

**Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority
Advisory Committee Notes, March 21, 2018
Fresno County Farm Bureau, 1274 W. Hedges, Fresno, 93728**

Notes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee (Committee) of the Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (Water Authority) held March 21, 2018.

1. Call to order

Advisory Committee Vice-Chair Bill Stretch called the meeting to order at 9:32 am. Vice-Chair Stretch noted that there was not a quorum.

Directors/Alternate Directors Present:

Paul Armendariz, City of Clovis (alternate)
Philip Romero, City of Parlier (alternate)
Bill Stretch, Fresno Irrigation District
Peter Sanchez, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (alternate)
Jerry Rai, Raisin City Water District

Members Absent:

Alta Irrigation District
City of Dinuba
City of Fresno
City of Kerman
City of Reedley
City of Sanger
City of Selma
Consolidated Irrigation District
County of Fresno
County of Tulare
Kings County Water District
Kings River Conservation District

Interested Parties Present:

Jim Maciel, Armona Community Services District
Dwight Miller, Biola Community Services District

Interested Parties Absent:

Bakman Water Company
California Native Plant Society, Sequoia Chapter
California State University, Fresno
City of Kingsburg
City of Orange Cove
City of San Joaquin
Community Water Center
County of Kings
Cutler Public Utilities District
East Orosi Community Services District
Easton Community Services District
El Rio Reyes Conservation Trust
Hardwick Water Company
James Irrigation District
Kings River Conservancy
Kings River Water Association
Laguna Irrigation District

Lanare Community Services District
Liberty Canal Company
Liberty Water District
London Community Services District
Malaga County Water District
Mid-Valley Water District
Orosi Public Utilities District
Pinedale County Water District
Riverdale Irrigation District
Riverdale Public Utility District
Sanger Environmental Fund
Self-Help Enterprises
Sultana Community Services District
Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter
Sierra Resource Conservation District
Terranova Ranch, Inc.
Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners
US Cooperative Extension – Fresno

Others Present:

Eric Osterling, KRCD
Soua Lee, KRCD
Bethany Soto, Regional Water Quality Control Board

Sal Alhomed, Self-Help Enterprises
Paige Yang, Bakman Water Company

2. Addition to or Deletion from the Agenda

None

3. Public Presentations

None

4. Approval of the September 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes

This item was continued until the next regularly scheduled Advisory Committee meeting.

5. Staff Reports

A. Planning and Implementation Contracts – Soua Lee referred to the grants matrix included in the agenda packet and reported on the status of each project under the Prop 84 Round 1 Implementation Grant and the Prop 84 Round 2 Implementation Grant. Of note, under Prop 84 Round 2 Implementation Grant, the City of San Joaquin's Project and the City of Kerman's Project are complete and proceeding to closeout.

B. Inter-regional and Statewide Coordination – Lee reported that the Roundtable of Regions is looking to formalize a leadership team to support the growing work of the group. One area of concern with the growing influence of the Roundtable is that the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has been looking to the Roundtable for input on processes to implement Prop 1 IRWM funds even though DWR has already established a Stakeholder Engagement and Advisory Committee (SEAC) aimed at improving IRWM state and regional relationships through engagement and gathering input in the development of program materials and processes. In recent years, a growing number of participants of the Roundtable seem to come from agencies that represent coastal interests. For this reason, Lee noted that she and Eric Osterling will continue to engage with the Roundtable to ensure that the interests of the San Joaquin Valley are also heard. Roundtable priorities for 2018 includes continued coordination with DWR on Prop 1 IRWM funds, research avenues to secure baseline funding for integrated regional water management, monitor the California Water Plan Update 2018, and monitor the implementation of the recommendations made in the IRWM Stakeholders Perspectives document.

Lee reported that the Tulare Basin Watershed Connections Working Group was recently renamed as the Tulare Basin Watershed Connections Collaborative. At a January 26, 2018 meeting, the group discussed highlights from the Headwaters to Groundwater Symposium held in October 2017; the status of a US Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant application for funds to develop outreach materials and to complete an arundo project; status of the IRWMP Update for the Southern Sierra IRWM Group; and reviewed the revised Charter and Strategic Plan of the Collaborative. Osterling reported that the Collaborative formed a Wildlife and Ecosystems Workgroup that he was invited to participate. This workgroup is partnering with the Nature Conservancy and the Environmental Defense Fund to develop tools for land conversion on the valley flood. This tool can be used by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to analyze how land retirement can provide regional benefits.

C. Public Information – Lee reported that the Board approved the spending of the Authority's outreach budget to develop indoor and outdoor watering tips handouts as outreach tools. 3,000 copies were printed for indoor watering tips and 3,000 copies were printed for outdoor watering tips. The handouts have one side printed in English and the other side in Spanish. The handouts are available to Authority Members and Interested Parties to take for outreach purposes.

