

South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Workshop and Special Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2018 at 5:30 PM
Lemoore City Council Chambers

Members Present:

David Brown, City of Lemoore (Secretary)
Joe Neves, County of Kings (Chair)
Ceil Howe, Empire West Side Irrigation District (Vice Chair)
Charles Meyer, Stratford Irrigation District
Scott Mercer, Stratford Public Utility District

Members Absent:

None.

Others Present:

Amer Hussain, Geosyntec Consultants (Technical Consultant)
Bob Anderson, Geosyntec Consultants (Technical Consultant)
Randy Shilling, Kings River Conservation District (Treasurer)
Charlotte Gallock, Kings River Conservation District
Rebecca Quist, Kings River Conservation District

Workshop

Item 1: CALL TO ORDER

Presenter: Chair Neves

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM.

Item 2: GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN UPDATE

Presenter: Amer Hussain, Bob Anderson

Discussion:

Technical Consultant Amer Hussain, Geosyntec Consultants, presented on the planning process, the preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and on overview of Tulare Lake Subbasin groundwater model developments. Hussain reminded the Board that they are not only coordinating with the Tulare Lake Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), but are also coordinating with the Kings and Westside Basins. The public draft of the GSP will be available for public comment June 2019. Hussain reminded the Board that the GSA will determine the criteria for defining what the significant and undesirable effects are, which can vary per management area. Hussain presented task orders 5-10, up for approval at the special meeting occurring after the Workshop is adjourned.

Hussain answered questions from the Board, clarifying that that the GSA will select representative monitoring wells and create groundwater sustainable policies and building projects. The Board discussed subsidence, water storage, and the adaptability of the GSP as the GSA gains more information.

Bob Anderson with Geosyntec Consultants presented the Tulare Lake Subbasin groundwater flow model, which includes areas within and outside of the GSA's boundaries. The model considers trend data on groundwater, surface water, and crop activities into account and includes subsidence predictions. Staff will update the model as more information is gathered in the future. In the meantime, the model will be used to fill in unknown data gaps. Anderson explained how the model calculates the water moving in and out of the GSA's boundaries, stating that more water is moving out of the Tulare Lake Subbasin than is be contributed to the Subbasin. Hussain asked for more stakeholder input regarding crop rotation and associated groundwater pumping usage.

Actions: None.

Item 3: ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned: 6:46 PM

Special Meeting

Item 1: CALL TO ORDER

Presenter: Chair Neves

The meeting was called to order at 6:51 PM.

Item 2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Presenter: Chair Neves

Item 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

Presenter: Chair Neves

Discussion:

Hylon Kaufman (Clovis, CA), Director of Business Development and Marketing for Ranch Systems, introduced herself and Ranch Systems as a solution for monitoring and data collection to be considered as the GSA implements its GSP. Ranch Systems is based in Novato, CA.

Actions: None.

Item 4: CONSIDER APPROVING TASK ORDERS FOR FISCAL YEAR
2019 PROFESSIONAL TECHNICAL SERVICES

Presenter: Amer Hussain

Discussion:

Hussain presented and summarized task orders the following task orders for Board approval, as detailed in the agenda packet:

- 5: Phase I Evaluation of Water Budget.
- 6: Phase II Sustainability Criteria.
- 7: Evaluation of Monitoring Network
- 8: Project Management FY 2019
- 9: Evaluate Projects and Management Actions
- 10: Begin Preparation of GSP – Phase I

The Board discussed potential groundwater banking projects, considering the GSA does not hold water rights. Hussain informed the Board that the modeling team at Amec reached out to the neighboring Subbasins regarding coordinating on a Subbasin-to-Subbasin level. Hussain affirmed that tasks up for approval are within the GSA's budget and do not require an additional assessment.

Actions:

Director Howe motioned, seconded by Director Brown, and it was unanimously carried to approve task orders 5-10.

(AYES: Brown, Howe, Meyer, Mercer, Neves; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None)

Item 5: OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Presenter: Chair Neves

Discussion:

When asked, Treasurer Randy Shilling informed the Board that the next opportunity to lower the assessment rate will be in April-May 2019 when the GSA approves its FY2019-2020 budget.

Actions: None.

Item 6: NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS **Presenter:** Chair Neves

Discussion:

Thursday, August 16, 2018 at 5:30 PM to conduct regular business and to discuss forming the Ad-Hoc Technical Advisory Group.

Actions: None.

Item 7: ADJOURNMENT **Adjourned:** 7:27 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Board Secretary

_____ approved on August 16, 2018

Joe Neves, Board Chair