

**Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority
Board of Directors Meeting, October 18, 2023 at 9:30 AM
Fresno County Farm Bureau, 1274 W. Hedges, Fresno, CA 93728**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of the Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (Water Authority) held October 18, 2023.

1. Call to order

Chair Fast called the meeting to order at 9:38 am.

Directors/Alternate Directors Present:

Paul Armendariz, City of Clovis (alternate)
Brock Buche, City of Fresno (alternate)
Bill Nijjer, City of Kerman
Mary Fast, City of Reedley
Beverly Cho, City of Selma
Roy Jimenez, County of Fresno (alternate)
Eddie Valero, County of Tulare
Bill Stretch, Fresno Irrigation District (alternate)
Buzz Burleson, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
David Merritt, Kings River Conservation District (alternate)

Members Absent:

Alta Irrigation District
City of Dinuba
City of Parlier
City of Sanger
Consolidated Irrigation District
Kings County Water District
Raisin City Water District

Interested Parties Present:

Sean Ray, Bakman Water Company
Manny Amorelli, James Irrigation District, Reclamation District No.1606
Charles Garabedian Jr., Malaga County Water District

Interested Parties Absent

Armona Community Services District
Biola Community Services District
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
Malaga County Water 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
McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Mid-Valley Water District
North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Orosi Public Utilities District
Pinedale County Water District
Riverdale Irrigation District
Riverdale Public Utility District
Sanger Environmental Fund
Self-Help Enterprises
Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter
Sultana Community Services District
Terranova Ranch, Inc.
Tulare Basin Watershed Partnership
US Cooperative Extension – Fresno

Others Present:

Peter Sanchez, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
James Reynolds, KRCD
Binu Brar, KRCD
Soua Lee, KRCD
Ronnie Samuelian, Provost & Pritchard

2. Addition to or Deletion from the Agenda

None.

3. Public Presentations

None.

4. Consider Approval of the July 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes and September 20, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Alternate Director Stretch, seconded by Director Valero and unanimously carried that the minutes of the July 19, 2023 and September 20, 2023 Board of Directors meeting be approved as presented.

5. Director Reports

None.

6. Advisory Committee Report

Chair Fast called on Advisory Committee Chair Sean Ray to provide a report on Advisory Committee activities on September 20, 2023. Ray reported that the Committee approved previous meeting minutes and received staff reports.

7. Staff Reports

A. Planning and Implementation Contracts – Soua Lee provided an update on Proposition 1, Rounds 1 and 2 IRWM Implementation grant activities. Regarding the Prop 1 DAC Involvement Grant Program, Director Valero provided an update on the East Orosi Community Services District (CSD) project. The County of Tulare Board of Supervisors approved a \$7 million state grant on October 17, 2023 to help with consolidation efforts between East Orosi CSD and Orosi. Land acquisition from the local school district is in progress and will be purchased by the County of Tulare to make the pipeline connections possible. Construction on this consolidation project is anticipated to begin at the end of 2024 or early 2025.

B. Inter-regional and Statewide Coordination – Lee reported that she attended the California Water Plan Update Plenary on October 3, 2023 in Sacramento. The 2023 California Water Plan is heavy on promoting climate change and lays out a roadmap towards climate change resilience. DWR also shared the upcoming release of a new Water Resilience Program. This program seeks to build upon the IRWM Program, placing a stronger emphasis on climate vulnerability assessment, adaptation planning, watershed-based planning, multi-sector collaboration, and equity and inclusiveness. DWR plans to fund four pilot regions to test the development of this new watershed group.

A video produced by DWR celebrating 20 years of IRWM also premiered at the October Plenary. The video highlights several IRWM regions and their projects. The Fresno Irrigation District's Southwest Groundwater Banking Project completed with Prop 84 IRWM Implementation Grant funding was highlighted in the video. Lee also provided a testimonial at the Plenary on the work of the Kings Basin Water Authority (KBWA) and the benefits of IRWM for the Kings Subbasin.

C. Public Information – None to report.

D. Legislation – Lee reported on the status of AB 1567(Garcia) and SB 867(Allen). Both climate bond measures had money allocated to the IRWM Program; however, due to the state budget deficit, the Governor only approved a mental health measure that will stand alone on the March 2024 ballot. The primary authors of the two climate bonds remain committed to bringing forward a climate bond.

E. Administrative Items – Lee reported that the Fresno Irrigation District (FID) provided a letter of support request for their application to the US Bureau of Reclamation Drought Resilience Grant

Program. FID sought \$5 million to support construction of two groundwater recharge basin projects. Staff provided the support letter to FID on behalf of the KBWA because the request met the guidelines outlined by the support letter policy. Lee also provided a reminder that Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests filings will begin in early 2024.

F. Other – None to report.

8. Request to Approve the Upper Kings Basin IRWM Authority Statement of Investment Policy
Binu Brar requested the Board’s consideration in approving the Upper Kings Basin IRWM Authority Statement of Investment Policy. The Policy was reviewed by the KBWA Finance Committee and Kings River Conservation District’s legal team. Director Burleson provided comment that the investment policy will allow the KBWA to invest its reserved funds. It was moved by Alternate Director Stretch, seconded by Director Nijjer, and unanimously carried that the Upper Kings basin IRWM Authority State of Investment Policy be approved as presented.

9. Recommendation to Approve Resolution No. 23-01

Binu Brar presented Resolution No. 23-01 and recommended that the Board approve the resolution to authorize the creation of an account with J.P. Morgan Securities LLC to invest funds in accordance with the Upper Kings Basin IRWM Authority State of Investment Policy. It was moved by Director Valero, seconded by Alternate Director Buche, and unanimously carried that Resolution No. 23-01 be approved as presented.

10. Request to Approve Quarterly Financial Reports

Binu Brar provided an overview of the quarterly financial reports for the period July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023. It was moved by Alternate Director Buche, seconded by Director Valero, and unanimously carried that the quarterly financial reports be approved as presented.

11. Next Meeting Date:

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Board of Directors is April 17, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:09 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Merritt
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved