

**Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority
Board Meeting October 18, 2017
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 October 18, 2017.

1. Call to order

Chair Burleson called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.

Directors/Alternate Directors Present:

Chad Wegley, Alta Irrigation District (alternate)
Lisa Koehn, City of Clovis (alternate)
Ken Moore, City of Kerman (alternate)
Mary Fast, City of Reedley
Frankie Olivares, City of Selma (alternate)
William Stretch, Fresno Irrigation District
Buzz Burleson, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
Paul G. Peschel, Kings River Conservation District (alternate)
Jerry Rai, Raisin City Water District

Members Absent:

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

Interested Parties Present:

Jim Maciel, Armona Community Services District
Aileen Poveda, Bakman Water Company
Dwight Miller, Biola Community Services District
Adriana Renteria, Community Water Center
Carole Combs, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners

Interested Parties Absent:

California Native Plant Society, Sequoia Chapter
California State University, Fresno
City of Kingsburg
City of Orange Cove
City of San Joaquin
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 Water Association
Kings River Conservancy
Laguna Irrigation District
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
Sultana Community Services District
Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter
Sierra Resource Conservation District
Terranova Ranch, Inc.
UC Cooperative Extension - Fresno

Others Present:

Alan Hofmann, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District	Abigail Solis, Self Help Enterprises
Randy Shilling, KRCD	Julianne Phillips, County of Kings
Cristel Tufenkjian, KRCD	Soua Lee, KRCD
Eric Osterling, KRCD	Ronnie Samuelian, Provost & Pritchard

2. Additions to or Deletions from the Agenda

None

3. Public Presentations

Adriana Renteria with Community Water Center invited Members and Interested Parties to an upcoming Groundwater Sustainability Plan Toolkit Workshop put on in collaboration with the Community of Concerned Scientists and Self Help Enterprises. Renteria also shared that there is \$9.5 million in grant funding available for drinking water in schools, such as upgrades to water fountain systems or water bottle filling stations. Priority will be given to small disadvantaged communities (DACs) during the first nine months. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has funding to provide technical assistance to small DACs with the application process.

4. Consider approval of the July 19, 2017 meeting minutes

It was moved by Alternate Director Peschel, seconded by Alternate Director Moore and unanimously carried that the minutes of the July 19, 2017 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved as presented.

5. Member/Interested Party Report

Chair Burluson called on Bill Stretch, Assistant General Manager of Fresno Irrigation District (FID), to present on the Semitropic Water Storage District's Tulare Lake Storage and Floodwater Protection Project. Stretch provided an overview of the proposed project and steps FID and partner agencies have taken to oppose the project. Stretch stated that FID and partner agencies have been coordinating with cities, counties and community services districts on opposition letters, but will also outreach to agencies that have not yet been contacted.

6. Director Reports

Chair Burluson reported that he participates on the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies. At the last meeting, the Directors voted unanimously to dissolve the agency. The reason is due to a lot of overlap with other water efforts and SGMA. If no opposition is received from voting members, the Directors will move forward with dissolving the agency. About \$8,000 in remaining agency funds will be transferred to the Central Valley Water Awareness Committee.

7. Advisory Committee Report

Chair Burluson called on Advisory Committee Chair Lisa Koehn to provide a report on Advisory Committee activities on September 20, 2017. Koehn reported that the Committee received staff reports and recommended four representatives from the Authority to serve on the Prop 1 DAC Involvement Program Project Advisory Committee. At the meeting, Representative Sue Ruiz with Self Help Enterprises shared her idea for a workshop where public and private investors or donors can work with DAC representatives to develop community projects and possibly walk away with funding. Ruiz asked for any feedback on this idea or connection to potential investors who would be interested in participating.

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, Prop 84, Round 2 Implementation Grant, and the Prop 1E Flood Corridor Grant.

b. Inter-regional and Statewide Coordination – Lee reported on the meeting between the Roundtable of Regions and DWR staff on September 21, 2017. DWR continues to solicit input from the Roundtable of Regions regarding changes in process to the upcoming Prop 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Program. Some noted changes includes the proposal to insert a condition in the Proposal Solicitation Package to require CEQA compliance and demonstration of funding for long term O&M prior to grant agreement execution. Another proposal is to implement a four step application review process which is meant provide an opportunity for DWR and the applicant to review and discuss the applicant's proposed projects before submittal of an application.

