

MINUTES

NKGSA Advisory Committee Meeting

January 8, 2021

****Clovis Public Safety Building**

VIA TELECONFERENCE:

In attendance:

*Scott Redelfs – City of Clovis

*Shay Bakman – Bakman Water Co.

*Eduardo Antunez – Biola CSD

*Brock Buche – City of Fresno

*Glenn Allen – Fresno County

*Adam Claes – FID

*Peter Sanchez – FMFCD

*Nick Keller – Garfield Water District

*Jerry Jones – City of Kerman

Kassy Chauhan – NKGSA

Kevin Dale – NKGSA (legal counsel)

Ronnie Samuelian – Provost & Pritchard

Paul Armendariz – City of Clovis

Brandy Swisher – FMFCD

Lisa Koehn – Clovis

Sue Ruiz – Self-Help Enterprises

Dao Lor – ABIRC

* - 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
Biola CSD	Eduardo Antunez	Present
City of Clovis	Scott Redelfs	Present
City of Fresno	Brock Buche	Present
City of Kerman	Jerry Jones	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 12/13/20 Meeting

Executive Officer Chauhan clarified that while the agenda indicates December 13, 2020 as the previous meeting date, it should actually be written as December 11, 2020. The minutes document reflects the correct date of December 11, 2020.

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

Committee votes as follows:

Bakman: Aye Redelfs: Aye Jones: Aye Claes: Aye Keller: Aye
 Antunez: Aye Buche: Aye Allen: Aye Sanchez: Aye
(International absent)

9 Aye; 1 Absent. Motion passed.

Item 3 – Receive – Basin Coordination Update

(Update presented by Ronnie Samuelian)

The SGMA Implementation Grant Round 1 application is being submitted today. There was a total request of \$4.8 million and 4 projects from 3 GSAs, all directly benefitting disadvantaged communities (DACs). Two projects are in North Kings: Savory Pond (benefitting Shady Lakes Mobile Home Park) and City of Kerman. These two projects are requesting \$1.4 million. The balance is for a recharge project in South Kings GSA, north of Sanger and a stormwater capture project in Kings River East GSA.

The next annual report is due in April 2021 and will be based on the October 2019 – September 2020 water year. Contours and storage change calculations are beginning, and the report must also include an estimate of groundwater pumping. Member agencies will be receiving requests for groundwater pumping estimates if they have not yet submitted that data already.

The GSAs are working on video monitoring wells, constructing new monitor wells with the DWR grant, and preparing rules/regulations. The AEM survey results are pending.

Item 4 – Financial Update

(Update presented by Lisa Koehn)

Item 4a – Discussion/Possible Action – Recommend Approval of the November 2020 Expense Report – Action Item

There were a total of \$25,919.01 in expenses, including payments to attorneys, several small payments related to public information, FID for NKGSA operational costs, KRCD for media/public information, and P&P consulting costs.

Item 4b – Discussion/Possible Action – Recommend Approval of the Financial Statements as of November 30, 2020 – Action Item

The balance sheet shows total assets of \$1,034,387.35. The income statement shows that all income has been received with the exception of \$70,000 retention from last year's grant. A total of \$168,772.34 has been sent, which is 24.72% of the budget.

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

Member Claes inquired on the possible timeframe for receiving the \$70,000 retention from DWR. Lisa clarified that the retention amount is actually \$21,428.50. Ronnie explained that the retention may not come until the grant is completed in full including the completion of the additional work in the amended grant agreement.

Motion by member Claes to approve both of the preceding reports (expenses and financial statements) as one item and recommend approval by the NKGSA Board of Directors; second by member Sanchez.

Committee votes as follows:

Bakman: Aye Redelfs: Aye Jones: Aye Claes: Aye Keller: Aye
Antunez: Aye Buche: Aye Allen: Aye Sanchez: Aye
(International absent)

9 Aye; 1 Absent. Motion passed.

Item 5 – Administrative

(Update presented by Kassy Chauhan)

Item 5a – NKGSA Board Seat No. 7 Vacancy – Update

There was an intention to select the individual to fill the seat at the December Board of Directors meeting, but after some discussion, it was decided that a more formal solicitation of interested parties was preferred. An email solicitation was sent with a nomination deadline of January 15th. The official nominations will be made at the January 28th Board of Directors meeting. A vote may be taken at the same meeting.

Per the bylaws, the Seat No. 7 Director position can be filled by anyone falling into one of the three categories: (1) Municipal/industrial water supply members not currently service on the Board of Directors; (2) Contracting entities; (3) Interested parties.

Item 6 – Workgroup Updates and Actions

(Update presented by Kassy Chauhan)

Item 6a – Policy Workgroup

i. Discussion/Possible Action Item – Recommend Adoption of Revised New Well Review Policy – Action Item

Chairman Redelfs stated that he'd received a request to continue this item to a future meeting. While no action will be taken on this item, and updated was provided on the current status of the policy by Executive Officer Chauhan.

