

SOUTHWEST KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 5, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency met in the second-floor conference room, 944 Whitley Avenue, Corcoran, California, on Friday, February 5, 2021, at the hour of 9:00 a.m. Per Executive Order N-29-20, the meeting was conducted via Zoom.

Chair Jackson presided and Executive Director Jackson kept the minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Steve Jackson
Mark Grewal
Kim Brown (arrived after Action Items via phone)
Jim Wilson
Bernard Puget

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Deanna Jackson, Executive Director
Staci Wilkins, Administrative Assistant
Amer Hussain, Geosyntec
David Armanasco, California Strategies
Rusty Areias, California Strategies
Riley Jones, Tulare Lake Compost
Carlo Wilcox
Cody Tolbert, Chevron
John Vidovich
Ashley Goldsmith

Chairman Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Wilson, the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved. (4-0)

1. Minutes of the December 4, 2020, Regular Board Meeting and December 29, 2020, Special Board Meeting
2. Warrants and Finances (12/1/2020 – 1/28/2021)

3. Treasurer's Report

ACTION CALENDAR

4. Consider action to approve the Contract for Services with Cuttone & Mastro to perform the audit for year-ending December 31, 2020.

Executive Director Jackson explained that Mike Cuttone has been contacted to perform the audit with a cost not to exceed \$4,100.

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Puget, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Contract for Services. (4-0)

5. Consider action to approve Geosyntec Task Orders 1 – 4.

Executive Director Jackson explained that Geosyntec is providing consulting services for engineering and hydrogeology. The Task Orders are a projected view of what work might be needed in 2021. Amer Hussain reviewed each of the Task Orders and answered all questions.

There were public comments that suggested the GSA look into projects with ways of moving and storing water within the Subbasin across GSA lines with coordination agreements.

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Wilson, the Board voted unanimously to approve Task Orders 1-4. (4-0)

6. Consider for discussion and ratification the Second Amendment to the Interim Principles of a GSA Coordination Agreement Between Southwest Kings and Westlands Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.

Legal Counsel Silkwood explained that Westlands believes there has been some productive discussion during the time of the tolling agreement which has been in place since May 2020. The Tolling Agreement will be extended through January 30, 2022.

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Puget, the Board voted to approve the extension of the Tolling Agreement. (4-0)

COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. **Director's Reports/Comments/Suggestion**

None

8. **Reports of General Interest**

- a) Tulare Lake Subbasin Update – Deanna Jackson / Amer Hussain

There has been a meeting to determine who will be the Point of Contact with the DWR, especially as the GSP's begin to come back to the GSA's. It should be a neutral party consultant to work

as a conduit with the DWR. The annual report is being created by Geosyntec which is due April 1 with all GSA's providing their data to complete the report. The first payment of Round 3 grant funding was received. The Subbasin received \$330,000 and Southwest Kings will be receiving a share totaling a little over \$60,000. The money will be placed back in the General Fund where it will then be used for coordination between the GSA's and Subbasin, in addition to working on items brought up during the review by the DWR. There will be a second reimbursement coming back to each of the GSA's.

Mr. Hussain added that once the annual report is completed, they will bring back maps and data to the Board to show how the GSA is doing in comparison to the GSP, water levels and measurable objectives.

b) California Strategies – David Armanasco and Rusty Areias

David Armanasco and Rusty Areias reported they had met briefly with Taryn Ravazzini who recently retired from DWR. We should continue to work with staff in place at DWR until her replacement is named. They intend to meet with Karla Nemeth to discuss subsidence and groundwater pumping within the Tulare Lake Subbasin. They also continue to gather support for the Allensworth project.

c) Legal Counsel Report – Pam Silkwood

Nothing to report

d) Other updates, as appropriate

There are conflicts with the specified meeting time found in the Bylaws (Section 4.01) on Fridays at 10:00 am. It was recommended that at the next Board meeting there be a discussion on alternative days and times so that all Directors are able to attend the meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

12. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of February 5, 2021, meeting, Chair Jackson adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m. until the next Regular Meeting with a date to be determined at 944 Whitley Avenue, Corcoran, or as otherwise directed by the Board.

Attest:



Kim Brown, Secretary-Treasurer



Steve Jackson, Chair