

MINUTES of the meeting of the Board of Directors of Southwest Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency held on April 12, 2017. at the office of the Agency Office, 286 W. Cromwell Avenue, Fresno, California.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

William Phillimore, Dudley Ridge Water District
Bernard Puget, Dudley Ridge Water District
Ceil Howe Jr., Tulare Lake Reclamation District 761

DIRECTORS NOT PRESENT:

Jamie Howe, Tulare Lake Reclamation District 761
Steven Jackson, White Areas representative

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dale Melville, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
Joe Hopkins, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
Lauren Layne, Baker, Manock & Jensen
Colleen Carlson, Kings County Counsel
Riley Jones, landowner
Dusty Ference, Tulare County Farm Bureau

President Phillimore called the Board meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. and initiated a round of self-introductions by the board and attendees.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Carlson requested that a teleconference line be available for future meetings. Mr. Melville noted that this would be discussed later in the meeting.

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Director Puget and second by Director Phillimore, the minutes from the March 8, 2017 meeting of the Agency were approved as presented by the following vote:

Phillimore	Puget	J. Howe	C. Howe Jr	Jackson
Aye	Aye	Absent	Aye	Absent

OLD BUSINESS

The following items were discussed under old business, each being noticed in the agenda.

JPA Agreement

Mr. Melville and Ms. Layne discussed various options to amend the JPA regarding alternative directors. After a brief discussion, the decision was made to leave the JPA agreement as-is for the time being.

Appointing Alternate Directors

This item was tabled. Staff asked that the districts consider appointing alternate directors at their next respective board meetings.

Adopting Bylaws

Ms. Layne presented proposed modifications to the Bylaws. Director Puget motioned to adopt the Bylaws upon inclusion of Ms. Layne's recommendations to modify portions of Article III; the modified Bylaws are attached to and made a part of these Minutes. This motion was seconded by Director C. Howe Jr. and approved by the following vote:

Phillimore	Puget	J. Howe	C. Howe Jr	Jackson
Aye	Aye	Absent	Aye	Absent

Website

Mr. Melville provided a brief demonstration of the website swkqsa.org, noting that it is now live.

NEW BUSINESS

The following items were discussed under new business, each being noticed in the agenda.

Authorizing Preparation of an Engineer's Report and a Prop 218 Election

Mr. Melville requested that the Board authorize preparation of the Engineer's Report for the Prop 218 election to generate fees to cover the Agency's projected expenses. Director Phillimore said he would assign two people to serve as an ad hoc committee to consult with staff on the method of allocating charges. Following a short discussion, Director C. Howe Jr. motioned that staff begin the Engineer's Report with input from the ad hoc committee. The motion was seconded by Director Puget and approved by the following vote:

Phillimore	Puget	J. Howe	C. Howe Jr	Jackson
Aye	Aye	Absent	Aye	Absent

Adopting a Reimbursement Policy for Board Members

Following a short discussion, Director C. Howe Jr. motioned to adopt the policy, which is attached to and made a part of these Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Puget and approved by the following vote:

Phillimore	Puget	J. Howe	C. Howe Jr	Jackson
Aye	Aye	Absent	Aye	Absent

Minor Revisions to Agency Boundary

Mr. Hopkins updated the Board regarding boundary revisions to address immaterial overlaps and misalignments. A substantial overlap exists with Tri-County Water Authority GSA, however Tri-County is adjusting their boundary to resolve. No Board action was necessary.

Discussion on Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Mr. Melville requested the Board to authorize staff to develop a water budget to compare against the modeling work being prepared for the Tulare Lake Subbasin by consultants for Kings County. Mr. Melville also suggested reinitiating basinwide discussions regarding SGMA compliance, specifically coordination agreements. Director Puget motioned to move forward with Mr. Melville’s request. The motion was seconded by Director C. Howe Jr. and approved by the following vote:

Phillimore	Puget	J. Howe	C. Howe Jr	Jackson
Aye	Aye	Absent	Aye	Absent

REPORT OF COUNSEL

Ms. Layne reported on the following pending State legislation:

- AB 313, a proposal to move the SWRCB water rights division under DWR
- AB 321, to amend SGMA to require solicitation of landowner comments during GSP development
- AB 723, to further regulate ag water efficiency
- AB 947, to modify the code so Streambed Alteration Agreements are not necessary for routine maintenance
- SB 252, to require counties to regulate well permits
- SB 372, to allow the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority to form special act GSA

OTHER BUSINESS

A discussion was held on the following items:

- Insurance Coverage for Board Members. Ms. Layne discussed that if the member agencies carry ACWA-JPIA, then they would be covered for the Agency. RD 761 does not use ACWA-JPIA and will research if they are covered under their insurance.
- Phone-in Option for Board meetings. Staff will setup a teleconference line for future Board meetings. This will require some noticing and posting by Board members if they plan to attend by phone.
- Bank Account. An awareness that after the Prop 218 election has passed, the Agency will need to establish a bank account. Recommendations were provided by those in attendance, with the authority given to Mr. Melville to make the selection.
- GSA Update. The notice to submit the Agency information to form an exclusive GSA was sent to DWR on March 29, 2017. If unchallenged, the GSA will become exclusive on June 27, 2017.
- Interim Cost Sharing Agreement. RD 761 has been provided an invoice by DRWD to reimburse DRWD for agreed portion of SWKGSA costs to date.

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

The regularly scheduled May board meeting has been cancelled. The next regular board meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 14, 2017, at 3:00 pm at the Agency office.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 4:20 p.m. Chairman Phillimore adjourned the meeting.

Steven D. Jackson, Secretary-Treasurer

APPROVED:

William D. Phillimore, Chairman