The purpose of the new well review policy that the Policy Workgroup has been working on is threefold: (1) to provide direction to the Executive Officer when evaluating applications for construction of new wells within the NKGSA; (2) to request a minimum review period from permitting agencies; (3) to utilize data collected from the well permit applications for inclusion in the NKGSA records. It is essential that this information is gathered for all new wells being developed within NKGSA boundaries.

Several member agencies have expressed some ongoing concerns about the new policy. These issues are being worked through to ensure that the resulting policy is one that all member agencies can agree upon, particularly those that serve as permitting agencies. With that in mind, there has been a request to postpone this item to a future meeting, potentially in February.

The Policy Workgroup met on December 17th and went through an initial round of comments. Meetings have been held, both with individual member agencies and as a workgroup. Progress is being made, but there still remains some work to be done to complete the new policy. There will be another Policy Workgroup meeting on January 14th and the Board will be advised on the current status on January 28th. The policy is tentatively set to be brought back to the Advisory Committee for action on February 12th.

Motion made by member Buche to continue this item to a future date; second by member Keller.

Committee votes as follows:

Bakman: Aye Redelfs: Aye Jones: Aye Claes: Aye Keller: Aye
Antunez: Aye Buche: Aye Allen: Aye Sanchez: Aye
(*International absent*)

9 Aye; 1 Absent. Motion passed.

ii. Member Agency Reporting Policy – Update

This policy is still in the process of being developed. Member agencies are providing input through this process. The policy will probably be introduced for consideration by the Advisory Committee in March or April 2021.

Item 7 – Executive Officer Update

(Update presented by Kassy Chauhan)

Item 7a – 2021 NKGSA Priorities

Some of the highlights from the previous year of 2020 included: (1) submittal of the NKGSA GSP in January 2020; (2) completion of a fully-executed Kings Subbasin Coordination Agreement; (3) secured a DWR grant for monitoring well improvements; (4) onboarding a new Executive Officer; (5) significant work on the representative monitoring well network; (6) initiation of the agency mitigation responsibility discussions; (7) increased stakeholder engagement via social media; (8) undertaking of joint outreach efforts; and (9) coordination with Fresno County on review of well permit applications and planning documents.

The 2021 priorities include: (1) finalization of member agency overdraft responsibilities; (2) completion of the 2020 annual report, due on April 1st; (3) completion of a boundary flow study; (4) continued outreach and stakeholder engagement; (5) continuation of policy development, including the new well review policy; (6) coordination with DWR on review of the GSP; (7) exploration of projects and funding sources; (8) engagement with elected officials and policymakers; and (9) routine engagement with NKGSA Board of Directors.

Item 7b – Prop 68 Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation Grant – Update

The SGMA Implementation Grant Round 1 application is being submitted today. As mentioned by Ronnie Samuelian previously, the 2 projects in

NKGSA are FID's Savory Pond Expansion Project and the City of Kerman's Recharge Project. These two projects meet the scoring criteria for the grant, so the application should be strong. This is only Round 1 and there will be at least two more subsequent rounds of funding. New/additional projects that come up that are not already outlined in the GSP should be brought to the Executive Officer's attention so that they can be added to the GSP for possible grant applications at a later time. Fresno Irrigation District ended up being the official applicant on the submittal.

Item 7c – Member Agency Mitigation Responsibility Update

Initial meetings with all member agencies have been completed and some follow-up meetings have occurred. The larger member agencies are providing current data for 2019 and 2020 to determine groundwater impact for more recent years. Upon completion of this evaluation, additional follow up meetings will be held. The large group meeting should be taking place in January or February.

Item 7d – Outreach Update

i. Kings Basin Coordinated Outreach

A domestic well owner brochure and a school brochure are being finalized and should be published to the website shortly. Partner agencies such as Self-Help Enterprises and ABIRC will have these brochures as resources, as well.

Outreach was done with the residents of the Shady Lakes Mobile Home Park, as required by the Prop 68 funding criteria for that project. This was done in collaboration with California Rural Legal Assistance. The outreach included information on letters of support. Some letters were received and were included with the grant application.

The San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Coalition had a plenary group meeting on December 17th to develop the vision statement. This group includes many different caucus groups and is designed to get water interest groups together to discuss issues and provide input.

Item 7e – External Affairs Update

NKGSA continues to remain active on social media and e-news. A website refresh will be coming sometime this year, as well.

Item 7f – Representative Monitoring Network Update

Outreach to well owners continues. Downhole video inspections are being scheduled and conducted. It's become apparent that a few of the wells are not going to be viable for continued use in the monitoring network, so work is being done with P&P to come up with alternate locations. Some of these non-viable wells are City of Fresno wells and one of them is a FID-monitored well.

Item 7g – Miscellaneous

The AEM survey was completed in December. Preliminary findings should be available in January 2021, with a final report to follow.

A boundary flow study is being planned with P&P.

The DWR Technical Advisory Committee has done the solicitation for committee members. Executive Officer Chauhan has been selected to be part of one of the sub-groups and will be providing updates on the efforts of those groups.

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 Allen. Meeting adjourned at 2:32 PM.

Item 11 – Future Meetings

The future meeting schedule is as follows:

- a. February 12, 2021