

## **MINUTES**

### **NKGSA Advisory Committee Meeting**

**February 12, 2021**

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

#### **VIA TELECONFERENCE:**

##### **In attendance:**

\*Paul Armendariz – 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  
Andrew Aller – NKGSA (legal counsel)

Kristen Freberg – City of Clovis  
Brandy Swisher – FMFCD  
Ronnie Samuelian – Provost & Pritchard  
Lisa Koehn – Clovis  
Sue Ruiz – Self-Help Enterprises  
Dao Lor – ABIRC  
Diane Merrill – League of Women Voters  
Moises Ortiz – Malaga Water District

\* - 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	Eduardo Antunez	Present
City of Clovis	Paul Armendariz	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 01/08/21 Meeting**

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

Committee votes as follows:

Bakman: Aye    Armendariz: 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)

Round 1 of the SGMA implementation grant was submitted January 8, 2021. The amount of money requested by all applicants, per Department of Water Resources (DWR), was about 3 times the amount of available funds. DWR is expecting to release draft recommendations in March 2021.

An additional \$60 million may potentially be available in the draft budget, which would be available in mid-summer. Projects should be ready and competitive in order to potentially receive state funds.

A Basin Point of Contact call took place last month. DWR has requested that there be a single point of contact for each basin. Ronnie Samuelian is the point of contact for the Kings basin. This call was set up for the San Joaquin Basin and served as a touch-base call with DWR. DWR confirmed that they are proceeding with GSP reviews and think that some GSPs will have comments completed in the summer, but probably not for any of the San Joaquin Valley basin GSPs.

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

Many GSAs in the Basin are working to gather monitor well construction information and build new wells. Coordinated Basin outreach efforts continue to be discussed.

#### **Item 4 – Financial Update**

(Update presented by Lisa Koehn)

##### **Item 4a – Discussion/Possible Action – Recommend Approval of the December 2020 Expense Report – Action Item**

There was a total of \$32,449.35 in expenses, including legal services, FID, KRCD, and Provost & Pritchard.

Member Buche inquired as to why the legal expenses were as high as they were. Executive Officer Chauhan explained that the legal expenses were primarily associated with work on the boundary flows, as well as policy review for NKGSA and neighboring GSAs.

##### **Item 4b – Discussion/Possible Action – Recommend Approval of the Financial Statements as of December 31, 2020 – Action Item**

The balance sheet shows total assets of \$999,439.22. The income statement shows total expenses to date at \$201,221.69. (The budget for the year is \$682,800.00.) Total income for the July-September quarter was \$996,000.00.

The retention for Prop 1 (in the amount of \$21,428.50) is still pending.

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; second by member Sanchez.

Committee votes as follows:

Bakman: Aye    Armendariz: 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 – New Director Update**

The new director has been appointed – Moises Ortiz, the General Manager of Malaga County Water District. This will be a 2-year term (through December 2023). The 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate for that position is Eduardo Antunez from Biola CSD and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate is Kyle Moeller from Fowler Packing.

Moises Ortiz introduced himself to the Advisory Committee and provided some information on his professional background.

### **Item 5b – Discussion/Possible Action – Recommend Approval of Professional Services Contract – Provost & Pritchard – Kings Basin Coordination - \$33,000.00**

(*Note: The original agenda indicated that the contract amount was \$15,000. A notice was issued the day prior to the Advisory Committee meeting that the correct contract amount is \$33,000.*)

This is a professional services contract for Kings Basin coordination activities. That includes Basin coordination and facilitation, groundwater pumping estimation, and annual report preparation. The total contract amount is for \$105,000 but is shared amongst the GSAs in the subbasin. NKGSA's share will be \$33,000. A copy of the contract was included in the meeting packet.

These costs were included as part of the approved costs for the FY 2020-2021 budget, located under the "Engineering Consultant Fees" line item. It's being brought back before the Advisory Committee because it was indicated last year that the Advisory Committee members would like to see the contract prior to execution.

Member Claes inquired as to whether this agreement needed to be brought to the Advisory Committee and the Board every year for approval prior to execution, considering that the costs are already incorporated into the budget and that a basin coordinator is required in order to stay in legal compliance. If it's included in the budget, can it simply be approved by default?

