MINUTES

NKGSA Advisory Committee Meeting
February 9, 2024

IN-PERSON AND TELECONFERENCE

In attendance:

**Adam Claes (Fresno Irrigation District)
*Dejan Pavic (City of Fresno)
*Jarrod Takemoto (Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District)
*Shay Bakman (Bakman Water Company)
*Jesus Gonzalez (City of Kerman)
*Roy Jimenez (Fresno County)
*Nick Keller (Garfield Water District)
*Josh Rogers (Y &H / Biola CSD)
Carlos Rodriguez (Biola CSD)
Kassy Chauhan (NKGSA)
Ronnie Samuelian (Provost & Pritchard)
Kristen Freberg (City of Clovis)
Lisa Koehn (Retired Clovis - Citizen)
Jennifer Marshall (KRCD - Citizen)
Don Wright (Water Wrights Reporter)

** - Acting Committee Chair
* - Voting representative on Advisory Committee

*__**Note:__ To promote maximum participation in the NKGSA activities and meetings, this meeting was conducted in-person at the City of Clovis Public Safety Community Room (1233 Fifth Street, Clovis, CA 93612) as well as via web conference for members of the public wishing to participate remotely.*

Item 1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:31 PM.

Instructions:
Instructions for participation by both remote and in-person attendees were given by Executive Officer Kassy Chauhan. Both written and verbal comments are accepted by all attendees and time will be made after each agenda item for comments to be heard.

Members of the Advisory Committee attended in person and were present/absent as follows:

Agency Name	Present/Absent	Name of Person
Bakman Water Company	Present	Shay Bakman
Biola CSD	Present	Josh Rogers
City of Clovis	Absent	---
City of Fresno	Present	Dejan Pavic *
City of Kerman	Present	Jesus Gonzalez
Fresno County	Present	Roy Jimenez
Fresno Irrigation District	Present	Adam Claes
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District	Present	Jarrod Takemoto
Garfield Water District	Present	Nick Keller

* Note: Arrived following action items under Section 4. Votes from Section 4 action items or prior will reflect member as absent; votes from Section 5 or later will reflect member as present.

Item 2. Public Presentations

There were no public presentations.

Item 3. Approval of Minutes

Item 3a. Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2024 Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes made by member Takemoto; second by member Keller. Motion passed unanimously 7-0 (2 absent).

Item 4. Financial Report

Item 4a. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of Expense Reports for December 2023
(Presented by Lisa Koehn)

Expenses for the month of December totaled $47,367.52 and included payments to ACWA, Constant Contact, FID, QuickBooks, Provost & Pritchard, and legal fees.

Motion to recommend approval of the expense reports for December 2023 made by member Jimenez; second by member Takemoto. Motion passed unanimously 7-0 (2 absent).

Item 4b. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of Financial Statements as of December 31, 2023
(Presented by Lisa Koehn)

As of the end of December 2023, assets were at $1,584,508.14, with expenses to date at $149,406.95 (which is approximately 28% of the annual budget).

Motion to recommend approval of the financial statements as of December 31, 2023 made by member Keller; second by member Bakman. Motion passed unanimously 7-0 (2 absent).

Item 4c. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Update
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

The existing budget will continue to be used for the next month, but following that, a revised budget will be taken to the Board for approval. Revisions include upcoming programs and projects.

Item 5. Receive – Basin Coordination Update
(Presented by Ronnie Samuelian)

Work from the past few months continues. The revised GSP should be coming back for review in June or July. The domestic well mitigation program rules and regulations and guidelines are in draft form and are currently being reviewed by the Kings Basin Coordination Committee. There has been good coordination on

interconnected surface water with the Madera Basin and there have been regular meetings with that group including the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, Bay Institute and Friant Water Authority. Additionally, the fall groundwater contours and all data has finally been submitted. Overall, there was a significant reduction in the amount of pumping in 2023 due to the historic water year in 2023. The groundwater levels showed improvement but the rate of recovery in the wells is much slower than the rate of decline. Lastly, the water allocation framework is becoming more of a priority, but this will probably not be resolved until 2025.

