

**Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority
Board meeting April 16, 2014
Fresno County Farm Bureau, 1274 W. Hedges, Fresno, 93728**

Notes of the Meeting of the Board of the Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (Water Authority) held April 16, 2014.

1. Call to order

Chair Harry Armstrong called the meeting to order at 9:33 am. Armstrong noted that there was not a quorum.

Directors/Alternate Directors Present:

Harry Armstrong, City of Clovis
Mary Fast, City of Reedley
Steve Worthley, County of Tulare
Dean Uota, City of Dinuba (alternate)
Buzz Burleson, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
Chris Kapheim, Alta Irrigation District

Members Absent:

City of Sanger
City of Parlier
City of Kerman
City of Selma
Fresno Irrigation District
County of Fresno
City of Fresno
Consolidated Irrigation District
Kings County Water District
Kings River Conservation District

Interested Parties Present:

John Mallyon, James Irrigation District, Mid-Valley Water District
Sue Ruiz, Easton Community Services District
Robert Nielsen, Liberty Canal Company, Liberty Water District
Charles Garabedian Jr., Malaga County Water District

Interested Parties Absent:

Biola Community Services District
California Native Plant Society, Sequoia Chapter
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
El Rio Reyes Trust
Fresno County Farm Bureau
Hardwick Water Company
Kings River Conservancy
Kings River Water Association

Laguna Irrigation 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.
Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners
UC Cooperative Extension - Fresno

Others Present:

Eric Osterling, KRCD
Ron Samuelian, Provost & Pritchard
Randy Shilling, KRCD
Cristel Tufenkjian, KRCD
Lisa Koehn, City of Clovis
Brian Trevarrow, KRCD
Denise Akins, County of Tulare
Jerry Lakeman, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control Dist.
Jim Anderson, Malaga County Water District
Bill Stretch, Fresno Irrigation District

2. Addition to or Deletion from the Agenda

Chair Armstrong moved Item 12 before Item 6.

3. Public Presentations

None

4. Approval of Minutes of the January 15, 2014 Board of Directors

This item was continued until the next scheduled Board meeting.

5. Advisory Committee Report

Chair Armstrong called on Eric Osterling to provide a report on Advisory Committee activities. Osterling reported that the Advisory Committee met on March 19. Osterling reported that the highlight document has been completed and is available to Water Authority members to use for presentations, meetings, and other Water Authority outreach events. Osterling reported that the Boundaries 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 will continue to meet and report back to the Advisory Committee. Osterling reported that the next Advisory Committee meeting will include the election of chair and vice chair.

12. Audit

Shilling called on Rod Pruett from Price Paige & Company to report on the auditor's report for the years ended June 30, 2013 and 2012. Pruett provided an overview of the auditor's responsibilities and the financial statements. Pruett reported that the auditor has given the Kings Basin Water Authority an unmodified opinion.

6. Budget Committee Report

Chair Armstrong called on Randy Shilling to provide a report on Budget Committee activities. Shilling reported that the Budget Committee has met to consider new membership criteria for smaller agencies. Shilling reported that the current buy-in cost of \$30,000 is a significant cost for smaller communities and agencies. Shilling reported that committee members also discussed providing an incentive for smaller organizations to join their contributions and together join as perhaps a JPA. The Committee is considering a lower contribution level for smaller agencies. Shilling reported that the Committee is drafting a proposal that will be presented to the Board at a future Board meeting.

7. 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 some of the Round 1 Implementation grant sub-contracts are near completion.

Inter-regional and Statewide Coordination – Osterling reported that Watershed Coordinator Kathy Wood McLaughlin's contract has been extended through August 15. Osterling called on Denise Akins to report on the Tulare Lake Basin DAC study. Akins reported that the study is almost completed. One more stakeholder meeting is scheduled and the draft report will be distributed for comment in June.

Public Information – Tufenkjian 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. Tufenkjian reported that the California Water Foundation grant communication materials are nearing completion and the next phase of outreach and presentations will be occurring this summer.

Legislation – Tufenkjian reported that several bills have been introduced in both the Senate and Assembly to revise the water bond. Tufenkjian reported that Kings River interests have communicated to the water bond bills' authors key elements that should be included in any water bond legislation including: 1. Storage funding in the 2014 water bond of \$3 billion should remain at

that level. 2. Delta Sustainability funding in the 2014 water bond of \$2.25 billion should remain at that level. 3. It is important to continue significant commitment to IRMWP funding in the water bond and that funding should be allocated across several of the IRWMP categories. 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. Tufenkjian reported that there are three bills that deal with IRWMPs that are being tracked: AB 2737 (Alejo), SB 1049 (Pavley) and AB 1731 (Perea).

Other – No report

8. 2014 Drought Grant Solicitation

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 balance of funds for our funding area is approximately \$16.2 million. Osterling reported that DWR will focus is to provide immediate regional drought preparedness; increase local water supply reliability and the delivery of safe drinking water; assist water suppliers and regions to implement conservation programs and measures that are locally cost-effective; and reduce water quality conflicts or ecosystem conflicts created by the drought. Osterling noted that the 2014 Solicitation includes no 10 percent funding commitment to DAC projects and the 25 percent match minimum remains. Osterling reported that DWR is seeking comments on the draft guidelines. Osterling reviewed the working schedule that included a May 20 deadline for KBWA pre-applications and May 30 Special Advisory and Board meeting to approve projects recommended by the Project Selection Panel. Osterling reported that there is a tentative due date for DWR grant applications of July 1. Osterling reported that links to the documents will be posted on the Water Authority's website.

9. Request to Authorize Use of Professional Services Funds

This item was continued until the next scheduled Board meeting.

10. Request Board Approval to Authorize Use of Professional Services Funds

This item was continued until the next scheduled Board meeting.

11. 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 IRMWP 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.

13. Request to approve quarterly financial reports

This item was continued until the next scheduled quarterly Board meeting.

14. Other items for discussion or reporting

Director Fast recommended that staff develop a policy to present to the Board regarding setting a minimum amount that IRWMP staff can use to conduct Kings Basin IRWMP-related business.

15. Next meeting date: July 16, 2014 at 9:30 am at the Fresno County Farm Bureau

Chair Armstrong reported that the next regularly scheduled meeting is on July 16 at the Fresno County Farm Bureau office.