

**Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority
Board Meeting April 18, 2018
Fresno County Farm Bureau, 1274 W. Hedges, Fresno, 93728**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of the Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (Water Authority) held April 18, 2018.

1. Call to order

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

Directors/Alternate Directors Present:

Chad Wegley, Alta Irrigation District (alternate)
Paul Armendariz, City of Clovis (alternate)
Ken Moore, City of Kerman (alternate)
Philip Romero, City of Parlier (alternate)
Mary Fast, City of Reedley
Bill Stretch, Fresno Irrigation District
Buzz Burleson, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
Paul Peschel, Kings River Conservation District (alternate)
Don Cameron, Raisin City Water District (alternate)

Members Absent:

City of Dinuba
City of Fresno
City of Sanger
City of Selma
County of Fresno
County of Tulare
Consolidated Irrigation District
Kings County Water District

Interested Parties Present:

Jim Maciel, Armona Community Services District
Scott Sills, Laguna Irrigation District
Don Cameron, Terranova Ranch, Inc.

Interested Parties Absent:

Bakman Water Company
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
James Irrigation District
Kings River Conservancy
Kings River Water Association

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

Others Present:

Saint Joseph Thao, Kings River Water Association
Ed Dittenbir, Kings River Water Association
Cristel Tufenkjian, KRCD
Eric Osterling, KRCD

Soua Lee, KRCD
Randy Shilling, KRCD
Ronnie Samuelian, Provost & Pritchard
Brian Teigen, Public

2. Additions to or Deletions from the Agenda

Eric Osterling led the Authority in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Presentations

None

4. Consider approval of the October 18, 2017 meeting minutes

It was moved by Director Fast, seconded by Alternate Director Moore and unanimously carried that the minutes of the October 18, 2017 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved as presented.

5. Member/Interested Party Report

Chair Burleson called on Saint Joseph Thao with Kings River Water Association (KRWA) to provide a report on Kings River water conditions. Thao reported that 2017 was the third largest water year on record at about 244% of average. Flood releases were from January 27, 2017 through July 10, 2017. A comparison of last year's storage versus this year sees a sharp trend towards reaching the 1 million storage capacity mark. It is expected that the storage capacity mark will be breached by mid-May 2018. KRWA tracks daily snow pack with snow sensors. As of April 1, 2018, the snow pack is at 47% of average. Last year, 688,000 acre-feet of floodwater was lost on the Kings River system. Director Stretch noted that at SGMA meetings, he would always highlight that 700,000 acre feet of water is being lost on the Kings River system and about 2 million acre feet is being lost on the San Joaquin River system. Those are key figures when discussing SGMA or IRWM flood capture projects.

6. Director Reports

None.

7. Advisory Committee Report

Chair Burleson called on Advisory Committee vice Chair Bill Stretch to provide a report on Advisory Committee activities on March 21, 2018. Stretch reported that the Advisory Committee received staff reports, updates on the IRWM Plan Update and Prop 1 DAC Involvement Grant. The Committee conducted a call for nominations of a new Chair due to the departure of former Chair Lisa Koehn; however, no nominations were received. Vice Chair Stretch will continue to lead the Committee along with support of Authority staff until a new Chair is selected. New IRWMP projects and Storm Water Resources Plan projects were submitted to the Advisory Committee. Although the Committee was short of a quorum, the Committee did not voice any objections to the projects and provided general consensus to recommend that the Board approve the new projects to the IRWMP Project List and Storm Water Resources Plan Project List.

Chair Burleson provided an overview of the role of the Advisory Committee and stressed the importance of Members and Interested Parties continuing to send representatives to the Advisory Committee meetings. The Advisory Committee serves an important role in the governance of the Authority and is the first step where agencies may provide their input. Due to the vacancy of the Advisory Committee Chair, Chair Burleson asked Members and Interested Parties to consider who can step up to fill that vacancy.

8. 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.

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

engaging and gathering input in the development of program materials and processes. Among the various priorities of the Roundtable for 2018, Lee highlighted that due to the increasing lack of participation or interest in IRWM, the Roundtable will continue to discuss strategic ways to possibly rebrand IRWM or re-message IRWM to showcase the value and successes of IRWM. Eric Osterling shared that the Roundtable was originally just a sounding table; however, possibly due to capacity issues with DWR staff, DWR have been conducting exclusive engagements with the Roundtable and Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) IRWM subcommittee. The issue with this is that there is not many decision-making fairness. Oftentimes, the actions that comes from the group is driven by the person with the loudest voice, which typically has consisted of non-governmental agencies (NGOs) and coastal agencies that have the capacity to engage and drive policy. On the policy side, Osterling has been trying to work with DWR to see the disproportionate representation of areas around the state, especially the Tulare Lake Subbasin, and looking at ways to improve the Subbasin's representation.

Osterling continued on to report on the various tools being developed by NGOs and the scientific community to facilitate Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) planning. Several years ago, The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with DWR, developed a groundwater dependent ecosystems and interconnected streams tool, which has been made public. The Community Water Center received Proposition 1 funding to develop a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Vulnerability Assessment tool that looks at water quality and water supply issues and will be a GIS tool that can be utilized by the public. The timeline to complete this tool is December 2018. The Tulare Basin Watershed Collaborative is also putting together a tool focused on mapping riparian and wetland areas for possible land retirement.

