

## MINUTES

### NKGSA Advisory Committee Meeting

April 9, 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

\*Eduardo Antunez – Biola CSD

Kassy Chauhan – NKGSA

Andrew Aller – NKGSA (legal counsel)

Ronnie Samuelian – Provost & Pritchard

Paul Armendariz – City of Clovis

Kristen Freberg – City of Clovis

Brandy Swisher – FMFCD

Lisa Koehn – Clovis

Justin Morgan – Sierra Resource

Conservation 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	Scott Redelfs	Present
City of Fresno	Brock Buche	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
City of Kerman	-	Absent
International Water District	-	Absent

**Item 2 – Approval of Minutes from 03/12/21 Meeting**

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

Committee votes as follows:

Bakman: Aye                      Redelfs: Aye                      Allen: Aye                      Sanchez: Aye  
Antunez: *No response*                      Buche: Aye                      Claes: Aye                      Keller: Aye  
(*City of Kerman and International absent*)

7 Aye; 2 Absent. Motion passed.

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

Draft recommendations for the first round of the SGMA implementation grant recommended full funding for the Kings Basin, in the amount of \$4.8 million. Final recommendations will most likely be out by the end of next week.

In the May revision of the Governor's budget, there will potentially be an additional \$60 million available for SGMA projects, which may be available as early as July. Potential projects should be ready to go in order to take advantage of possible funding opportunities.

Spring water levels have been mostly gathered. The goal is to coordinate so that everyone gets their data at the same time (around early March).

The annual report was submitted on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Kings Basin surface water deliveries in Water Year '20 were 940,000 acre-feet (compared to 1,800,000 acre-feet in Water Year '19). Groundwater storage change for Water Year '20 is estimated to be 150,000 acre-feet (compared to +390,000 acre-feet in Water Year '19). This data is for the entire Kings Basin. The expectation is to continue seeing downward trends due to another dry year.

Chairman Redelfs asked about the numbers for NKGSA specifically. Ronnie said that the data specific for the NKGSA is still being finalized and should be available in future reports.

#### **Item 4 – Financial Update**

(Update presented by Lisa Koehn)

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

Expenses for February 2021 were \$24,806.29. Those expenses consisted of legal fees, auditing expenses, and payments to Digital Attic, FID, KRCD, and P&P.

##### **Item 4b – Discussion/Possible Action – Recommend Approval of the Financial Statements as of February 28, 2021 – Action Item**

Expenses through February totaled \$255,031.20. Our balance sheet shows remaining assets of \$939,216.37. The accounts receivable balance is \$21,428.60.

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

Member Claes asked about the insurance line item on the expenditures report and whether there was any risk with our ability to be insured in the future. Kassy responded that there no indication that we would not be able to continue being insured by JPIA.

Motion by member Claes to recommend approval of both of the preceding reports simultaneously; second by member Keller.

Committee votes as follows:

Bakman: Aye      Redelfs: Aye      Allen: Aye      Sanchez: Aye  
Antunez: Aye      Buche: Aye      Claes: Aye      Keller: Aye  
*(City of Kerman and International absent)*

8 Aye; 2 Absent. Motion passed.

#### **Item 4c – Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Revision**

##### **i. Consider FY 2020-2021 Budget Revision – Possible Action Item**

There were no changes proposed for member agency contributions, interested party contributions, or grant contributions. There is an increase of \$10,000 for expenses related to public information. All other items have a decrease: legal expenses, Kings Basin coordination, consulting services, and staff expenses. Total expenses for the year are anticipated to be \$589,120.

Motion by member Allen to approve the budget revision; second by member Bakman.

Bakman: Aye      Redelfs: Aye      Allen: Aye      Sanchez: Aye  
Antunez: Aye      Buche: Aye      Claes: Aye      Keller: Aye  
*(City of Kerman and International absent)*

8 Aye; 2 Absent. Motion passed.

#### **Item 4d – Interested Party Invoices Update**

The interested parties' invoices were mailed on April 1<sup>st</sup> and are due by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Payments are voluntary and suggested contribution amounts are provided on the invoices. The parties receiving invoices are: Pinedale County Water District, Malaga County Water District, Self-Help Enterprises, Community Water Center, Fresno County Farm Bureau, E&J Gallo, Cargill Beef, and California State University - Fresno.

**Item 5 – Administrative**

(Update presented by Kassy Chauhan)

**Item 5a – Discussion/Possible Action Item – Recommend Adoption of Signing and Spending Authority Policy – NKGSA 2021-002 – Action Item**

The meeting packet included a final draft of the new Signing & Spending Authority Policy for NKGSA. (In the absence of a formal policy, NKGSA has been using FID's Purchasing Policy, 130-403.) This would establish signing authority as being delegated to the Executive Officer, as well as establishes spending authority for both the Executive Officer and the Board of Directors for routine expenses that have already been approved through the budget process. The spending authorization limits matrix is below:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Expenditures Within Approved Annual Budget</b>	<b>Other Items *</b>
Board of Directors	> \$50,000.00	> \$5,000.00
Executive Officer	\$50,000.00	\$5,000.00

\* Expenses not included in Board-approved budget or outside the normal course of business

The only request for revision received prior to this meeting was for removal of Section 6.0, related to data collection, as it's not applicable to this policy.