Item 6. Administrative

Item 6a. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of Improvements to the Groundwater Level Monitoring Network Wells to the NKGSA Board of Directors
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

The current focus is on problem wells – identifying wells and needed improvements to those wells to prevent missed readings. Long-term options discussed include adding 48 new dedicated monitoring wells owned by the GSA to replace currently used active agricultural wells. This would require development of a 3- to 5-year plan, most likely starting in FY 2024-2025. A shorter-term option is the purchase of data loggers and telemetry that can be added to up to 10 monitoring wells. There is $25,000 available in the current budget for project costs to be dedicated towards this needed monitoring equipment.

Motion to recommend approval made by member Rogers; second by member Bakman. Motion approved unanimously 8-0 (1 absent).

Item 6b. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of NKGSA Policy 2024-001 – Minimum Well Depth Construction Policy
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

The new policy would provide a minimum depth standard for construction of new wells within the GSA. This is being introduced in anticipation of future groundwater elevations. The “glide path” approach was discussed and the way that allows for groundwater levels to decline as indicated in the approved groundwater sustainability plan.

Motion to recommend approval made by member Keller; second by member Rogers. Motion approved unanimously 8-0 (1 absent).

Item 6c. 2024 Well Permitting Update
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

There has been minimal activity as of late. Five permits were approved in January, and two were been approved in February 2024 to date.

Item 6d. Well Registration Tool Launch Schedule and Update
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

The portal will be accessible on the NKGSA website next week and an educational page is in progress. An email blast will go out this month announcing the portal. A full launch is anticipated between April and December 2024. There has also been a need identified to re-engage with Fresno County white area landowners.

Item 7. Workgroup Updates and Actions

Item 7a. Technical Workgroup Update
(Presented by Adam Claes)

The workgroup met on January 24th and discussed the domestic well mitigation program and other studies. Different cost-share arrangements were discussed and are being considered for the initial implementation funding as well as funding for the long-term program..

Item 7b. Kings Water Alliance – Stakeholder Advisory Committee Report
(Presented by Lisa Koehn)

The committee met on January 18th; meetings will be quarterly. They went over a recap of 2023 events. “Back to school” events have received a good response in particular. Focus areas moving forward are ambient nitrate concentrations, DAC areas, and domestic well density and population density.

Item 8. Member Agency / Committee Member Reports

Item 8a. Advisory Committee/Member Agency Reports/Updates

i. Water Supply Update
(Presented by Member Claes)

Millerton Lake storage is at 300,000 AF; Pine Flat is at 663,000 AF. Initial allocations will be released by the end of February. FID is currently only bringing in CVP water. Data on snowpack is now outdated since the first snow study of the year happened before the February 4th – 7th storms.

ii. Others
There were no further reports.

Item 9. Executive Officer Update
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

Item 9a. 2023 Year in Review and 2024 Priorities Discussion

Multiple highlights from the past year were recapped. The revised GSP was approved. More than 200,000 AF of water was recharged. The well intake portal was developed. The representative monitoring network was improved. New financial policies were adopted. There was a high amount of stakeholder engagement. The well permit application process continued and all permits were reviewed and improved. The project list was updated and several implementation programs were either completed or began, including the Biola CSD recharge project, the Kenneson/Sanchez Basin (FID), and the Kerman Lions Park metered recharge project.

Item 9b. Kings Basin Special Studies Update

This was covered under the Kings Basin Update provided by Mr. Samuelian in Agenda Item 5.

Item 9c. SGMA Implementation Projects Update

There is a meeting scheduled with the new farm manager at Fresno State University to discuss farm operations and mitigation policies.

Item 9d. Outreach / External Affairs Update
Usual work continues on keeping the website current, engaging on social media, and providing newsletter updates.

Item 9e. Representative Monitoring Network Update

This item was discussed as part of the revised budget discussion in Agenda Item 4c.

Item 9f. Miscellaneous

FID has secured funding for equipment for FID growers. There is $1.3 M in funding designated for FID members from USDA/NRCS as a priority area.

Item 10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:54 PM.

Next Meeting: March 8, 2024