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. Cristel Tufenkjian developed two separate handouts – one for indoor and one for outdoor. The handouts have one side printed in English and the other side in Spanish along with the name of all Members and Interested Parties printed at the bottom. The handouts are available to Authority Members and Interested Parties to take for outreach purposes.

d. Legislation – Cristel Tufenkjian reported on AB 2064 (Gloria) and AB 2060 (Garcia). Both bills aim to help with cash flow for DAC grants that comes through the IRWM Program such as providing advance payment for projects. Both bills have moved out of the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee and are now in the Appropriations Committee. Tufenkjian went on to report on Prop 68, which does not have IRWM specified funding, but has \$290 million for regional sustainability, which would fit into the goals of IRWM. The Gerry Meral bond will appear on the November 2018 ballot and specifies \$5 million for IRWM. Tufenkjian noted that the Authority has a policy in place where the Authority may draft a letter of support for the bond if it wishes to do so. After a light discussion, the Board provided direction to staff to write a letter of support for the bond by Gerry Meral.

e. Administrative Items – Osterling reported that Soua Lee will assume the role as Program Manager and would be the direct contact. However, any questions relating to policy can be directed at Eric Osterling or Cristel Tufenkjian. Osterling reiterated that the Board had adopted a policy for support and endorsement. Opposition to the Semitropic Tulare Lake Storage and Floodwater Protection Project was previously discussed at the October 18, 2017 Board meeting. Recently, Authority staff submitted a second letter of opposition to the Semitropic project. This project consists of taking Kings River floodwater and permanently banking it in Kern County.

f. Other – None.

9. Status and Discussion of Prop 1 Grants

- A. DAC Involvement – Lee reported that the Proposition 1 DAC Involvement Grant allocated \$3.4 million of noncompetitive funds to the Tulare-Kern Funding Area for engaging DACs in the IRWM planning process. About \$2 million of the \$3.4 million will be utilized for DAC project development. Tulare County is leading the implementation and coordination of this grant. In February 2018, Tulare County received a fully executed grant agreement from DWR. Additionally, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) as well as a contract with Provost & Pritchard for grant management services. A PAC kick-off meeting was scheduled for April 19, 2018 at the Tulare County Office.
- B. IRWMP Update – Lee reported that the IRWMP Update Workgroup has met several times to discuss and review the progress of the Plan update. To date, Provost & Pritchard has completed updates to the water quality chapter and is completing updates to climate change information present throughout the Plan. The IRWMP update is essentially almost complete. Agencies looking to add new projects to the IRWMP Project List should complete a Project Information Form, which can be downloaded from the kingsbasinauthority.org website.

In conjunction with the IRWMP update, the Authority is also developing a Storm Water Resources Plan that will cover the same boundaries as the IRWMP, but excludes areas already covered by the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District's functionally equivalent Storm Water Resource Plan.

Ronnie Samuelian stated that a draft Plan will be presented to the Advisory Committee and Board in June and July for review and comment. However, DWR has expressed willingness to review the draft Plan and provide their comment. Depending on DWR's input, the Board will not adopt the final Plan until DWR accepts that the Plan complies with the new standards.

- C. IRWMP Implementation Schedule – Lee provided an overview of the Prop 1 IRWM Implementation Grant solicitation schedule that was included in the agenda packet. In order to ready for the release of the final PSP, as soon as the draft PSP is released the Project Workgroup will reconvene to discuss the draft PSP and provide any comments. The Project Workgroup will then appoint a Project Review Panel, which will provide further review of the projects that will go into the grant application.

10. Request to Modify the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and Storm Water Resources Plan (SWRP) Project Lists

Lee reported that to save paper, the Project Information Forms for all new IRWM projects and Storm Water Resources Plan projects were removed from the printed agenda packet and published on the kingsbasinauthority.org website. Additionally, the Project Information Forms were originally included in the agenda packet that was emailed to all Members and Interested Parties with the public notice of meeting. Although the Advisory Committee did not have a quorum at their March 21, 2018 meeting, the Committee gave consensus to recommend to the Board the approval of eleven new IRWM Projects to the IRWMP Project List and sixteen new storm water projects to the Storm Water Resources Plan Project List. Director Fast asked for clarification as to whether the City of Selma Rockwell Pond Groundwater Recharge Project is located near a Consolidated Irrigation District (CID) recharge project. It was clarified that CID and the City likely made a land swap arrangement. It was moved by Alternate Director Peschel, seconded by Alternate Director Cameron and unanimously carried that the IRWMP Project List be modified to include the eleven new IRWM projects and the Storm Water Resources Plan Project List be modified to include the sixteen new storm water projects.

11. Request to Approve Quarterly Financial Reports

Randy Shilling provided an overview of the quarterly financial reports for the period October 1 – December 31, 2017 and January 1 – March 31, 2018. Shilling noted that as of March 31, 2018, all Members have paid their member fee. It was moved by Director Fast, seconded by Alternate Director Moore and unanimously carried that the quarterly financial reports be approved as presented.

12. Other Items for Discussion or Reporting

The next meeting on July 18, 2018 will include an agenda item to approve the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget in which a supermajority of the Board is needed to pass.

13. Next meeting date: July 18, 2018 at 9:30 am, at the Fresno County Farm Bureau

There being no further business, Chair Burleson adjourned the meeting at 10:56 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul G. Peschel
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved