

**Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority
Board meeting January 15, 2014
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 January 15, 2014.

1. Call to order

Chair Harry Armstrong called the meeting to order at 9:31 am. Armstrong noted that there was a quorum.

Directors/Alternate Directors Present:

Harry Armstrong, City of Clovis
Ken Moore, City of Kerman (alternate)
Phillip Desatoff, Consolidated Irrigation District (alternate)
Gary Serrato, Fresno Irrigation District (alternate)
Steve Worthley, County of Tulare
David Cehrs, Kings River Conservation District
Dean Uota, City of Dinuba (alternate)
Buzz Burleson, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
Dennis Mills, Kings County Water District (alternate)

Members Absent:

City of Sanger
City of Parlier
City of Reedley
City of Selma
Alta Irrigation District
County of Fresno
City of Fresno

Interested Parties Present:

Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove
David Cehrs, El Rio Reyes Trust, Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter
Scott Sills, Laguna Irrigation District
Kathy Wood McLaughlin, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners
Phil Desatoff, City of Kingsburg

Interested Parties Absent:

Biola Community Services District
California Native Plant Society, Sequoia Chapter
City of San Joaquin
Community Water Center
County of Kings
Cutler Public Utilities District
Easton Community Services District
East Orosi Community Services District
Fresno County Farm Bureau
Hardwick Water Company
James Irrigation District
Kings River Conservancy
Kings River Water Association
Laguna Irrigation District

Liberty Canal Company
Liberty Canal Company
London Community Services District
Malaga County Water 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 Resource Conservation District
Sultana Community Services District
Terranova Ranch, Inc.
UC Cooperative Extension - Fresno

Others Present:

Eric Osterling, KRCD
Ron Samuelian, Provost & Pritchard
Randy Shilling, KRCD
Cristel Tufenkjian, KRCD
Lisa Koehn, City of Clovis
Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley

2. Addition to or Deletion from the Agenda

None

3. Public Presentations

Chair Armstrong called on Director Cehrs to provide a presentation on groundwater. Cehrs reported on the dry weather, groundwater overdraft, and the need for recharge. Cehrs discussed several types of recharge methods. Cehrs reported on research that was conducted by the Agricultural Research Service Water Management Research Lab on shallow and deep well recharge. Cehrs recommended that the Water Authority consider grants and pilot projects using shallow and deep well recharge methods. Chair Armstrong requested that Water Authority staff member Eric Osterling consider possible grants for the recharge methods discussed by Director Cehrs.

4. Approval of Minutes of the October 16, 2013 Board of Directors

It was moved by Director Burleson, seconded by Director Worthley, and unanimously carried that the minutes of October 16, 2013 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved as presented.

5. Advisory Committee Report

Chair Armstrong called on Eric Osterling to provide a report on Advisory Committee activities. Osterling reported that the DAC Work Group worked on a proposal in response to DWR funding allocated for technical assistance. Osterling reported that the proposal was submitted and the communities recommended for funding were the cities of Lanare and Orange Cove. Osterling stated that if any funding is left over the Orange Center School will be included. Both projects were identified in the Kings Basin DAC Pilot Project Study. Osterling reported that the Outreach Work Group members have been providing comments on communication tools that are being developed by KRCD through a California Water Foundation grant. Tufenkjian reported that the communication tools will be completed in early 2014 and an educational outreach is scheduled for Spring 2014. Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners representative Kathy Wood McLaughlin reported that their organization received a grant from the Fresno Regional Foundation to provide outreach to land use planners. Osterling reported that through the California Water Foundation grant, a separate website is being developed that will include land use planner outreach information. The website will be a stand-alone website for the Water Authority. Osterling reported that in conjunction with the website development, Water Authority staff members have developed a Twitter account, @kingwater. Osterling reported that the purpose of the Twitter account is to expand the visibility of the Water Authority, inform the public about the Water Authority and IRWMP-centric topics, promote Water Authority achievements and activities, and ensure that accurate information is conveyed to the public. Osterling reported that Water Authority social media accounts will be managed by Water Authority staff members and only information about Water Authority projects, programs, events and the Kings Basin IRWMP Goals and Objectives will be posted along with related statewide IRWMP activities and topics. Discussions followed regarding posting information that is aligned with Water Authority Board positions and policies.

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 Proposition 50 Round 2 is completed. Osterling reported that he is working on invoices for other Water Authority grants.