Member Buche inquired about the "Other Items" line item and what the funding source for those expenditures would be. Kassy explained that this would include office supplies and other related expenses. It's meant to function as a "general office expense" line item. Member Buche clarified that expenses made in this category would have to be funded by some other line item in the budget and a journal entry would be made to indicate this; Kassy confirmed that this is correct.

Member Buche also inquired about Section 4.0, Scope & Applicability, where non-disclosure and confidentiality agreements were referenced. He

asked if the ability to execute those types of agreements would be granted with the adoption of this new policy. Kassy clarified that it would, as long as there were no expenses associated with those agreements that would fall outside of the aforementioned limits. Member Buche asked how the Advisory Committee would be made aware of these types of agreements being executed. Kassy clarified that these agreements would be brought back to the Committee after the fact for transparency purposes. Member Buche asked for verbiage to be added to Section 4 of the draft policy to clarify that process and Kassy agreed that could be done.

Motion by member Buche to recommend that the Board of Directors adopt the new policy, with the condition that Section 4 be modified to clarify the process of informing the Committee of executed agreements; second by member Keller.

Bakman: Aye      Redelfs: Aye      Allen: Aye      Sanchez: Aye  
Antunez: Aye      Buche: Aye      Claes: Aye      Keller: Aye  
*(City of Kerman and International absent)*

8 Aye; 2 Absent. Motion passed.

A modified and finalized version of the policy will be included in the Board packet for the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

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

(Update presented by Kassy Chauhan)

The member agency mitigation responsibility numbers and targets are being finalized and should be done by the end of April. Following that, the Policy Workgroup will reconvene to continue development of the Member Agency Reporting Policy. It should be brought to the Advisory Committee for consideration in May or possibly June.

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

(Update presented by Kassy Chauhan)

#### **Item 7a – Kings Subbasin Annual Report – Water Year 2020**

The annual report has been submitted. There was an anticipated decline in water levels, which has been confirmed through observation. This was considered in the development of the GSP. Some representative monitoring wells are at or below measurable objectives. There needs to be an evaluation of whether these wells are truly reflective of what's happening within the aquifer. There are no anticipated changes to the measurable objectives or minimum thresholds at this time, but some representative monitoring wells will need to be replaced.

There is an expedited schedule for submitting projects for potential SGMA funding. As a result, a new "call for projects" process is being implemented to help streamline this process and give future projects the best chance of receiving funding.

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

A simplified procedure is being developed and follow-up meetings are in progress. The large group meeting should be scheduled for late April. A mitigation responsibility policy should come before the Advisory Committee in May.

**Item 7c – Outreach Update**

A school webinar is scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Many people have reached out for more information following the distribution of the domestic well owner brochure.

The San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Plan continues to meet. A monthly meeting schedule is being developed and the problem statement is still being developed.

**Item 7d – External Affairs Update**

An update to the website is underway, moving away from Digital Attic and transitioning to WordPress. Website content is being refreshed following the adoption of the GSP. The updated website will hopefully be launched next month.

The State Water Board released a climate change report, which contained 12 recommendations regarding reevaluating the fully appropriated streams

list, measurement methodology changes, etc. Five of the seven GSAs in the Kings Subbasin worked together to develop a joint comment letter and submitted it to the State Water Board in response to the report. A copy of the comment letter was included in the meeting packet.

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

Some agencies are still collecting their spring water level measurements now (in April). It's important that all agencies shift to taking their measurements in March and October.

Work continues on securing well access agreements. The goal is to obtain all construction information for all monitoring wells in 2021.

**Item 7f – Fresno County Coordination Update**

A lot of new well permit applications are coming through (over 50 since January 2020). There was a driller meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>, which had over 30 participants.

Quarterly meetings are continuing with Fresno County and other GSA representatives.

Outreach to residents in white areas continues.

**Item 7g – Miscellaneous**

NKGSA will have a new Director representing the City of Clovis starting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The outgoing Director, Jose Flores, is being replaced by Bob Whalen. The alternate director is Drew Bessinger.

The airborne electromagnetic (AEM) survey results should be finalized soon.

The DWR Well Standards Technical Advisory Committee and Subcommittees have started meeting regularly. Meetings will continue through the end of June.

There has been recent engagement with Monica Vaughn of the Fresno Bee about the drought response and impacts to domestic well owners.



**Item 8 – Public Comments**

No public comments were received.

**Item 9 – Advisory Committee Member Comments**

Adam Claes provided an update regarding the snowpack runoff forecast. DWR reported a decreased runoff forecast from March 23<sup>rd</sup>, which was 40% of average for April-July runoff. As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, the forecast is now 33% of average. This is similar to numbers we saw in 2014. Pine Flat Reservoir runoff from October-March indicates that this will be the second driest year since the late 1800s, and this could be the 5<sup>th</sup> driest year on record for the Kings Subbasin, depending on whether we experience any further storms this year.

Normal irrigation deliveries are scheduled to start on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Information on July deliveries is pending and will be considered at FID's May board meeting.

FID has also recently published their 6-month groundwater measurement summary by street intersection on their website which shows a drop in groundwater levels between four and six feet, on average.

**Item 10 – Adjourned**

Motion by member Claes to adjourn; second by member Buche. Meeting adjourned at 2:47 PM.

**Item 11 – Future Meetings**

The future meeting schedule is as follows:

- a. May 14, 2021