

**EAST KAWEAH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 28, 2022

The East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“EKGSA”) Board of Directors duly met for a Regular meeting on Monday, February 28, 2022, via video/phone conference and in person – COVID -19 protocol.

OPEN SESSION: Convened at 2:00 p.m. with a quorum.

1. **DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Buldo, Caudillo, Ferrara, George, Hornung, Micari, Milanesio, Peltzer, Roberts, Watson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Hagman, Executive Director; Chris Hunter, Program Manager; Joe Hughes, Legal Counsel; Matt Klinchuch, Consulting Engineer; Trilby Barton, Provost & Pritchard; Kathy Bennett, Senior Analyst; and various members of the committees and public.

2. **APPROVE THE AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda was made by Director George, seconded by Director Hornung, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Buldo, Caudillo, Ferrara, George, Hornung, Micari, Milanesio, Peltzer, Roberts, Watson

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Director Micari reported that Rod Burkett stepped down from the director position that represents the “white areas”. Tulare County Board of Supervisors will be voting on his replacement Steve Milanesio, on March 1, 2022.

4. **MINUTES:** Motion to adopt and ratify the minutes provided by the Secretary from the January 24, 2022, Regular Board Meeting was made by Director Roberts, seconded by Director Micari, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Buldo, Caudillo, Ferrara, George, Hornung, Micari, Milanesio, Peltzer, Roberts, Watson.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

5. ADMINISTRATION:

- a. Consider updating the EKGSA Logo. A new logo for the EKGSA was provided in the board packet and there was discussion on what was needed to make the change to it. A motion to approve going to the new logo was made, with the contingency that the already printed envelopes with the current logo be used up before printing more, by Director Micari, seconded by Director Watson, and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Buldo, Caudillo, Ferrara, George, Hornung, Micari, Milanesio, Peltzer, Roberts, Watson

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

- b. Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program Memorandum of Understanding with the Kaweah Subbasin (KSB) GSAs and Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT): Executive Director reviewed the MOU with the board to determine if board members wanted to provide a grant support letter. The purpose of the program will be to use state funds to repurpose irrigated lands in the KSB to assist in achieving groundwater sustainability. It was noted that Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District will apply for about \$10 million in grant money to assist the KSB to develop programs to reduce irrigated land. The land will need to be managed by someone. SRT manages trust lands and will be able to assist in this effort. This MOU basically allows the GSAs to work with SRT in development of repurposed ground and for SRT to manage it. There was considerable discussion regarding the intent of the Program and the grant funding. A motion to approve the Executive Director to continue with the MOU and writing the grant support letter was made by Director Micari, seconded by Director Roberts, and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Buldo, Caudillo, Ferrara, Hornung, Micari, Milanesio, Peltzer, Roberts, Watson

NOES: George

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

- c. Appoint Representative on the Kaweah Subbasin Management Team Committee. The previous representative is no longer available and a motion to appoint Craig Hornung as the new representative was made by Director Peltzer, seconded by Director Buldo, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Buldo, Caudillo, Ferrara, George, Hornung, Micari, Milanesio, Peltzer, Roberts, Watson.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

d. Staffing updates: Executive Director provided an update on the staff engineer position.

e. Payments: Senior Analyst provided the EKGSA check register. After some brief discussion on the payments, a motion to ratify payments made to meet the obligations of the EKGSA was made by Director George, seconded by Director Hornung, and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Buldo, Caudillo, Ferrara, George, Hornung, Micari, Milanesio, Peltzer, Roberts, Watson.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Proposition 68 – WCB Grant (RCIS): Executive Director reported on the status of the RCIS effort. The December 31st invoice has been submitted for reimbursement and as noted previously, we have received confirmation that the RCIS is technically complete. It is expected to have final approval by Department of Fish and Wildlife by late September.

f. Proposition 68 – Basin Planning Grant: The Program Manager provided an update on the administration and projects. Staff and Consultants are working on an amendment to the Grant. The Grant amendment proposed the replacement of the videoing of key basin wells, with three projects across the GSAs that improve the sub-basin monitoring network. Again, the SkyTem project and well metering Pilot Project have been completed.

g. Proposition 68 – Update on Implementation Grant: Executive Director reminded the Board that this grant is awarded to the Mid Kaweah GSA and focuses on DAC benefits and reviewed the two projects that we had that qualified – Lewis Creek Re-charge and the Mariposa Basin connection to Lindmore ID.

6. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

- a. Approve Notice of Exemption for EKGSA Monitoring Well Sites: The Executive Director reviewed the need for the Notice of Exemption and after discussion, a motion to approve the Notice of Exemption for EKGSA Monitoring Well Sites was made by Director Peltzer, seconded by Director Micari, and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Buldo, Caudillo, Ferrara, George, Hornung, Micari, Milanesio, Peltzer, Roberts, Watson.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

- b. Technical Advisory Committee Efforts: Klinchuch reported on the most recent TAC meetings since the last Board meeting. TAC is focusing on the GSP deficiencies, ET calculations and reporting to landowners, and Projects and Management Actions.

- c. Subbasin Efforts: Klinchuch provided an update on the projects and coordination activities in the subbasin.

- d. GSP Implementation: Executive Director and Program Manager provided an update on Implementation.

- AdHoc – Land IQ - ET: Program Manager reviewed the Board’s recommendation to create an AdHoc committee to assist staff with review of ET data. The Committee has met twice, and he noted there will be recommendations to the board from their discussions.
- Monitoring Network: Executive Director reported on the monitoring network, noting there will be 6 – 12 cone analysis sites in the EKGSA.
- Rules and Regulations “Term Sheet”: Legal Counsel reviewed the process for approving the Rules and Regulations with a 30-day comment period. It will be posted on website by close of business on March 11, 2022, and a card mailer will go out to EKGSA landowners notifying them of the process and how to provide comments and where and when the public hearing will be held.
- Summary of deficiencies on the GSP “Incomplete Designation”: Hagman reported on the deficiencies and Klinchuch reviewed the process and schedule for addressing the determination.
- Stakeholder input: Program Manager reviewed the input from stakeholders that he has met with and noted their request for EKGSA to apply consistency while implementing policy to accomplish objectives.
- Status of Projects/MA direction by Board: Hagman noted that the TAC and AC have been given the assignment to develop a matrix and scoring of projects and management actions.

e. OTHER: Nothing to Report

7. **CLOSED SESSION:** Board went into closed session at 5:05 p.m. and after discussion, came out of closed session at 5:44 p.m. There was no reportable action.

8. **SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:**

The Executive Director reported that the next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on April 25, 2022, however the Executive Director will contact the Board members to set a special board of directors' meeting in March.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Michael D. Hagman
Secretary, East Kaweah GSA