

## **MINUTES**

### **NKGSA Advisory Committee Meeting**

**March 12, 2021**

**\*\*Clovis Public Safety Building**

### **VIA TELECONFERENCE:**

#### **In attendance:**

\*Scott Redelfs – City of Clovis

\*Shay Bakman – Bakman Water Co.

\*Brock Buche – City of Fresno

\*Glenn Allen – Fresno County

\*Adam Claes – FID

\*Peter Sanchez – FMFCD

\*Nick Keller – Garfield Water District

Kassy Chauhan – NKGSA

Andrew Aller – NKGSA (legal counsel)

Paul Armendariz – City of Clovis

Kristen Freberg – City of Clovis

Brandy Swisher – FMFCD

Ronnie Samuelian – Provost & Pritchard

Dao Lor – ABIRC

Lisa Koehn – Clovis

Mike Prandini – BIA

\* - Voting representative on Advisory Committee

***\*\*Note:** This meeting was conducted via web conference due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements.*

**Item 1 – Called to order at 1:30 PM**

Special Instructions:

Special teleconferencing procedures for the Advisory Committee meeting were read by Executive Officer, Kassy Chauhan. The special instructions included information on written and verbal comments for the Advisory Committee members and members of the public participating via teleconference.

Following the special teleconference instructions, a roll call vote was taken with the following results:

<b>Agency Name</b>	<b>Name of Person</b>	<b>Present/Absent</b>
Bakman Water Company	Shay Bakman	Present
Biola CSD	-	Absent
City of Clovis	Scott Redelfs	Present
City of Fresno	Brock Buche	Present
City of Kerman	-	Absent
Fresno County	Glenn Allen	Present
Fresno Irrigation District	Adam Claes	Present
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District	Peter Sanchez	Present
Garfield Water District	Nick Keller	Present
International Water District	-	Absent

**Item 2 – Approval of Minutes from 02/12/21 Meeting**

Motion by member Claes to approve the minutes; second by member Allen.

Committee votes as follows:

Bakman: Aye      Buche: Aye      Claes: Aye      Keller: Aye  
 \*Armendariz: Aye      Allen: Aye      Sanchez: Aye  
 (Biola, City of Kerman, and International absent)

*\*Paul Armendariz voted on behalf of Chairman Redelfs due to filling in as the City of Clovis representative at the 02/12/21 meeting.*

7 Aye; 3 Absent. Motion passed.

**Item 3 – Receive – Basin Coordination Update**

(Update presented by Ronnie Samuelian)

The Kings is recommended for full funding (\$4.8 million) in the draft recommendation. Additional money (\$60 million) is potentially available in the draft budget. If approved, it would likely be available in mid-summer.

The annual report is in progress and is due on April 1<sup>st</sup> for Water Year '20 (October 2019 – September 2020).

Information gathering for the representative monitor well network is continuing. Spring '21 water level readings are being collected and should be completed soon.

**Item 4 – Financial Update**

(Update presented by Lisa Koehn)

**Item 4a – Discussion/Possible Action – Recommend Approval of the January 2021 Expense Report – Action Item**

Expenses for the month of January 2021 totaled \$28,993.22. Major expenses went to legal fees, FID, KRCD for public information, and Provost & Pritchard.

**Item 4b – Discussion/Possible Action – Recommend Approval of the Financial Statements as of January 31, 2021 – Action Item**

The balance sheet shows total assets of \$971,816.01. The income statement shows total expenses for the fiscal year to date at \$230,214.91. Budget revisions are coming up in April, as well as the interested party billing. The proposed budget for the next fiscal year will be done in May.

Detailed versions of both financial reports were included in the meeting packet.

Motion by member Buche to recommend approval of both of the preceding reports together; second by member Claes.

Committee votes as follows:

Bakman: Aye	Buche: Aye	Claes: Aye	Keller: Aye
Redelfs: Aye	Allen: Aye	Sanchez: Aye	

*(Biola, City of Kerman, and International absent)*

7 Aye; 3 Absent. Motion passed.

## **Item 5 – Administrative**

(Update presented by Kassy Chauhan)

### **Item 5a – NKGSA New Well Review Policy – NKGSA 2021-001 – Update**

The new well review policy was approved by the Board of Directors on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Since then, there have been multiple outreach efforts to get the word out about the new policy. A formal request has been submitted to the permitting agencies for the additional review time and coordination on incoming well permit applications.

A driller meeting has been scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>. This will be the second discussion with drillers; the previous one was about 6 months ago. This is meant to be an informative meeting to alert drillers to additional review time required by GSAs. It will also address any questions the drillers may have. The meeting will be recorded so that those who can't attend live will still be able to access the information. The last driller meeting had about 30 attendees.

## **Item 6 – Workgroup Updates and Actions**

(Update presented by Kassy Chauhan)

The member agency reporting policy will likely be brought back to the Advisory Committee at the May meeting. Right now, the groundwater impact analyses are wrapping up and follow-up meetings with member agencies are being scheduled. The groundwater mitigation responsibilities should be finalized in late April and then a draft policy will be written in late April or early May.

