last day to submit bills request to the legislative Council is January 20th, and the last day for bills to be introduced is February 17th. Tufenkjian reported that it is anticipated water transfer legislation will come up again in 2017. Additionally, funding for disadvantaged communities, CEQA restoration, and low-income rate assistance could come in the form of a public goods charge or as a nitrogen tax to deal with contaminated water.

Administrative Items – None.

Other – Osterling provided an update on SGMA activities. Osterling reported that the Kings Sub-basin is on track to having the entire sub-basin covered by six groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs). It is anticipated that the remaining four GSAs will submit their filings to DWR between January 2017 and March 2017.

7. Request to Modify the IRWMP Project List

Osterling reported that at the September Advisory Committee meeting James ID submitted five projects to be included on the IRWMP Project List, but approval of the projects were delayed until the next Advisory Committee meeting due to some concerns regarding the location of the proposed projects. In November, James ID met with KRCD, the County of Fresno, and Terranova Ranch to work out those concerns. The concerns were resolved and the five projects were forwarded to the Project Review Panel for a second review. The Project Review Panel recommended that the projects be added to the IRWMP Project List. A question was raised as to whether the Project Information Forms gets are distributed to the Advisory Committee or if they are only forwarded to the Project Review Panel. Osterling clarified that the Forms are only distributed to the Project Review Panel. When the Advisory Committee and Board approve the projects, they are simply added to the Project List with no prioritization. Being on the Project List does not guarantee funding and many of the projects are conceptual. When a grant opportunity comes along, that is when the projects on the list go through more detailed review and ranking. Additionally, there is always an open call for projects; agencies are welcome to submit their projects at any time. It was moved by Representative Green, seconded by Alternate Director Moore, and unanimously carried that the Advisory Committee recommend to the Board the addition of James Irrigation District's five projects to the IRWMP Project List.

8. Update on DAC Involvement Proposal and Request for Letter of Support

Osterling reported on the Prop 1 regional noncompetitive allocation of \$3.4M to the Tulare-Kern Funding Area. A group of IRWM practitioners, DAC representatives, Fresno and Tulare County representatives, and NGOs have been meeting at the Visalia Provost & Pritchard office to develop a proposal for the Prop 1 DAC Involvement RFP. The work plan includes a needs assessment (required by grant program), DAC project Development (\$2M allocated to this task), DAC outreach and education, third party-facilitation, reporting, and grant administration. Although there is no deadline for submitting the proposal, there is a need to get going in order to develop DAC projects in time to compete for implementation funding. A broad support letter and Charter was prepared by the County of Tulare. Osterling recommended that the support letter be modified to be more specific and to indicate that KBWA support of the Proposal is contingent upon modifying the scope of work and budget to something that is mutually agreeable to the Project Advisory Committee (PAC). Representative Maria Herrera recommended that the support letter include a recommendation on having the PAC meet to finalize the program Charter because it is important to set a uniform vision early in the process. Alternate Director England reported that letters of support has been received from the Kaweah and Tule IRWM Groups and the Southern Sierra IRWM Group will be signing a support letter that includes their recommendations. It is anticipated to have support letters from all the Tulare-Kern IRWMs by mid-January. It was moved by Representative Stadler, seconded by Representative Green, and unanimously carried that KRCD staff prepare a support letter to address the concerns regarding ongoing participation and scope development.

9. Kings Basin Water Authority 2015-16 Annual Report

Samuelian reported that KRCD staff emailed a draft of the Annual Report to Members and Interested Parties at the end of November. Comments were received and incorporated into the report. The updated report was printed and made available at this meeting and was also posted to the KBWA website. Samuelian noted that past reports included contour maps and estimate of overdraft within the IRWM; however, those items were omitted from the 2016 Annual Report due to the fact that SGMA will be driving the efforts for overdraft calculations and monitoring. A section providing a high-level discussion of SGMA efforts in the Kings Sub-basin was included in the Report. Samuelian highlighted that over \$53M has been brought into the region through the KBWA effort. Osterling noted that the Project List on the KBWA website is clickable and can take the user right to the Project Information Forms for each project. The KBWA website also has a map that shows where each project is located.

10. Other Items for Discussion or Reporting

None.

11. Next Meeting Date:

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Advisory Committee is March 15, 2017 at 9:30 am at the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:17 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Koehn
Chair

Approved

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