Lee provide a summary of outreach activities for 2017:

- The KBWA website had 4,103 views in 2017 and 17,136 views since the launch of the website in July 2014. The most viewed page is the article, "Sixty Years of Pine Flat Dam."
- The Kings groundwater basin video was published in 2014 and so far has garnered 1,086 views.

- The KBWA Twitter account has 668 followers to date and 1,110 tweets were “tweeted” since the launch of the account.
- The KBWA’s Facebook page was launch in October 2016 and to date the page has 19 follows and 17 likes.
- At the September 27, 2017 California Water Plan Update 2018 Plenary, Eric Osterling participated on a panel, “Enhancing the Connections between IRWM and SGMA.”

D. Legislation – Lee reported on the following Bills and Bonds:

- AB 2064 (Gloria) would make it possible to get up to 100% in advance grant payment for qualifying IRWM projects. The bill was heard on March 20, 2018 in the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee. Lee noted that the current law allows qualifying IRWM projects that were awarded less than \$1,000,000 in IRWM grant funds to receive 50% advance payment.
- AB 2060 (Garcia) would change how advance payment could be provided and expand advanced payment to other grant programs. The bill was heard on March 20, 2018 in the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee. This bill would eliminate the requirement that the grant award for a project be less than \$1,000,000 to obtain advance payment.
- Proposition 68 will appear on the June 2018 ballot and would make \$290,000,000 available for drought and groundwater investments to achieve regional sustainability. Dedicated IRWM funding is not included in this bond.
- Gerry Meral \$8.8 billion bond appears to have enough signatures for the November 2018 ballots. This bond includes \$5,000,000 for IRWM.

E. Administrative Items – Lee issued a reminder that Board Directors and Alternates are required to file their Statement of Economic Interests Form 700s with the Authority by April 2, 2018.

Osterling announced that Soua Lee will be the new Program Manager for the Authority, but he will continue to provide support as needed. Osterling stated he will make the same announcement at the next Board of Directors meeting.

F. Other – None to report.

6. Status and Discussion of Prop 1 Grants

- DAC Involvement – Lee reported that DWR fully executed a grant agreement with the County of Tulare in February 2018. On February 27, 2018, the County of Tulare Board of Supervisors approved the formation of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and a contract with Provost & Pritchard Consulting for project management services. Furthermore, through a separate DWR grant, the County of Tulare contracted with a neutral party facilitator (CSU Sacramento) to facilitate the activities of the PAC. Facilitator leads Stephanie Lucero and Tonia Carlone have begun to reach out to select PAC members to familiarize themselves with the perspectives of the IRWMs in the Tulare-Kern Funding Area and to elicit input on what PAC members perceived to be the role and activities of the PAC.
- IRWMP Update – Lee reported that the IRWMP Update Workgroup has met multiple times to review and discuss the water quality section. P&P will have an updated draft of the IRWMP to the Workgroup to review in April. It is anticipated that a draft IRWMP will be publicly noticed in mid-summer for public comment. Based on the released Prop 1 IRWM Implementation schedule, stakeholders wanting to pursue Round 1 IRWM Implementation funding have until the next Advisory Committee meeting on June 20, 2018 to submit any project updates or new projects.

Lee reported that a Storm Water Resources Plan (SWRP) is being prepared in conjunction with the IRWMP Update. Draft sections have been reviewed by the Workgroup, including the project solicitation process that coincides with the IRWMP project solicitation process. The next round of funding for the Storm Water Grant Program is anticipated fall 2018. Stakeholders interested in pursuing funding for their storm water benefit projects should submit a Storm Water Supplemental Form to add their project to the SWRP project list.

- c. IRWM Implementation Schedule – A Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grants schedule was distributed to the Committee. Lee reviewed the schedule with the Committee. Of note, the Final Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) will be released in summer 2018 with grant applications due to DWR by December 2018.

7. Selection of a Chair Officer to the Advisory Committee

Vice-Chair Stretch called for nominations of a new Chair to the Advisory Committee because former Chair Koehn retired at the end of 2017. Vice-Chair Stretch made clear his desire to not serve as Chair. After hearing no nominations, Vice-Chair Stretch stated that this agenda item will continue to the next Advisory Committee and that he and Authority staff will continue to lead the Advisory Committee meetings until a new Chair is selected.

8. Request to Modify the IRWMP and SWRP Project Lists

Lee reported that eleven IRWM projects and sixteen Storm Water Resources Plan projects were submitted to the Project Work Group to review. The Project Work Group found that the projects met the requirements to be placed on the IRWMP project list and the Storm Water Resources Plan project list. Short of a quorum, the Committee could not take formal action; however, the Committee did not voice any objections to the projects and provided general consensus to recommend that the Board approve the addition of the new projects.

9. Other Items for Discussion or Reporting

None to report.

10. Next Meeting Date:

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Advisory Committee is June 20, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Stretch
Vice-Chair

Approved