MINUTES

NKGSA Advisory Committee Meeting
June 14, 2024

IN-PERSON AND TELECONFERENCE

In attendance:

**Adam Claes (Fresno Irrigation District) – *Acting Chair*
*Roy Jimenez (Fresno County)
*Paul Armendariz (City of Clovis) – *Alternate*
*Carlos Rodriguez (Biola CSD)
*Tim Bakman (Bakman Water Company)
*Nick Keller (Garfield Water District)
*Jesus Gonzalez (City of Kerman)
Kassy Chauhan (NKGSA)
Ronnie Samuelian (Provost & Pritchard)
Charles Garabedian (Malaga County Water District)
Andrew Aller – (NKGSA Legal Counsel) *[online]*
Lisa Koehn (Clovis)

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

***Note:* 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 1:33 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	Tim Bakman
Biola CSD	Present	Carlos Rodriguez
City of Clovis	Present	Paul Armendariz
City of Fresno	Absent	---
City of Kerman	Absent	Jesus Gonzalez
Fresno County	Present	Roy Jimenez
Fresno Irrigation District	Present	Adam Claes
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District	Absent	---
Garfield Water District	Present	Nick Keller

Item 2. Public Presentations

There were no public presentations.

Item 3. Approval of Minutes

Item 3a. Approval of Minutes from May 3, 2024 Special Meeting

This item was pulled due to May 3, 2024 minutes not being complete. They will be considered for approval at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

Item 4. Financial Report

Item 4a. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of Expense Reports for April 2024

(Presented by Lisa Koehn)

Expenses for the month of April 2024 totaled $33,487.00 which included fees for attorneys, Constant Contact, FID, QuickBooks, and Provost & Pritchard.

Motion to recommend approval of the expense reports for April 2024 made by member Keller; second by member Armendariz. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Item 4b. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of Financial Statements as of April 30, 2024
(Presented by Lisa Koehn)

As of April 30, total assets were at $1,415,723.00. Expenses for the fiscal year through April totaled $335,181.72.

Motion to recommend approval of the financial statements as of April 30, 2024 made by member Bakman; second by member Jimenez. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Item 4c. Discussion / Possible Action – Consider Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Proposed Budget
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan / Lisa Koehn)

The proposed budget has increased substantially from previous years. A detailed breakdown was included in the meeting packet.

Overall income is expected to be $783,113.20, which is comprised of payments from interested parties and member assessments. Projected expenses have increased and will include Kings Subbasin coordination, professional services, public information/public affairs, project costs (specifically the domestic well mitigation program and the first year of monitoring network improvements), and staffing costs. Funding recommendations for projects were included as these make up the majority of the expenses resulting in a higher budget and detailed breakdowns were provided for each expense category.

Recommending approval of the proposed fiscal year 2024-2025 budget also includes the provision that $375k from reserves are allocated to cover projected expenses.

There was discussion about how long the budget will be significantly increased and whether that is expected to continue over the next several years. It is likely that it will, although that is largely contingent on the demand for the domestic well mitigation program. A suggestion is to earmark any funds not spent during each fiscal year to roll over for the next year's efforts with the domestic well mitigation program, thus creating a semi-revolving fund.

Motion to recommend approval of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 made by member Keller; second by member Bakman. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Item 4b. Interested Parties Invoices Update
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

Invoices were sent out to interested parties in April. So far, payments have been received from Pinedale County Water District, Malaga County Water District, and E&J Gallo. Revenues will be applied to next year's budget per the JPA agreement.

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

The well mitigation program rules and regulations are ready to be presented to the boards for adoption.

Water allocation framework discussions are ongoing.

In terms of GSP revisions, by August, all of the GSPs will be updated and sent to the GSAs for review. Comments will be due from the GSAs in September and the changes will be finalized at the coordination meeting. The public review and comment period will begin in early October. Many of the changes made to the GSPs will be basin-wide.

Item 6. Administrative

Item 6a. Discussion / Possible Action – NKGSA Policy 2024-002 – Domestic Well Mitigation Policy
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

This policy establishes that the NKGSA will implement the rules and regulations for mitigation of domestic wells that go dry because of lowering groundwater levels within the GSA. A copy of the policy was included in the meeting packet.

Motion to recommend approval of NKGSA Policy 2024-002 made by member Bakman; second by member Keller. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Item 6b. Discussion / Possible Action – Approval of the Kings Basin Domestic Well Mitigation Program – Rules and Regulations – Dated April 2024
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

The draft guidelines and rules and regulations were completed at the basin level in April. The targeted timeline for adoption of the policy, rules and regulations, and committed funding to the first year of implementation is between May and July. The administrative support contract and vendor contracts will hopefully be secured between August and September, and the program will begin on October 1.

The rules and regulations establish eligibility, the process for handling requests, and cost-share responsibilities. A flow chart demonstrating the well evaluation process was included in the meeting packet.

First year implementation funding was explored in detail during the prior budget discussion, but will be comprised of excess funds from the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget, a budgeted amount from the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget, and some funds from reserves.

Motion to recommend approval of the Kings Basin domestic well mitigation program rules and regulations made by member Keller; second by member Jimenez. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

i. Schedule for Implementation
The program is expected to begin on October 1.

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

The numbers of well permit requests are down from earlier in the year.

Item 6d. Well Registration Process Update
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

There are currently about 85 entries in the database. Outreach and engagement with landowners will be increasing in coming months.

Item 7. Workgroup Updates and Actions

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

The workgroup has focused heavily on reviewing the details of the domestic well mitigation program. The subgroups have been paused for now and the Technical Workgroup will be utilized for the rest of the year.

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 is currently above capacity (which is 522,800 AF) and has been for several days.

Friant Class 1 allocation is currently at 100%. Class 2 had two uncontrolled seasons earlier this year: May 1 – June 7 and June 11 – June 14.

Pine Flat had internal flood releases May 4 – May 15 and May 29 – June 5.

ii. Others
Kerman and Malaga have ongoing projects and Biola has recently completed one.

Item 9. Executive Officer Update

(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

Item 9a. Kings Basin Special Studies Update
There are no further updates at this time.

Item 9b. SGMA Implementation Projects Update
Coordination with Fresno State continues as they work to make their farm operations more sustainable.

Pinedale County Water District is now able to take recharge water with the arrangement of Basin DH1 with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District and water deliveries by Fresno Irrigation District.

Item 9c. Outreach / External Affairs Update
Social media continues to be active and there are regular website/email updates.

Recent speaking engagements include ACWA, the DWR SGMA forum, and various FID grower meetings.

Item 9d. Representative Monitoring Network Update
Short-term goals include obtaining missing construction data and installing telemetry on existing wells. Long-term goals are to add up to 48 new dedicated monitoring wells to the network, with drilling beginning in fall 2024 (depending on available budget funds).

Item 9e. Miscellaneous
The NKGSA is partnering with the California Water Institute on a regional resilience grant. Our role is primarily assisting with stakeholder engagement.

In terms of legislation updates, AB 2079 (Bennett) will no longer be moving forward this year but something similar will probably be introduced next year. AB 828 (Connelly) is still moving forward but is facing a lot of opposition.

Item 10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:33 PM.

Next Meeting: July 12, 2024