Member Buche pointed out that most agreements have a set term, and he thinks it would be appropriate to bring the contract back to the Committee once a term has expired and a new agreement needs to be executed. He also commented that given the dollar amount of the contract, the consultant should be able to report annual water use on a calendar year basis.

Member Claes and Executive Officer Chauhan discussed that a spending authority policy should be developed for NKGSA. This is something that the policy workgroup could potentially work on in the future and then bring a policy back to the Committee for review. Member Claes recommended that a draft policy be put together and placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

Motion by member Allen to recommend approval of the professional services contract with Provost & Pritchard; second by member Buche.

Committee votes as follows:

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

9 Aye; 1 Absent. Motion passed.

## **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**

The latest version of the revised policy is dated January 27, 2021. A copy of the policy was included in the meeting packet.

Since January, comments from permitting agencies have been addressed and the revision routed through permitting agencies for any additional concerns, and it has gone through legal review. The draft has now been finalized and is ready for recommendation for approval.

It was discussed that Exhibit A of the policy (which is a boundary map) was not included in the packet, but Executive Officer Chauhan confirmed that Exhibit A is meant to be included in the final policy draft.

Motion made by member Buche to recommend adoption of the New Well Review Policy, No. NKGSA-2021-001, version 01.27.2021, with the stipulation that Exhibit A be included in the policy; second by member Armendariz.

Committee votes as follows:

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

9 Aye; 1 Absent. Motion passed.

Executive Officer Chauhan mentioned that a follow-up meeting with Fresno County well drillers has been scheduled for March 18, 2021 in anticipation of this policy being adopted.

**ii. Member Agency Reporting Policy – Update**

The workgroup is still in the information gathering stage for this policy. A draft policy will hopefully be ready for consideration by the Advisory Committee in March or April of 2021.

**Item 7 – Executive Officer Update**

(Update presented by Kassy Chauhan)

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

Follow-up evaluations are needing to be done and P&P is working on that. Once the evaluations are completed, follow-ups will be done with individual member agencies and eventually, a culminating large group meeting will be held (tentatively in April 2021). The mitigation responsibility policy will then be created.

**Item 7b – Outreach Update**

**i. Kings Basin Coordinated Outreach**

The domestic well owner brochure and school brochure have been finalized and posted to the website. These will be used by both NKGSA and partner agencies to give out to the public at outreach events, and will also remain available on the website.

A webinar is being planned (tentatively in March 2021) for schools as a SGMA refresher.

NKGSA has been involved in the San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Coalition, which brings various water interest groups together to come up with common problem statements and explore solutions.

The Stanford University Cardinal Course has selected NKGSA's GSP to evaluate. They are specifically looking at how to achieve SGMA and Human Right to Water compliance. Several member agencies have been invited to participate in lectures and panel discussions with the students.

**Item 7c – External Affairs Update**

Social media engagement and e-news is continuing. KRCD is working on making revisions and updates to the website.

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

There are continued efforts to make contact with well owners and there is a push to collect as much data as possible prior to the irrigation season. Evaluations continue to determine which wells we can collect construction information for and where we might need to identify alternative wells or drill new ones.

**Item 7e – Miscellaneous**

The AEM survey results are still pending.

A letter of support was provided to the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) for a grant funding application for research on small farm irrigation practices.

Fresno County has been sending out informational fliers about SGMA as part of an outreach effort to white areas that they represent. Some follow-up inquiries have been received from affected residents.

**Item 8 – Public Comments**

No public comments were received.

**Item 9 – Advisory Committee Member Comments**

Member Claes provided information from FID's board meeting regarding water conditions. The Kings River watershed is in roughly the same condition as it was at this time last year, which is about 35% of the April 1<sup>st</sup> average. The storm at the end of January nearly doubled the snowpack for the Kings River watershed.

**Item 10 – Adjourned**

Motion by member Armendariz to adjourn; second by member Keller. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

**Item 11 – Future Meetings**

The future meeting schedule is as follows:  
a. March 12, 2021