

**MID-KINGS RIVER GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2019**

Chair McCutcheon called the regular meeting to order at approximately 1:08 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Art Brieno; Steven P. Dias; Barry McCutcheon, Chair

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Michael Murray, Vice-Chair

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Mills, GM and Board Secretary
Ray Carlson, Legal Counsel John Draxler, Hanford
Ceil Howe Jr, South Fork Kings GSA
Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Milk Producers Council
Mike LaSalle Bill Giacomazzi

ESTABLISH QUORUM

It was determined that a quorum was present at the meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 9, 2019 MEETING

Chair McCutcheon asked if there was a motion regarding the minutes circulated in this month's Board packets. Director Dias made a motion to approve the July 9, 2019 meeting minutes. Director Brieno seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of July 9, 2019. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: Art Brieno, Steven P. Dias, Barry McCutcheon

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Michael Murray

COMMUNICATIONS

None

GSP DEVELOPMENT

GSP Development Budget Update

Manager Mills gave a brief review of the requested budget increase of \$250,000 from the Tulare Lake GSP consultant Wood and the reasons for the overage. Manager Mills also reported

on discussions with the other Tulare Lake GSAs and that the Tri-County Water Authority, the Southwest Kings GSA and the El Rico GSA had already voted to approve the request through their representatives and that the South Fork Kings GSA would consider the matter on August 15. The Board discussed various aspects of the matter and asked several questions. Afterward Manager Mills asked the Board for guidance on how they wanted him to vote as their representative. Director Brieno made a motion to authorize manager Mills to vote to approve the requested GSP Budget increase. Director Dias seconded the motion and Chair McCutcheon called for a vote. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: Art Brieno, Steven P. Dias, Barry McCutcheon

NOES: None

ABSTAINED:None

ABSENT: Michael Murray

Tulare Lake Subbasin Round 3 SGM Grant Application, Due 11/01/19

Manager Mills explained that the Department of Water Resources had an upcoming Round 3 of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Grants relating to GSP Implementation that would become available in September. The current round of grant funding will make \$500,000 available for the Subbasin if the application is successful. Further, Joe Hopkins at Provost and Pritchard had developed a rough budget estimate of \$25,000 to develop the grant application on behalf of the Tulare Lake Subbasin. Provost and Pritchard was also the consultant involved in developing the grant application to DWR in 2017 for the \$1.5 million GSP development funding. Manager Mills explained that the current proposal is for the MKR GSA to again be the contract holder for the grant application development effort on behalf of the Subbasin and for the costs for development to be consistent with the Subbasin's 2017 Interim Operating Agreement. The Board discussed various aspects of the matter and asked several questions. Afterward, Manager Mills asked the Board for guidance on how they wanted him to vote as their representative. Director Dias made a motion to authorize manager Mills to vote to approve the proposal with the \$25,000 budget for the MKR to be the contract holder for the Round 3 SGM grant application on behalf of the Subbasin. Director Brieno seconded the motion and Chair McCutcheon called for a vote. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: Art Brieno, Steven P. Dias, Barry McCutcheon

NOES: None

ABSTAINED:None

ABSENT: Michael Murray

Tulare Lake Subbasin 2020 Annual Report, Due 04/01/20

Manager Mills explained that the Department of Water Resources is requiring an annual report from subbasins that will be due on April 1, 2020. The current understanding is that this annual report will take the monitoring data involved in the developing GSPs and bring it current

through the end of Water Year 2019. Wood and Provost and Pritchard had discussed developing a proposal for this effort, but after discussions it appeared that Provost and Pritchard's staff was more aligned with the effort, so Brian Ehlers developed a proposal with a budget of \$57,000 for the described effort. Manager Mills explained that the current proposal is for the MKR GSA to again be the contract holder for the 2020 Annual Report development effort on behalf of the Subbasin and for the costs for development to be consistent with the Subbasin's 2017 Interim Operating Agreement. The Board discussed various aspects of the matter and asked several questions. Afterward, Manager Mills asked the Board for guidance on how they wanted him to vote as their representative. Director Dias made a motion to authorize manager Mills to vote to approve the proposal for the MKR to be the contract holder for the 2020 Annual Report on behalf of the Subbasin. Director Brieno seconded the motion and Chair McCutcheon called for a vote. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: Art Brieno, Steven P. Dias, Barry McCutcheon

NOES: None

ABSTAINED:None

ABSENT: Michael Murray

Update from recent Tulare Lake GSA Parties Meetings

Manager Mills reported that the current plan for Tulare Lake Subbasin GSP review is for the 90 Day notice for Public Hearings to be first sent out on Tuesday, September 3 and for the Draft GSP document to be available on Friday, September 6. He explained that portions of the Draft GSP will not have been reviewed by the Subbasin GSAs when it is released in Draft for review. Therefore, the GSAs will become commenters to those new sections and will likely attempt to coordinate their comments and how to address them during the 90 day period.

Draft MKR GSA Projects List Developed by Staff

Manager Mills reported on the six categories of projects developed by MKR staff and the information that was provided to the GSP Development consultant. For each project type information had been summarized in a form to help show the project or program's viability. The project types included 1) Existing basins, 2) Old River modifications, 3) Fallowing program, 4) Cartright Basins, 5) Last Chance Side Ditches and 6) New basins. For the Existing Basins, Manager Mills described these efforts as improvements to existing facilities and the easily available low-hanging fruit. He also relayed that many of these efforts were already underway to try and make the existing Kings CWD recharge basins as useful and productive as possible. For the Fallowing program, Manager Mills described this as an important drought year tool. However, he relayed that the GSA would make efforts in 2020 to develop this program so that it could be tested in 2021. The hope is to have the issues in this program worked out so that it can be relied on when needed. Manager Mills specifically noted the Cartright Basins because they are large basins in the Tulare Lake subbasin that are owned by Lakeside IWD, close to the Kaweah/Tulare lake subbasin boundary. This facility is within the MKR GSA, but will have issues related to how water budget components are dealt with in both subbasins. For the New

Basins, Manager Mills noted that implementation of some efforts have already started through partner agencies and that efforts to refine costs are on-going.

UPDATE ON ONGOING EFFORTS

None

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

The regular September Board of Directors meeting was set for September 10, 2019 at 1 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Government Code Section § 54956.9(b)

Chair McCutcheon directed that the Board move into Closed Session to discuss a matter related to anticipated litigation. The Board of Directors, General Manager Mills and Attorney Carlson proceeded into Closed Session.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Following the Closed Session, Chair McCutcheon reported that no reportable action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Mills
MKR MIN 190812