Eric Osterling reported on the California Water Plan Update 2018 Plenary that took place on September 27, 2017. The Plenary consisted of several panels, one of which Osterling participated on titled, “Enhancing the Connection between IRWM and SGMA.” The panel discussed the distinct aspect of IRWM vs SGMA and the foundation that IRWM has created for SGMA and other related programs. Osterling encouraged Authority members to closely follow the development of the Water Plan Update 2018 because the Water Plan will be a document that legislators will likely consider when drafting new bills.

Osterling also reported on the Headwaters to Groundwater Symposium put on by the Tulare Basin Watershed Connections Workgroup on October 12, 2017. Attendees comprised of upper and lower watershed water managers and academics. The symposium provided discussion on challenges occurring in the upper watershed that are and will continue to impact water supply and water quality down in the valley floor. Participants also explored ways to better coordinate on projects and support each other’s activities. Representative Carole Combs added that the results of the symposium are being evaluated by the core planning group and a survey will be sent out for more specific feedback.

c. Public Information – Lee reported that new water savings tip handouts will be printed and ready for distribution by the March 2018 Advisory Committee meeting.

d. Legislation – Osterling reported that SB 5 (De Leon), was signed by Governor Brown and will appear on the June 2018 ballot. SB 5 does not include specific allocations to IRWM, but there is \$240 million in the bond earmarked for water sustainability type projects that IRWMs may potentially be able to access. Other bills related to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies includes AB 321 (Mathis) which specifically called out farmers, ranchers, and dairy professionals to allow them to have a voice and seat at the table for groundwater sustainability plan development. Although under current law, beneficial users already have a place at the table.

Julianne Phillips with the County of Kings shared that AB 313 (Gray) was vetoed by Governor Brown. The bill aimed to lessen the concentration of power by designating an administrative law judge to oversee water rights disputes before they reach the State Water Resources Control Board.

e. Administrative Items – None to report.

f. Other – None to report.

9. Status and Discussion of Prop 1 Grants

a. IRWMP Update – Lee reported that the IRWMP Update Workgroup met on September 19th to review and discuss the progress of the Plan update. Provost & Pritchard continues to draft the project selection criteria for the Storm Water Resource Plan and is researching existing or planned projects within the Authority’s boundaries that treats or remediates the contaminants listed in AB 1249. Lee also provided a reminder that a call for projects was issued on September 20th with a due date of November 17, 2017.

b. DAC Involvement – Lee reported that DWR issued the County of Tulare a signed award letter on September 19th and is working with DWR to execute a grant agreement.

10. Recommendation to Approve Resolution No. 17-01

Lee referred to Resolution No. 17-01 included in the agenda packet and provided an overview of the reasons for the Resolution. It was moved by Director Fast, seconded by Alternate Director Koehn and unanimously carried that the Authority adopt Resolution No. 17-01 to authorize the following individuals to serve on the Prop 1 DAC Involvement Project Advisory Committee: Eric Osterling, KRCD, as the primary IRWM representative; Soua Lee, KRCD, as the alternate IRWM representative; Jim Maciel, Armona Community Services District, as the primary DAC representative; and Eduardo Antunez, Biola Community Services District, as the alternate DAC representative.

11. Review Insurance Coverage of the KBWA and Request to Approve Quarterly Financial Reports

a. Review Insurance Coverage – Randy Shilling referred to the general liability coverage documents included in the agenda packet and provided an overview of general liability coverage. Coverage will be renewed annually in May 2018.

b. Consider Approval of Quarterly Financial Report – Shilling provided an overview of the quarterly financial reports for the period July 1 – September 30, 2017. Shilling noted that the County of Tulare paid their member dues and the Easton Community Services District paid voluntary administrative fees to the Authority. The Board discussed the possibility of issuing a request for proposal next year for a new auditor. It was moved by Director Stretch, seconded by Alternate Director Peschel and unanimously carried that the quarterly financial reports be approved as presented.

12. Other Items for Discussion or Reporting

None to report.

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

There being no further business, Chair Burleson adjourned the meeting at 10:49 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul G. Peschel
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved