

**Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority
Advisory Committee Minutes, March 19, 2014
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 March 19, 2014.

1. Call to order

Advisory Committee Acting Vice Chair Brock Buche called the meeting to order at 9:36 am. Buche noted that there was a quorum.

Directors/Alternate Directors Present:

Chris Kapheim, Alta Irrigation District (alternate)
Ken Moore, City of Kerman (alternate)
Brock Buche, City of Fresno (alternate)
Steve Worthley, County of Tulare
Bernard Jimenez (alternate)
Lisa Koehn, City of Clovis (alternate)
Buzz Bursleson, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
Phil Desatoff, Consolidated Irrigation District (alternate)

Members Absent:

City of Parlier
City of Dinuba
Fresno Irrigation District
Kings County Water District
City of Sanger
City of Reedley
City of Selma
Kings River Conservation District

Interested Parties Present:

Sue Ruiz, Easton Community Services District
Kathy Wood McLaughlin, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners
Sarge Green, California State University, Fresno
Warren Shaw, California Native Plant Society, Sequoia Chapter
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Maria Herrera, Community Water Center
Tim Bakman, Bakman Water Company
Scott Sills, Laguna Irrigation District
Jerry Rai, Raisin City Water District
Paul Boyer, Hardwick Water Company, Self-Help Enterprises, Sultana Community Services District
Phil Desatoff, City of Kingsburg
Cruz Ramos, City of San Joaquin

Interested Parties Absent:

Biola Community Services District	Malaga County Water District
County of Kings	Mid-Valley Water District
Cutler Public Utilities District	Orange Cove Irrigation District
East Orosi Community Services District	Orosi Public Utilities District
El Rio Reyes Conservation Trust	Riverdale Irrigation District
Fresno County Farm Bureau	Riverdale Public Utility District
James Irrigation District	Sanger Environmental Fund
Kings River Conservancy	Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter
Kings River Water Association	Sierra Resource Conservation District
Liberty Canal Company	Sultana Community Services District
Liberty Water District	Terranova Ranch, Inc.
London Community Services District	UC Cooperative Extension - Fresno

Others Present:

Eric Osterling, KRCD	Lisa Koehn, City of Clovis
Cristel Tufenkjian, KRCD	Bill Stretch, Fresno Irrigation District
Ron Samuelian, Provost & Pritchard	Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley
Shay Bakman, Bakman Water Company	Hugo Calvillo, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Steve Pickens, Bakman Water Company	
Jerry Lakeman, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control Dist.	

2. Addition to or Deletion from the Agenda

None

3. Public Presentations

None

4. Review of the December 18, 2013 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Director Worthley, seconded by Director Kapheim and unanimously carried that the minutes of December 18, 2013 meeting of the Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

5. Work Group Reports and Recommendations

Project Work Group – Buche called on staff member Eric Osterling to report on activities. Osterling provided a recap of IRWM funding. Osterling reported that the Tulare/Kern funding area was allocated \$60,000,000, with a remaining balance is \$16,217,197. Osterling reported that the drought emergency legislation, SB 103 and SB 104, have expedited and changed the grant process for IRWM funding. Osterling reported that there will be two solicitations, a 2014 Drought Solicitation in the amount of \$200 million and a 2015 Implementation Solicitation in the amount of \$250 million. Osterling reported that the 2012 Guidelines have not significantly changed and the funding priorities included drought resilience, supply reliability, and DAC critical drinking water issues exasperated by drought. Osterling noted that the 2014 Solicitation includes no current plans to include a 10 percent funding commitment to DACs; does not consider an allocation percentage by funding area; the 25 percent match minimum is expected to remain; and projects must be consistent with an adopted IRWMP. Osterling reported that the 2014 Solicitation schedule includes: April 1- draft guidelines/PSP released, mid-May - comments due; July 1 - final guidelines/PSP released; August 1 - applications due; mid-Fall - final awards. Osterling provided DWR contact information and encouraged advisory committee members to submit comments on the guidelines in areas that they may have concerns. Osterling reported that based on DWR's schedule, he has developed a proposed Project Work Group schedule. Osterling presented the schedule: March 19 – Appoint Project Review Panel at Advisory Committee meeting; April 16 – Panel presents draft templates/process to Board; May 30 – Internal pre-applications due; June 2-17 – Pre-applications scoring by Project Review Panel; June 18– Scoring/ranking of applications presented to Advisory Committee; August 1 – Tentative due date for DWR grant applications. Osterling stated that this schedule may have to be adjusted since DWR's schedule does not sync with the Water Authority's proposed schedule. Osterling reported that links to the documents will be posted on the Water Authority's website. Discussion followed regarding logistics of having projects meet the requirements for inclusion in the funding process. Osterling asked the Advisory Committee to approve the proposed Project Work Group schedule. The Advisory approved the proposed Project Work Group schedule. Osterling asked for volunteers for the Project Review Panel. Representative Kathy Wood McLaughlin stated that she would volunteer to be on the panel if funding for her position was extended. The Advisory Committee approved sending a letter in support of continued funding for Kathy Wood McLaughlin's position. Other tentative volunteers included Representatives Paul Boyer, Denise Atkins, a County of Fresno staff member, and Lisa Koehn.

