

MINUTES

NKGSA Advisory Committee Meeting

September 11, 2020

**Clovis Public Safety Building

VIA TELECONFERENCE:

In attendance:

*Scott Redelfs – City of Clovis

*Shay Bakman – Bakman Water Co.

*Brock Buche – City of Fresno

*Roy Jimenez – Fresno County

*Adam Claes – FID

*Alan Hofmann – FMFCD

Kassy Chauhan – NKGSA

Kevin Dale – NKGSA (legal counsel)

Ronnie Samuelian – Provost & Pritchard

Paul Armendariz – City of Clovis

Kristen Freberg – City of Clovis

DeAnn Hailey – FID

Lisa Koehn – Clovis

Rick McCombs – Bermad Inc.

* - 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 1:32 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:

Agency Name	Name of Person	Present/Absent
Bakman Water Company	Shay Bakman	Present
City of Clovis	Scott Redelfs	Present
City of Fresno	Brock Buche	Present
Fresno County	Roy Jimenez	Present
Fresno Irrigation District	Adam Claes	Present
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District	Alan Hofmann	Present
Biola CSD	-	Absent
City of Kerman	-	Absent
Garfield Water District	-	Absent
International Water District	-	Absent

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes from 08/14/20 Meeting

Motion by member Hofmann to approve; second by member Buche.

Committee votes as follows:

Bakman: Aye	Jimenez: Aye	<i>(Biola, Kerman, Garfield, & International absent)</i>
Redelfs: Aye	Claes: Aye	
Buche: Aye	Hofmann: Aye	

6 Aye; 4 Absent. Motion passed.

Item 3 – Receive – Basin Coordination Update

(Update presented by Ronnie Samuelian)

GSA's are moving forward with videoing wells and constructing new monitor wells. Preparations are being made for Fall data collection, including coordinating with DWR to receive some of their data. The Basin has met to discuss the pending SGMA Implementation Grant. Only one application may be submitted per subbasin and the application can only request up to \$5 million for the entire subbasin. To be eligible, the project must be one that benefits human rights to water or that serves smaller communities, and the project must be listed in the GSP. Projects will be solicited from the GSA's and will be due at the end of this month. Templates have been sent out to the GSA's already.

GSA's are working to prepare rules and regulations. The Basin is also working to finalize changes to the Data Management System for data collected for the annual report. DWR has requested that each Basin have a single point of contact; for the San Joaquin Valley, that is 11 points of contacts. That group had its quarterly call with DWR to discuss various issues, including the GSP review/comment process. Basins with multiple GSPs are likely to be the last to receive DWR comments, so it may be closer to the end of the 2-year period before we receive all of DWR's comments for our Basin.

Item 4 – Financial Update

Item 4a – Discussion on FY 2019-2020 Audit

(Presented by DeAnn Hailey)

The 2019-2020 Audit was completed by Hudson Henderson & Company and the change in percentages from January 31st to February 1st were completed during that audit. There were no discrepancies or items of concern found during the audit. This auditor has been contracted to complete three audits, which are now complete. For future audits, either an RFP process will be needed to select a new auditor moving forward, or the Board can choose to continue with this auditor. That decision will be brought to the Board at the next meeting.

Item 4b – Discussion/Possible Action on Member Agency Cost Share Agreement – Consideration of Revisions

(Presented by Lisa Koehn)

In terms of the history of the cost share, prior to the JPA agreement being

completed and approved, many options for cost sharing were considered. Ultimately, the split was based on \$75,000 per seat with a total of 7 seats (total of \$525,000) and a balance of \$475,000 to be split based on pumpage (per \$1 million of cost). Garfield Water District and International Water District split the cost of one seat. Pinedale, City of Kerman, Biola CSD, CSUF, and Bakman Water Company split the cost of two seats (for a per agency cost-share of \$30,000). Biola could not afford their entire seat cost due to their size, so their contribution was capped at \$15,000 per \$1 million of cost. The full budget for the first three years was expected to be \$2 million. The balance of Biola's cost was split equally between FID, City of Fresno, Fresno County, and City of Clovis. Pinedale opted not to become a voting member. Rather than adjusting percentages, the cap's maximum for the first 3 years was reduced to \$1,935,220 to account for the absence of Pinedale's cost share. CSUF never approved the JPA and subsequently did not pay into their cost share. Per the JPA, the initial cost allocations were for the first 3 years, through January 2020 or until plan completion.

During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the Fiscal/Administrative Ad-Hoc Committee met several times to discuss possible cost allocations for the period after January 2020. The proposals were presented to the Technical Ad Hoc Committee in May 2019 and a final recommendation was presented to the Advisory Committee in June 2019. Ongoing administrative expenses were proposed to be allocated to the member agencies based on two options: (1) ½ split based on board seats, ½ split based on land area of current service area; and (2) equal assessment per acre of current service area. The NKGSA Board approved the second option. Under the revised proposal, additional voluntary contributions based on area with a minimum of \$250 would be assessed to the interested parties. Two options were considered: (1) GSA would collect admin cost from landowners via a Prop 218 election; and (2) GSA would invoice agencies with no direct bill to landowners. The NKGSA Board approved the second option. The proposal was officially approved by the NKGSA Board on June 27th, 2019.

