

**Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority
Board of Directors Meeting, April 17, 2024 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 (Kings Basin Water Authority) held April 17, 2024.

1. Call to order

Chair Fast called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

Directors/Alternate Directors Present:

Paul Armendariz, City of Clovis (alternate)
Dejan Pavic, City of Fresno (alternate)
Mary Fast, City of Reedley
Beverly Cho, City of Selma
Roy Jimenez, County of Fresno (alternate)
Denise England, County of Tulare (alternate)
Bill Stretch, Fresno Irrigation District (alternate)
Sarge Green, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
David Merritt, Kings River Conservation District (alternate)
Don Cameron, Raisin City Water District

Members Absent:

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

Interested Parties Present:

Sean Ray, Bakman Water Company
Manny Amorelli, James Irrigation District, Reclamation District No.1606
Don Cameron, Terranova Ranch, Inc.

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
Tulare Basin Watershed Partnership
US Cooperative Extension – Fresno

Others Present:

Steve Haze, Tranquillity Resource Conservation 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 October 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Alternate Director Stretch, seconded by Director Cameron and unanimously carried that the minutes of the October 18, 2023 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 March 20, 2024. Ray reported that the Committee approved previous meeting minutes and received staff reports. The Committee also moved to form a Strategic Planning Workgroup to develop recommendations for how the Water Authority may move forward if no future funding is allocated to the IRWM Program.

7. Staff Reports

A. Planning and Implementation Contracts – Chair Fast called on Kings River Conservation District staff James Reynolds to provide an update on Proposition 1, Rounds 1 and 2 IRWM Implementation grant activities. Regarding the Prop 1 Round 1 IRWM Grant, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control’s Basin CF project is on hold pending delivery of the pump station electrical panel. Under Prop 1 Round 2 IRWM Grant, the Fresno Irrigation District had completed project planning and design work, and the project is under construction. Bakman Water Company’s Nitrate Analyzer Project is on hold until the construction of treatment facilities on their existing wells begins. The nitrate analyzers may only be installed once the treatment facilities are under construction. The City of Parlier’s Project is continuing with design and engineering work.

B. Inter-regional and Statewide Coordination – Lee reported that she attended the Summit for Equity and Resilience in Water: Lessons Learned from IRWM DACTI Program on March 26th and 27th in Alhambra, CA. The purpose of the 2-day summit was to share and celebrate successes in the Prop 1 DAC and Tribal Involvement Program (DACTI), share key lessons learned, and explore future efforts for engagement of communities and Tribes in water and climate resilience efforts. Under this program, the Water Authority received a total of \$392,000 for three disadvantaged communities (DAC) projects. On day 1 of the summit, Sonia Sanchez with Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) served as a panelist on the “Community-led Planning” panel which highlighted DAC involvement in the program. Sonia shared about SHE’s role in outreaching and engaging DACs and tribal groups in the IRWM planning efforts. On day 2 of the summit, Soua Lee served as facilitator for the “Lessons Learned from 20 Years of IRWM Engagement – Regional Perspectives” panel. Lee interviewed four IRWM representatives from northern, central, and southern California on their journey with the IRWM Program and the challenges and successes they encountered during implementation of the DACTI Program. Overall, the summit received good feedback from attendees.

C. Public Information – Lee reported on administrative changes at DWR. Kris Tjernell, Deputy Director for the Integrated Watershed Management Program is on permanent leave and Paul Gosselin, Deputy Director for Sustainable Groundwater Management has taken over the IRWM Program. Paul Gosselin’s new title is Deputy Director for Sustainable Water Management.

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, it does not look like the bond measures will be placed on the November 2024 ballot.

E. Administrative Items – Lee reported that the Advisory Committee approved the creation of a Strategic Planning Workgroup to brainstorm ideas and develop recommendations for how the Water Authority may move forward in the event that state funding is no longer allocated to the IRWM Program. Lee also reported that in February 2024, the Fresno Irrigation District (FID) and Kings River Conservation District (KRCD) requested letters of support from the Water Authority for their applications to the Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program. FID’s project was to install solar arrays at existing groundwater banking and pumping facilities and improve their SCADA system at various facilities throughout the District. FID requested \$3.5M in federal funding. KRCD’s project was to construct a 4th hydroelectric generating unit at Pine Flat Dam that will produce up to 10,042 megawatt hours of renewable energy annually. KRCD requested \$5M in federal funding. Both agency’s projects were consistent with the goals and objectives of the Water Authority and letters of support were provided for their applications. Lee also reported that in January 2024, Chair Fast approved a thank you letter to former Director Buzz Bursleson who retired from the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District’s Board of Directors. The letter highlighted Director Bursleson’s work with the Water Authority and thanked him for his leadership and dedication to the mission of the Water Authority.

F. Other – None to report.

8. Request to Approve Kings Basin Water Authority 2022-23 Annual Report

Lee provided an overview of the activities and accomplishments of the Water Authority for Water Year 2022-23. Alternate Director Merritt requested an edit to the Annual Report to update the completion date for the McMullin On-Farm Flood Capture Project. It was moved by Alternate Director Merritt, seconded by Alternate Director Stretch, and unanimously carried that the Kings Basin Water Authority 2022-23 Annual Report be approved as corrected.

9. Selection of a Member to the Finance Committee

Lee reported that the Finance Committee has a vacancy due to the retirement of former Director Buzz Bursleson. Voting and nominations were conducted for a new Board Member to fill the seat on the Finance Committee. Alternate Director Stretch made a nomination for City of Clovis Alternate Director Paul Armendariz to fill the seat. It was moved by Alternate Director Stretch, seconded by Alternate Director Merritt, and unanimously carried that Alternate Director Paul Armendariz serve as a member on the Finance Committee.

10. Recommendation to Approve Resolution 24-01

Lee referred to Resolution 24-01 in the agenda packet and explained that Brian Trevarrow retired from KRCD and Binu Brar was promoted to Director of Finance. The Resolution is to appoint Binu Brar as the Assistant Treasurer for the Water Authority and authorize bank signatories on the JP Morgan Chase Bank and JP Morgan Securities accounts. It was moved by Alternate Director Merritt, seconded by Alternate Director Stretch and unanimously carried that Resolution 24-01 be approved as presented.

11. Biennial Audit Report

Binu Brar provided an overview of the Biennial Audit Report for Fiscal Years ended June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023. It was moved by Director Fast, seconded by Director Cameron, and unanimously carried that the Biennial Audit Report be approved as presented.

12. Request to Approve Quarterly Financial Reports

Binu Brar provided an overview of the quarterly financial reports for the period October 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024. It was moved by Alternate Director Stretch, seconded by Director Cameron, 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 July 17, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Merritt
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved