

MINUTES

NKGSA Advisory Committee Meeting

October 9, 2020

****Clovis Public Safety Building**

VIA TELECONFERENCE:

In attendance:

*Scott Redelfs – City of Clovis	Kevin Dale – NKGSA (legal counsel)
*Shay Bakman – Bakman Water Co.	Brandy Swisher – FMFCD
*Brock Buche – City of Fresno	Paul Armendariz – City of Clovis
*Glenn Allen – Fresno County	Kristen Freberg – City of Clovis
*Adam Claes – FID	Ronnie Samuelian – Provost & Pritchard
*Peter Sanchez – FMFCD	Sue Ruiz
*Eduardo Antunez – Biola CSD	Lisa Koehn – Clovis
*John Jansons – City of Kerman	Mike Prandini – BIA
*Nick Keller – Garfield Water District	Diane Merrill – League of Women Voters
Kassy Chauhan – NKGSA	

* - 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:

Agency Name	Name of Person	Present/Absent
Bakman Water Company	Shay Bakman	Present
Biola CSD	Eduardo Antunez	Present
City of Clovis	Scott Redelfs	Present
City of Fresno	Brock Buche	Present
City of Kerman	John Jansons	Present
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 09/11/20 Meeting

Member Claes noted that there was a correction to Item 6a of the minutes from the 09/11/20 meeting. Two of the Policy Workgroup members' names had been misspelled. Their names will be corrected to the proper spelling in the finalization of the minutes.

Motion by member Claes to approve with noted corrections made to the minutes; second by member Buche.

Committee votes as follows:

Bakman: Aye	Buche: Aye	Claes: Aye
Antunez: Abstain	Jansons: Abstain	Sanchez: Abstain
Redelfs: Aye	Allen: Abstain	Keller: Abstain

(International absent)

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

Item 3 – Receive – Basin Coordination Update
(Update presented by Ronnie Samuelian)

A list of projects is almost finalized for the Round 1 SGMA Implementation Grant. Only one application may be submitted for a maximum of \$5 million. 5 of the 7 GSAs submitted projects for consideration, with an emphasis on projects that benefit disadvantaged communities. The application will be due in January.

There was a presentation on the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint from Scott Hamilton, who has been reviewing GSPs and basin totals throughout the state. Mr. Hamilton commented that the Kings Subbasin is further along than other basins in terms of identifying target initial responsibility levels.

The Stanford AEM survey will be conducted on the east side in hopes of incorporating work along the Big Dry Creek Channel.

The GSAs are working on videoing wells and constructing new monitor wells with the funds received from the DWR grant. Fall water level readings have begun. Several GSAs are working on developing rules/regulations.

Participation with KRCD on land subsidence monitoring has been finalized.

Item 4 – Financial Update

Item 4a – Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2019-2020 Audit
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

The 2019/2020 audit is complete and will be presented to the NKGSA Board at their meeting on October 22nd. This is the last year on the contract for this auditing firm. Next year, the contract will need to be renewed/extended or a new auditing firm selected. No further action is needed at this time.

Item 5 – Administrative

Item 5a – NKGSA Official Rosters

i. Discussion/Possible Action on Recommended Approval of Official NKGSA Advisory Committee Roster

In looking through records for an official member roster, it was determined that the preexisting rosters were very outdated and should be updated moving forward. Member agencies provided input and an updated roster was created. The roster identifies member agency entities, their primary and alternate representatives, and any relevant comments (such as identifying the Chair, etc.).

It is recommended that every year in July, the roster be reevaluated, the Chair and Vice Chair is selected, and an updated roster is “certified.” The roster can be changed by the Executive Officer throughout the year to account for changes reported by member agencies throughout the year.

Chair Redelfs requested the following changes to be made to the roster presented during the meeting: Paul Armendariz to be designated as the alternate representative for the City of Clovis, and Fresno Irrigation District to be noted as the Vice Chair for the Committee.

Motion to approve roster with noted changes by member Keller; second by member Claes.

Committee votes as follows:

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

(International absent)

9 Aye; 1 Absent. Motion passed.

ii. Discussion/Possible Action on Recommended Approval of Official NKGSA Board of Directors Roster

The bylaws for the JPA stipulates that every July, a Chairman and a Vice Chairman will be selected for the Board. This year, there was no Board meeting in July and during the August meeting, there was no selection of those positions. The roster for the Board is being evaluated and the Chair/Vice Chair positions will be decided upon during the October 22nd Board meeting.

Directors are appointed for two-year terms, with an initial 3-year terms for Seats 1, 4, 5, and 6. Recent changes to the Board have not been officially documented for the last few years, so a “certified” roster with appointment dates and other important comments would be useful moving forward. The process would be that at the end of a term, documentation would be collected from a Director regarding whether they will be continuing to serve or if someone else will be assuming that position. If mid-term changes occur (such as the upcoming mayoral change for City of Fresno, as pointed out by member Buche), the roster will be updated accordingly.