Currently, each agency pays the same per-acre cost based on current acreage. New percentages took effect on February 1, 2020, as approved by the NKGSA Board. Year 1 of GSP implementation has seen GSA expenses similar to the prior year's expenses, but future GSA expenses could decrease.

Member Claes stated concern about the current cost-share arrangement and the allocation percentages, including how high FID's cost-share has become. The level of expense was unexpected and has prompted a concern that the allocations should be looked at again and perhaps revised. Member Buche stated a shared concern, particularly in regards to the fact that the membership fees are mostly equal across all member agencies, except for two who are paying about half of that amount. Executive Officer Chauhan mentioned that there may be cost savings in future budgets, as this year's operating expenses include projects such as establishing the well monitoring network and funding a legal defense fund reserve.

Motion made by member Buche to form a workgroup to revisit the cost allocations; second by member Claes.

Committee votes as follows:

Bakman: Aye	Jimenez: Aye	<i>(Biola, Kerman, Garfield, &</i>
Redelfs: Aye	Claes: Aye	<i>International absent)</i>
Buche: Aye	Hofmann: Abstain	

5 Aye; 1 Abstain; 4 Absent. Motion passed.

Item 5 – Executive Officer Update

(Update presented by Kassy Chauhan)

Item 5a – Funding Opportunities

i. DWR Prop 68: SGMA Grant Program Implementation – Round 1

The Kings Subbasin met to discuss the scoring criteria, including the emphasis on human right to water and service to disadvantaged or underrepresented communities (DACs and URCs). The member agencies' projects are being reviewed for possible inclusion in the grant application. Additional rounds of funding will be available in the future.

Item 5b – GSP Public Comment Update

The author group met last week to review the GSP, but at this point, they are waiting for DWR's final review. Because there are multiple GSPs and

GSAs in our Basin, we will likely experience a longer wait time for DWR's review.

Item 5c – Member Agency Mitigation Responsibility Update

Individual member agencies will be contacted regarding member agencies' responsibility for percentage of overdraft. A modified procedure is being considered and work is being done with Provost & Pritchard on this. Individual meetings will be held with member agencies to discuss prior to a large group meeting to finalize the procedure.

Item 5d – External Affairs Update

Efforts to increase social media presence are continuing. The goal is to have at least 2 posts to social media per month. KRCD has been assisting with developing content for these posts, as well as developing outreach campaigns to help clarify and educate people on what's included in the GSP.

Item 5e – Representative Monitoring Network Update

A few additional monitor sites have been "inherited" from DWR, who was previously measuring them – five DWR locations and one location measured by the Bureau of Reclamation. Confirmation is pending from the Bureau of Reclamation that they will be continuing to measure that site, but DWR has stated that they will no longer be monitoring the five sites mentioned. These sites will be incorporated into the monitoring network that FID is currently overseeing.

FID has been entering into agreements with well owners for inspections. One agreement has been executed so far; another one is currently in progress. If inoperable wells are discovered during inspections, there will be an evaluation of whether an alternative site needs to be identified.

There is only one well in the water quality monitoring network for which we do not currently have construction information. The network will hopefully be completed in the next few months.

Item 5f – Miscellaneous

The subsidence monitoring agreement with KRCD (which is a cost-share agreement) has been approved by the NKGSA Board. The GSP identified

the need for this information from KRCD. The subsidence monitoring comes out of the “Professional Services by Others” line item of the budget, whereas the social media work that KRCD is doing comes out of the “Public Relations” line item.

County coordination discussions are ongoing and will be held on a quarterly basis moving forward. The data management system is nearly finalized. There is also an effort underway to create an official roster for the Advisory Committee, identifying the member and the alternate for each member agency. This is something that will be updated on an annual basis.

Item 6 – Workgroup Updates and Actions

Item 6a – Policy Workgroup

The first meeting of this workgroup has been scheduled for September 24th, 2020 at 10:30 AM. Participants have been identified but exact members are still pending. The current roster is as follows:

- City of Clovis: Paul Armendariz
- Fresno County: Glenn Allen
- FID: Adam Claes
- Kings River Drilling: Tom Krazan
- Maricopa Orchards: Lindsay Cederquist
- Members of the public: Sayre McFarland-Miller, Dr.
David Cehrs
- Private well owners: Lisa Koehn

Updates from this workgroup will be provided to the Advisory Board monthly, and hopefully by the end of the year, there will be draft policies for new wells and member agency reporting that can be submitted for consideration.

Item 6b – Outreach and Education Workgroup

This workgroup has not yet been formed. KRCD has been consulted regarding the possibility of a cost-share with member agencies for this type of work. An update will be presented after KRCD’s input has been received.

Item 7 – Public Comments

No public comments were received.

Item 8 – Advisory Committee Member Comments

Chairman Redelfs inquired regarding the reconvening of in-person meetings. As all of the previously used spaces for the in-person meetings remain closed to the public, it is uncertain at this time when they can be resumed. The meetings will continue to be held remotely for the immediately foreseeable future.

Item 9 – Adjourned

Motion by member Hofmann to adjourn; second by member Claes. Meeting adjourned at 2:29 PM

Item 10 – Future Meetings

The future meeting schedule is as follows:

- a. October 8, 2020
- b. November 13, 2020
- c. December 11, 2020