As discussed in the February Advisory Committee meeting, a signing & spending authority policy is being developed. A draft should be available for review by the Committee in April.

In regard to drafting the signing and spending authority policy, Kassy provided some historical background. When the NKGSA was formed, it was agreed upon that NKGSA was going to use FID policies to govern their operations, at least until

they developed and adopted their own. NKGSA currently uses FID Purchasing Policy 130-403 in regards to spending authority. The policy indicates that major purchases over \$5,000 need to be approved by the Board of Directors if they were excluded from the budget process. Expenditures within the approved budget up to a certain limit are approved without the need for secondary Board approval.

The following table from the working draft of the signing and spending authority policy was shared:

Position	Expenditures Within Approved Annual Budget	Other Items *
Board of Directors	> \$100,000.00	> \$5,000.00
Executive Officer	\$100,000.00	\$5,000.00

Chairman Redelfs commented that the \$5,000 limit is consistent with FID policy but inquired as to whether the other amounts listed are. Kassy responded that FID policy does not identify the other limits and that the numbers were included to gather initial feedback and discussion. It was discussed that any dollar limits should be discussed with legal counsel to ensure that all legal guidelines are appropriately followed in the finalized policy.

Member Buche commented that with City of Fresno, any purchase over \$50,000 needs to go to City Council for approval, and he felt that would be a more consistent limit. Chairman Redelfs added that this was similar to City of Clovis policy requiring anything \$60,000 or over be approved by City Council and be signed by the City Manager. Kassy said this was helpful feedback and she would keep these in mind as the draft policy moves forward.

#### **Item 7 – Executive Officer Update**

(Update presented by Kassy Chauhan)

##### **Item 7a – Member Agency Mitigation Responsibility Update**

Follow-up meetings with member agencies are being scheduled in April. There will be a large group meeting at the end of April. The mitigation responsibility policy is targeted to come before the Advisory Committee in May.

##### **Item 7b – Outreach Update**

###### **i. Kings Basin Coordinated Outreach**

Domestic well owners have continued to be a main focus. There have been discussions with Self-Help Enterprises about doing canvassing in targeted areas. There have also been discussions with Fresno State about developing some educational programs. The brochure developed for domestic well owners has been helpful.

The webinar for schools has been scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup> and will serve as a reintroduction of SGMA to school personnel, especially those on their own public water system. The State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance has approved offering continuing education units for that webinar. KRCD is assisting with the planning of the webinar.

There is continued participation in the San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Plan. The group consists of five caucus groups representing different interest areas. The problem statements are being submitted for use in the development of a singular problem statement. Facilitation services will be used in finalizing the overall problem statement and the solutions document.

#### **Item 7c – External Affairs Update**

Social media presence continues to be strong. Blog posts are going out following meetings or other significant events, such as this week's Groundwater Awareness Week.

#### **Item 7d – Representative Monitoring Network Update**

Gathering of construction information is continuing, but there are access issues with some wells, even with the small diameter cameras. Because irrigation season is coming up, taking wells offline for significant periods of time to gather data is not feasible for most well owners. Some information may not be gathered until the fall.

For the water level monitoring network, there are five remaining sites to visit to determine if the small diameter camera will work. There are 10 wells that construction information is still needed for.

For the water quality monitoring network, all sites have been visited, but there are 6 wells that are missing construction information.

The City of Fresno and FID are working on the spring water level measurements. Some alternate sites will be needed and potential alternates are being identified.

**Item 7e – Miscellaneous**

The finalized AEM survey results are still pending, but early results look promising. The pilot study is posted on the California Natural Resources Agency's website.

The State Water Resources Control Board has prepared a climate change report on climate change and its applicability to water rights. The report's comment deadline has been extended from March 10<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>, and a workshop will be held on March 18<sup>th</sup>. There are some concerns about how the recommendations in that report could affect access to certain water sources for some GSAs. A coordinated comment letter may be coming out soon in response to the report.

The Well Standards Technical Advisory Committee had a kick-off meeting earlier in March. The subcommittee meetings have been scheduled and will be held frequently over the next few months. Draft standards will be developed and released for public comment, and then the subcommittees will reconvene to address any comments received. It's roughly a 2-year process for updating the well standards.

There are a lot of new well permit applications coming in. Kassy is working on refining a tracking procedure for these.

The outreach that Fresno County did to White Areas has resulted in a lot of inquiries and feedback from affected residents.

**Item 8 – Public Comments**

No public comments were received.

**Item 9 – Advisory Committee Member Comments**

No member comments were received.

**Item 10 – Adjourned**

Motion by member Claes to adjourn; second by member Buche. Meeting adjourned at 2:27 PM.

**Item 11 – Future Meetings**

The future meeting schedule is as follows:

- a. April 9, 2021