Inter-regional and Statewide Coordination – Osterling reported that the Water Authority was one of eleven IRMWPs invited to present at a State Water Resources Control Board workshop in Spring 2014. Osterling reported that the Tulare Lake Basin IRWMP Discussion Group has formed a Boundaries Work Group to discuss the white areas within the Tulare Lake Basin Hydrologic Region. Osterling reported that he will be participating in the Boundaries Work Group. Osterling reported that based on the outcomes of this work group, he will follow up with the Water Authority to present any potential boundary changes for the Water Authority.

Public Information – Tufenkjian reported that a press release was included in the packet about the Kings Basin DAC Pilot Project Study. Tufenkjian reported that the Valley Voice newspaper picked up the story and that the Fresno Bee is interested in doing a story. Chair Armstrong suggested that Tufenkjian contact the Business Journal regarding the press release. Tufenkjian presented the General Awareness Packet which is one of the tools that was developed through the California Water Foundation grant. Tufenkjian reported a Kings Basin water supply and demand visual that was developed by Provost & Pritchard with funding provided by the Proposition 84 Planning Grant was reviewed by the Advisory Committee members. Tufenkjian stated that the visual will be updated to reflect the suggestions of the committee members.

Legislation – Tufenkjian reported that there is a lot of positioning in the legislature on the water bond. Several bills have been introduced in both the Senate and Assembly to revise the water bond. Tufenkjian reported that all of the bills along with an ACWA version decrease the water bond amount. Tufenkjian reported that AB1249 (Salas) Integrated regional water management plans: nitrate contamination has been newly amended. Tufenkjian reported that this bill would require an integrated regional water management plan to include an explanation of how the plan addresses nitrate contamination, or an explanation of why the plan does not address nitrate contamination, if an area within the boundaries of the plan has been identified as a nitrate high-risk area by the State Water Resources Control Board. The bill would also require the Department of Water Resources when selecting projects for the available grant funds to establish a preference for projects that implement integrated regional water management plans that address nitrate impacts in areas identified as nitrate high-risk areas. Tufenkjian reported that concerns are what impacts will this have on IRMWPs. Tufenkjian reported that Governor's office released the California Water Action Plan for public review and comment. The Action Plan is a comprehensive approach to address state water issues. The Action Plan includes a groundwater section that promotes local and regional management of groundwater but with additional authorities to be granted to local entities. It also proposes that the State can provide oversight if local management agencies are not succeeding in managing the groundwater in a sustainable manner. Tufenkjian reported that a draft Work Plan for Groundwater was released by the State Water Resources Control Board for comments. The Work Plan identifies elements of groundwater management including thresholds, funding, governance, enforcement, and data collection and reporting. Osterling reported that the Governor's proposed budget includes \$472.5 million for IRMWPs.

Other – Osterling reported that the California Rural Water Association (CRWA) has offered to make a presentation on the work they are doing with IRMWPs providing technical assistance to DACs. Osterling reported that a workshop that will include the DACs Work Group will be scheduled.

7. Kings Basin IRWMP Measurable Objectives Update

Osterling reported that this is a new 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.

8. Request to approve quarterly financial reports

Chair Armstrong called on staff member Randy Shilling to provide an overview of the quarterly financial reports for the period of October 1 – December 31, 2013. Shilling reported that the Advisory Committee has asked the Budget Committee to provide the Board a recommendation on membership funding criteria for additional public agency categories. Shilling reported that the Budget Committee will be meeting to develop this recommendation. Shilling provided an overview of the quarterly financial reports included in the agenda packet. Shilling reported that three grant payments were received for the quarter. It was moved by Director Moore, and seconded by Director Burleson, and unanimously carried to approve the quarterly financial reports.

9. Other items for discussion or reporting

Osterling reported that in addition to considering a new membership funding criteria, the Advisory Committee has also discussed reviewing the governance structure of the Water Authority. Osterling also reported that a Boundaries Work Group will be formed to discuss the possibility of changing the Water Authority's boundaries. Director Dennis Miller reported that when the boundaries were originally drawn to include Kings County Water District, it had excluded Lakeside Irrigation Water District, which is within Kings County Water District's boundary. Miller is requesting that Lakeside be included in the Water Authority's boundary. Miller reported that Lakeside is an overlap area. Miller stated that Lakeside is a Kings and Kaweah rivers water contractor and is included in both groundwater management plans. Osterling reported that the Boundaries Work Group will discuss this issue and provide a recommendation.

Tufenkjian reported that there are eight agencies that need to adopt the Kings Basin IRWMP.

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

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

It was moved by Director Serrato, and seconded by Director Burlison, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, Chair Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 10:39 am.

Respectfully submitted,

David Orth
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved

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