Outreach Work Group– Buche called on staff member Cristel Tufenkjian to report on activities. Tufenkjian reported that the highlight document has been completed and is available to Water Authority members to use in presentations, meetings and other Water Authority outreach events.

Boundaries Work Group– Buche called on staff member Eric Osterling to report on activities. Osterling reported that the Work Group met and discussed Kings County Water District and Lakeside Irrigation Water District boundaries in relation to the Water Authority's boundary. Osterling reported that the Work Group is working on a recommendation to the Advisory Committee.

6. Staff Reports

Planning and Implementation Contracts – Osterling reported on the status of planning and implementation contracts. Osterling referred to the contracts matrix included in the agenda packet for updates on specific projects Osterling reported that the Planning grant is completed and that the mini-Prop. 50 grant is almost completed.

Inter-regional and Statewide Coordination – No report

Public Information – Osterling reported that Dave Orth made a presentation to the SWRCB regarding the challenges and opportunities of IRWMPs and the Water Authority's Prop. 50 projects. A poster was also presented in conjunction with the presentation.

Legislation – Tufenkjian reported that there are several simultaneous processes occurring to consider reforming groundwater management policy. The processes include the California Water Foundation stakeholder process, the California Water Foundation framework document process, the SWRCB Groundwater Workplan Concept Paper development, and ACWA Groundwater Task Force concepts process. Tufenkjian reported that several groundwater bills have been introduced, but it is believed that AB 1739 (Dickenson) and SB 1168 (Pavley) will be the vehicles used for groundwater legislation. Director Chris Kapheim reported that current discussions by the Administration center around the concept that groundwater management should be conducted locally with oversight by the State if local management is unsuccessful. Representative Sarge Green reported that he testified at a legislative hearing on groundwater and that one of the points made by State representatives is that the State needs to determine what tools local agencies need to better manage groundwater. Tufenkjian reported that nine water bond bills have been introduced. It is believed that AB 1331 (Rendon) and SB 848 (Wolk) will be the primary vehicles that will be used to move a water bond forward. Tufenkjian reported that there are two bills that deal with IRWMPs, SB 1049 (Pavley) and AB 1731 (Perea) that are being tracked.

Other – Director Lisa Koehn reported that the Budget Committee met to consider the membership costs for smaller agencies. Koehn reported that the Committee members are considering a new membership category with a lower contribution level than the current smaller cities level. Koehn reported that the Committee members also discussed that this new category could include any public agencies that are eligible to join a JPA. Koehn reported that the Committee members noted that the current buy-in cost of \$30,000 is a significant cost for smaller communities and agencies. Koehn stated that Committee members suggested considering a lower buy-in cost for smaller organizations. Committee members also discussed providing an incentive for smaller organizations to join their contributions and together represent one seat on the Board. Discussion followed regarding how a joint contribution would affect voting participation; the need to formalize the joint group through a MOU; the need to amend the JPA for this new member structure; and what type of agencies would meet the requirements for this category. Discussion also included the inability for many DACs to provide a financial contribution and ways to allow DACs to become voting members through an aggregated contribution and/or support from an overarching entity, like a county. It was discussed that consideration should be taken to changing the governance to allow private agencies on the Board. Koehn reported that a summary of the proposal will be drafted and provided to the Advisory Committee for input.

7. Kings Basin IRWMP Measurable Objectives Update

Osterling reported that this is a standing agenda item to assist with cataloging the accomplishments of Water Authority members that correspond with the Kings Basin IRWMP objectives. Osterling reported that the Kings Basin's IRWMP includes a requirement to report on the progress of the stated objectives each year in an annual report for the water year, October 1 – September 30. Osterling reviewed an attachment of the measurable objectives and asked members present to review the objectives and provide any project information back to him. Discussion followed that the Natural Resources Conservation Service's water-conservation programs that are taking place within the boundary of the Water Authority is a reportable item for the annual report.

8. Other items for discussion or reporting

Buche reported that the next Advisory Committee meeting will include the election of chair and vice chair. Director Worthley reported that converting irrigated agriculture to solar farms may be a strategy for meeting the Basin's objective of balancing the groundwater supply. It was noted that land retirement is one of the resource management strategies in the Kings Basin IRWMP and that conversion to a solar farm does fit under this strategy. Representative Cruz discussed the innovations that may be occurring for reuse of wastewater on crops.

9. Next Meeting Date

Buche noted that the next regularly scheduled meeting for the Advisory Committee is June 18, 2014 at 9:30 am at the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:11 am.

Respectfully submitted,

David Orth
Chair

Approved

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