

**Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority
Advisory Committee Minutes, December 17, 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 December 17, 2014.

1. Call to order

Advisory Committee Vice Chair Lisa Koehn called the meeting to order at 9:34 am.

Directors/Alternate Directors Present:

Steve Worthley, County of Tulare
Ken Moore, City of Kerman (alternate)
Dean Uota, City of Dinuba (alternate)
Bill Stretch, Fresno Irrigation District (alternate)
Phil Desatoff, Consolidated Irrigation District (alternate)
Lisa Koehn, City of Clovis (alternate)
Buzz Burleson, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

Members Absent:

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

Interested Parties Present:

Cruz Ramos, City of San Joaquin
Kathy Wood McLaughlin, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
Jim Andersen, Jr., Malaga County Water District
Shay Bakman, Bakman Water Company
Phil Desatoff, City of Kingsburg

Interested Parties Absent:

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

Liberty Canal Company
Liberty Water District
London Community Services District
Mid-Valley Water District
Orange Cove Irrigation District
Orosi Public Utilities 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
Terranova Ranch, Inc.
UC Cooperative Extension - Fresno

Others Present:

Eric Osterling, KRCD
Cristel Tufenkjian, KRCD
Ron Samuelian, Provost & Pritchard
Augustine Ramirez, County of Fresno
Brock Buche, Provost & Pritchard
Maria Herrera, Self-Help Enterprises
Joe Nave, CH2M Hill
Casey Creamer, Kings River Water Quality Coalition

2. Addition to or Deletion from the Agenda

None

3. Public Presentations

None

4. Approval of the September 17, 2014 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Director Worthley, seconded by Director Burleson and unanimously carried that the minutes of September 17, 2014 meeting of the Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

5. 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 Prop. 84 Round 2 Implementation and Flood Corridor grants are progressing. Osterling reported that the Local Levee Assistant grant is on hold until fiscal year 2014-15. Osterling reported that the California Water Foundation model project will be done in the first quarter of 2015.

Inter-regional and Statewide Coordination – Osterling reported that on November 6 in Clovis an IRMWP capacity building workshop was held by DWR to build capacity by participants in the IRWMP regions related to DACs, inform them of available planning tools and resources, and improve regional management. Osterling reported that he and Maria Herrera from Self-Help Enterprises attended a workshop in early December that brought together DAC pilot study grant recipients to extract lessons learned from the projects and create a sustainable vision for the future.

Public Information – Tufenkjian provided an overview of the activities conducted on behalf of the KBWA over the last year. Tufenkjian reported that the website, www.kingbasinauthority.org, was launched in July and since that time the site has had 1,042 visitors. Tufenkjian reported that some of the communication tools produced included a general awareness packet, land use planners kit and video. Tufenkjian reported that the video has had 221 views at the KBWA YouTube channel. Tufenkjian reported that the KBWA partnered with KRCD and the California Water Foundation in conducting the Groundwater Land Use Symposium held on October 29. Tufenkjian reported that over 200 people from the water management and land use sectors in the region participated. Tufenkjian reported that a twitter account was created this year, @KingsWater. The account has 140 followers and 540 tweets have been sent out. Tufenkjian reported that a number of presentations were made locally and at the state level during the fiscal year.

Legislation – Tufenkjian reported that the recently passed water bond contains \$34 million of regional funding for the Tulare Lake Basin Hydrologic Region. Tufenkjian reported that most of the funding will be allocated through DWR's grant process; however, the \$2.7 billion designated for water storage will be allocated through the California Water Commission. Tufenkjian reported that this will be a competitive public bidding process that ranks projects based on public benefits associated with water storage projects. Tufenkjian reported that public benefits include improving the operation of state water system, provide a net improvement in ecosystem and water quality conditions, and recreational purposes. Tufenkjian reported that a project will not be funded unless it provides measurable improvements to the Delta ecosystem or to the tributaries to the Delta. Tufenkjian reported that with regards to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), KRCD is working on a strategy for implementation of the SGMA. Tufenkjian reported that the first deadline for local agencies is June 30, 2017, which is the Notice of Intent to DWR to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) to cover a portion or all of a basin. Tufenkjian reported that KRCD has mostly been involved in education and initial outreach with local agencies. Tufenkjian reported that the KBWA Board held a workshop on November 7 that was well attended Tufenkjian reported that the initial work for implementing the Act is on forming the GSA. Tufenkjian reported that it is anticipated that discussions with stakeholders and local agencies will occur this year regarding the

structure of the Kings Basin GSA, whether it will be one or multiple GSAs, the role of the Kings Basin IRWMP, and possible governance structures.

Other – No report

6. Kings Basin Water Authority Fiscal Year 2013-14 Annual Report

Osterling reported that an electronic version of the report was distributed and comments are due back by Friday, December 19. Osterling reported that the goal is to present the report before the KBWA Board at their January 21 meeting. Vice Chair Koehn stated that the annual report is an opportunity to take credit for activities accomplished by the KBWA this last year. Osterling reported that the annual report also allows us to provide a real-time update of the Kings Basin IRWMP.

7. Identification of Advisory Committee Goals

Tufenkjian reported that the Advisory Committee at their September 17 meeting discussed the development of goals to focus the Committee's efforts in 2014-15. Tufenkjian reported that a joint meeting of the IRWMP Update and Outreach Work Groups was held on November 20 to develop suggested goals for the Advisory Committee to consider. Tufenkjian reported that the work groups identified two goals including the development of communication tools and messages to increase the visibility of the KBWA and to support the accomplishment of the IRWMP measurable objectives. Tufenkjian reported that some of the work products suggested by the work groups included theme-oriented messages that can be used by KBWA Members and Interested Parties through their various communication channels to promote the successes and efforts of the KBWA and simplified graphics that can visually communicate complex water systems and management in the Kings Basin. Tufenkjian reported that the second goal was to Position KBWA for Prop. 1 funding opportunities. Discussion followed regarding including messages that communicate the need to conserve despite the series of recent storms and messages to promote the successes of the KBWA. It was moved by Director Desatoff, and seconded by Director Worthley and unanimously carried that the draft goals be sent out to the Members and Interested Parties for review and refinement prior to presentation to the Board at their January 21 meeting.

8. Appointment of Advisory Committee Officers

Tufenkjian reported that a letter was included in the agenda packet from Brock Buche regarding his departure from the City of Fresno. Tufenkjian reported that this has left a vacancy in office of chair for the Advisory Committee. It was moved by Alternate Director Desatoff, and seconded by Director Burleson, and unanimously carried that Alternate Director Koehn be chair. With the vacancy of the office of vice chair, nominations for vice chair were presented from the committee. Alternate Director Desatoff nominated Alternate Director Uota. Alternate Director Stretch nominated Representative Boyer. It was moved by Director Worthley, and seconded by Desatoff, and carried by a majority that Alternate Director Uota be vice chair.

9. Request to modify the IRWMP Project List

The Advisory Committee approved the recommendation by the Project Work Group that the City of Reedley and Alta Irrigation District *Reedley Pond Project* be added to the IRWMP Project List.

10. Other Items for Discussion or Reporting

Cruz Ramos was congratulated on her pending retirement from the City of San Joaquin.

11. Next Meeting Date

Koehn noted that the next regularly scheduled meeting for the Advisory Committee was March 18, 2015 at 9:30 am at the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Koehn
Chair

Approved

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