



EASTERN TULE
GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY
JOINT POWERS
AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD NOVEMBER 15, 2018

At approximately, 2:00 p.m. on November 15, 2018, at the City of Porterville Transit Multi-Purpose Center, Chairman Eric Borba, called to order a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority (“ETGSA”).

Members Present: Mike Reed Eric Limas
Denise England Eric Borba
Sean Geivet Steve Dalke
Steve Etchegaray Steve Drumright

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Bryce McAteer Aubrey Mauritson
Don Castle Stacie Ann Silva
Bill Bennett Terry Schuler
Matt Feaver John M. Domondon
David Payne Mike George
John Konda Skye Grass
Tim Allen Tim Gobler
Bill Samarin Mike Knight

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Eric Borba announced the public comment period. No public comment was received.

MINUTES

Approval of Executive Committee Minutes for October 18, 2018 Meeting

Committee member England moved for approval of the October 18, 2018 minutes. The motion was seconded by Committee member Geivet and the committee unanimously approved the motion.

ETGSA MEETINGS REVIEW

Report on ETGSA Board Meeting of November 1, 2018

Executive Director McAteer provided a report on the November 1, 2018 Board meeting. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #4.a is a copy of the report.

Report on Stakeholder Committee Meeting of November 8, 2018

Executive Director McAteer provided a report on the November 8, 2018 Stakeholder meeting. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #4.b is a copy of the report.

TULE SUBBASIN COORDINATION

Review Projects and Management Actions and Recommend Scenarios and Projects to be Proposed for Inclusion in TH&Co GWFM Projection Scenario Runs for Tule Subbasin

Executive Director McAteer began a presentation on project and management action concepts prepared by ETGSA staff and received from member agencies and stakeholders to be considered for inclusion in the Thomas Harder & Co (“TH&Co”) future projection scenario runs for the Tule Subbasin MOU Group. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #5a is a copy of his PowerPoint presentation.

Ramp down (Part 1)

Executive Director McAteer asked for a recommendation from the Committee on scenarios for ramp down of groundwater pumping.

*Committee member Dalke arrived at this time.

Discussion amongst the committee ensued regarding the results of model runs already underway and the relationship of those results to a recommendation on ramp down. Discussion amongst the committee also ensued regarding the other Tule Subbasin GSAs’ interest on the ETGSA’s recommendation for a ramp down schedule and the need for coordination.

Executive Director McAteer reported Thomas Harder had requested the Tule Subbasin GSAs’ scenario proposals by November 16, 2018.

Discussion amongst the committee ensued on the proposed scenarios.

Public comment was received from Don Castle.

Discussion amongst the committee ensued regarding the economics associated with the ramp down schedule.

Committee member Geivet suggested Scenarios C, D, and E be considered. Committee member Etchegaray seconded.

Public comment was received from Tim Allen.

Discussion amongst the committee ensued on the motion.

Executive Director McAteer recommended waiting for a vote until other areas were discussed. As a result, the motion was tabled.

Friant Kern Canal (FKC) Model Run (Part 2)

Executive Director McAteer then directed the Committee to the slides of the presentation related to addressing subsidence along the Friant-Kern Canal.

Discussion amongst the committee ensued regarding additional studies related to the choke point on the FKC and the need for Thomas Harder's model run results to assist in these recommendations.

Executive Director McAteer reported the refurbished Extensometer is currently in operation, but all data is preliminary. Reports are still that the canal is sinking roughly one inch per month.

Committee member Etchegaray recommended exploring the land fallowing and extraction exclusion zone options, as well as recharge basins.

Public comment was received from Bill Bennett.

Discussion ensued regarding the complexities of not having Thomas Harder's results and considering the proposals.

Public comment was received from John Konda and Tim Gobler.

Committee member Etchegaray moved to recommend the one-mile buffer zone be ran in conjunction with Scenario C, and land fallowing be ran in conjunction with Scenarios D or E. Executive Director McAteer recommended tabling the motion until the remainder of the presentation.

Public comment was received from Terry Schuler.

Public comment was received from Tim Allen.

Discussion amongst the committee ensued about the need to address one situation at a time in the model runs and the model runs currently underway by TH&Co.

Public comment was received from Don Castle.

Scenario C, One-Mile Buffer, Scenario D with Fallow and/or Buffer; E with Fallow Program. Projects (Part 3)

Executive Director McAteer provided a report on the proposed project and management actions scenario descriptions received by the ETGSA from various member agencies and stakeholders.

Public comment was received from Tim Gobler.

Discussion amongst the committee ensued regarding the point of these projects, their feasibility, and the need or lack thereof to run model runs on the proposed projects. Discussion ensued regarding the project proponents and that the projects proposed are not necessarily intended to assist the ETGSA as a whole or the Tule Subbasin as a whole. Discussion ensued regarding the potential for a universal agreement in the subbasin related to leave behind. The committee discussed tabling the recommendation on model runs for proposed projects.

Public comment was from Don Castle and Bill Samarin.

Public comment was received from Bill Samarin.

Recommendation

Discussion amongst the committee ensued regarding a recommendation for ramp down and addressing subsidence along the FKC.

Committee member Geivet moved to recommend the following: Scenario C be ran with a one-mile buffer zone; Scenario D be ran with the following program and one-mile buffer zone; and Scenario E be ran with the following program as characterized and identified in Executive Director McAteer's presentation. Committee member Etchegaray seconded and the committee unanimously approved.

GSP DRAFTING

Discussion on Transitional Mechanism (Policy Point D) and its Distribution; May Make a Recommendation

Executive Director McAteer began a presentation regarding the transitional mechanisms and its distribution, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #6.a.

Public comment was received from John Konda.

Executive Director McAteer noted that there had been a request from the Board to clarify how the transitional volume be made available. He presented a number of concepts related to the transitional mechanism and what attributes such a mechanism might include.

Discussion amongst the committee ensued on how the transitional volume of water is to be made available. Discussion ensued on the need of white area growers as related to those with access to surface water and how to incentivize the use of available surface water supplies when available.

Public comment was received from John Konda, Don Castle, and Bill Bennett.

Discussion amongst the committee ensued on who the transitional pumping should be made available to. The committee discussed options such as developed irrigated lands versus non-developed lands, the timing of that determination, and marketability of transitional water.

Committee member Etchegaray moved to recommend that Tier 1 and Tier 2 water be allowed to be carried over and that only Tier 1 water be marketable and tradable. Committee member Geivet seconded and the committee unanimously approved.

The remaining agenda items were pulled from discussion due to time.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Next Regular Meeting – Thursday, December 20, 2018 at Transit Multi-Purpose Center
(15 E. Thurman Ave., Ste. D, Porterville)

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is set for December 20, 2018, 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Borba adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryce McAteer, Secretary to the Board