Motion by member Allen to approve; second by member Buche. The official board of directors roster will be discussed at the upcoming NKGSA Board meeting.

Committee votes as follows:

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

(International absent)

9 Aye; 1 Absent. Motion passed.

Item 6 – Executive Officer Update

(Update presented by Kassy Chauhan)

Item 6a – Funding Opportunities Update

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

Several projects have been submitted by the five GSAs that fall within guidelines of the grant limitations, two of which are North Kings GSA projects. They are Fresno Irrigation District's (FID) Savory Pond Expansion Project and City of Kerman's Recharge Project. These projects meet the scoring criteria for focusing on human right to water and benefits to disadvantaged and underrepresented communities.

Item 6b – Member Agency Mitigation Responsibility Update

Meetings are being held with member agencies to refine the percentage of overdraft that each agency will be responsible for correcting. The first meeting was this week with City of Kerman; other meetings are scheduled throughout October through December. Once all these individual meetings have been conducted, a large group meeting will be held to finalize the overdraft percentages and member agency responsibilities.

Item 6c – Member Agency Project Lists – Chapter 6

Chapter 6 of the GSP identifies all the projects submitted by the member agencies. Many of them are not grant-eligible, either due to being completed/near completion or due to not meeting specific criteria. As projects are developed, if they are not already identified in the GSP, the Executive Officer should be notified about them so that they can be added onto the project list. Projects must be identified in the GSP in order to be eligible for grant funding. Most of the grant funding that is becoming available is dependent on project site/location, favoring projects that serve disadvantaged or underrepresented communities.

Item 6d – External Affairs Update

KRCD took the lead on an outreach campaign focusing on water professionals and their role in the development of the GSP, what keeps them motivated to continue working on water issues, etc. This is helping to raise awareness of what the GSA is doing and provides context for the work that's being done.

There is a coordinated outreach underway by the Kings Subbasin for private domestic well owners and schools. 5 of the 7 GSAs have committed to participating in this outreach effort.

Item 6e – Representative Monitoring Network Update

Fall measurements are starting today. For the North Kings GSA, the list of wells being measured includes five (5) additional wells that were previously monitored by DWR. All five (5) of these wells have already been measured successfully.

Two agreements have been executed with well owners for FID to have access for video inspections. One downhole video inspection is scheduled for November; more will be scheduled as soon as contact is made with well owners.

Item 6f – Miscellaneous

The final cost-share agreement is pending for the subsidence monitoring agreement with KRCD. The Board has already approved entering into this agreement.

There was a Public Records Act request to be on the distribution list for Board reports/agenda packets and past meeting materials. These materials have been provided and will continue to be provided on an ongoing basis.

Biola CSD's basin project is moving forward. The NKGSA did provide a letter of support for a grant that they are pursuing to obtain additional funding to complete the project.

DWR is revising Bulletin 74, which is the California Well Standard. A technical advisory committee is being formed to aid in the development of the revisions. Executive Officer Chauhan has requested to participate in the technical advisory committee. The deadline to apply for participation is today.

Item 7 – Workgroup Updates and Actions

Item 7a – Policy Workgroup

(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

The Policy Workgroup has had two meetings: one on September 24th and the other on October 8th. The primary focus right now is the new well policy, although this group will also be working on developing the member agency reporting policy.

For the new well policy, some of the key issues are determining an appropriate review time for applications, the need to possibly establish a well registry and how that would be coordinated with Fresno County, and additional requirements for wells in terms of management actions.

The immediate goal is to have an initial draft of the new well policy ready for presentation to the Advisory Committee at the next regular meeting in November.

Item 7b – Member Agency Cost-Share Workgroup

(Presented by Lisa Koehn)

The Member Agency Cost-Share Workgroup had its first meeting on October 2nd. The current fee structure – as approved by the Board in June 2019 – was reviewed in light of the concerns that have been raised about the large differences between current member agency contribution levels; namely, that very small agencies had similarly small cost-shares while FID was surprised with the high cost-share they were given. FID has also raised concerns about their cost-share in light of them contributing the majority of the surface water in the GSA.

During the workgroup's review, the rates for the smaller agencies were found to be proportionate due to their significantly smaller acreage (for example, Biola is only 237 acres, while FID is 170,000+ acres and Fresno is 75,000+ acres). For this year, all agencies were charged at a rate of \$2.18/acre. Madera County's GSA was examined for comparison and it was found that their member agencies pay \$23.30/acre, so the North Kings GSA rates are significantly lower.

There was a discussion on the pros and cons of the cost-split methods that were looked at in the Madera County study. Regarding consideration of the surface water contribution, it was pointed out that the amount of surface water a member agency contributes has little effect on the other member agencies who do not have that surface water. Following the discussion, the workgroup reached the consensus that the current split is appropriate for our GSA.

The next meeting will be held on October 23rd.

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 Buche to adjourn; second by member Keller. Meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.

Item 10 – Future Meetings

The future meeting schedule is as follows:

- a. November 13, 2020
- b. December 11, 2020