



EASTERN TULE
GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY
JOINT POWERS
AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE ETGSA STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE HELD NOVEMBER 29, 2018

At approximately 2:00 p.m. on November 29, 2018, at the Transit Multi Purpose Center at 15 E. Thurman Ave, Suite D, Porterville, CA, Chairman Matthew Leider, called to order the meeting of the Stakeholder Committee of the Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority (“ETGSA”).

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Don Castle	Jim Parsons
Kathy Briano	Bill Bennett
Sopac Mulholland	Matt Watkins
Matthew Leider	Julia Inestroza

Members Absent:

Ben Magana	John Konda
Tom O’Sullivan	Jason Guthrie

Others Present:

Bryce McAteer	Mark Merritt
Michael Knight	John Domondon
David Payne	Julie Allen
Terry Schuler	Garrett Busch
Bill Wallace	Bill Samarin
Phil Pierre	Geoff Vanden Heuvel
John Matthiessan	Val Guzman
Ronnie Koetsier	

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Leider announced the public comment period. No public comment was received.

MINUTES

Approval of Stakeholder Committee Minutes of November 8, 2018

Executive Director McAteer presented the Minutes of the November 8, 2018 Stakeholder Committee Meeting, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #3.a.

Member Bill Bennett moved for approval of the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Member Jim Parsons and the Committee unanimously approved the motion.

ETGSA MEETINGS REVIEW

Report on Executive Committee Meeting of November 15, 2018

Executive Director McAteer provided a report to the Committee on the ETGSA Executive Committee Meeting of November 15, 2018. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference is a copy of his report as Agenda Item #4.a. Executive Director McAteer noted in his report the recommendations made by the Executive Committee.

TULE SUBBASIN COORDINATION

Report on progress of TH&Co Task Items, other Tule Subbasin MOU Group updates, and new Scope of Work Proposal related to Subsidence along the Friant-Kern Canal

Executive Director McAteer provided a report regarding the progress of Thomas Harder & Co (“TH&Co”) on their Task Items on behalf of the Tule Subbasin MOU Group, other updates related to the Tule Subbasin MOU Group, and a new Scope of Work proposed by TH&Co to the Tule Subbasin MOU group that would investigate subsidence along the Friant-Kern Canal. The report is attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #5.a, and a copy of the Scope of Work Proposal is attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #5.a. Exhibit A.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding when the Tule Subbasin GSAs could expect new results and data from TH&Co, the timing the future projection scenario runs, and if there are other projects that should be considered.

Public comment as received from Bill Wallace and Bill Samarin.

* Member Sopac Mulholland arrived at this time.

Public comment was received from Julie Allen.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the projects that may be considered within the ETGSA and how those are to be incorporated into future projection scenario runs.

GSP DRAFTING

Discussion on transitional mechanism (Policy Point D) and its distribution; **may make a recommendation**

Executive Director McAteer began a presentation, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #6.a, that included background information and concepts related to Policy Point D.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the recommendation of the Executive Committee on Policy Point D and its distribution. The Executive Director reviewed the tiered Transitional Volume Option (“TVO”) concept that the Executive Committee had recommended on and the process by which the Executive Committee made their recommendation.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the Executive Committee’s recommendation and the need for a transitional ramp down of groundwater overdraft. Executive Director McAteer described different example scenarios in his presentation related to ramp down and how TVOs might initially be distributed.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding distributing the first tier of TVOs to all irrigated lands. Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding properties within irrigation districts that are not tied in to surface water distribution system and how those and similar circumstances complicate the definition of “white area”. Further discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding how to define white area and lands that receive water through local ditch companies and other surface water providers.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the pricing of TVOs, price disincentives to use overdraft water, and adjustment through trading TVOs.

Public comment was received from Bill Samarin, John Mattiessan, and John Domondon.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the price of the transitional groundwater and if other GSAs are considering similar concepts.

Public comment was received from Bill Samarin.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding historical use and the difficulty of defining historical use. Additional discussion ensued regarding recharge projects and providing groundwater credits for recharging water. Additional discussion ensued regarding how to disincentivize use of transitional water and groundwater overdraft.

Member Watkins moved to recommended that Tier 1 transitional water be made available to irrigated lands on a proportional basis, with volume and price to be determined, with a carryover policy that it can be carried over into the next five-year period for a fee (to be determined) and exhausted thereafter, and that it be tradeable. Member Parsons seconded the motion.

Public comment was received from Bill Samarin.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the definition of irrigated acres.

The Committee then unanimously approved Member Watkins’ motion.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding Tier 2 TVOs water and whether or not it should be tradable.

Public comment was received from Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Julie Allen, Mike Knight, and again by Geoff Vanden Heuvel and Bill Samarin.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding how transitional groundwater would be distributed between Tier 1 and Tier 2, what amounts might be available, and consideration around historical use and need.

Public comment was received from Geoff Vanden Heuvel.

Member Watkins moved to recommend that Tier 2 water be made available to irrigated acres through an application-based process based on need with guidelines to be established, and that the Tier 2 water not be eligible for carry over and not be tradable nor marketable. Member Castle seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

Review Policy Points F-N; **may make a recommendation**

Executive Director McAteer began a presentation, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #6.b, regarding Policy Points F-N.

Policy Point F

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding Policy Point F, which had to do with monitoring groundwater use. Executive Director McAteer suggested to the Committee three recommendations:

- Recommend the use of meters for wells extracting greater than 2 acre-feet and providing that water for M&I uses or other uses that cannot be accurately monitored with satellite remote sensing technology;
- Recommend the use of remote evapotranspiration for the monitoring of groundwater used to meet agricultural crop demand
- Recommend that all wells pumping greater than 2 acre-feet be registered

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding Policy Point F and the Executive Director's suggested recommendations. Additional discussion ensued regarding the use of remote evapotranspiration and the presentation made by Dr. Dan Howes at the last Stakeholder Committee meeting.

Member Watkins moved to accept the Executive Director's recommendations on Policy Point F. Member Bennet seconded the motion, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Policy Point G

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding Policy Point G, which had to do with penalties. Executive Director McAteer suggested to the Committee the following recommendation:

- Recommend that there be monetary and regulatory penalties for non-compliance and using groundwater in excess of what is in a user's account.

Member Watkins moved to accept the Executive Director's recommendation on Policy Point G. Member Castle seconded the motion, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Policy Points H & I

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding Policy Points H & I, which have to do with recognizing recharge efforts prior to and during the implementation of the GSP. Executive Director McAteer suggested to the Committee the following recommendation:

- Recommend that ETGSA provide groundwater credits to operators and participants of recharge projects that are validated and meet certain standards, to be established by ETGSA.

Member Watkins moved to accept the Executive Director's recommendation on Policy Points H & I. Member Mulholland seconded the motion.

Public comment was received from Bill Samarin.

The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

The discussion on the policy points then concluded.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Next Meeting – Thursday, December 13, 2018 at Transit Multi Purpose Center (15 E. Thurman Ave, Suite D, Porterville)

Executive Director McAteer announced that the next regular meeting of the Stakeholder Committee will be on December 13, 2018 at 2pm and that the meeting location will take place at the Transit Multi Purpose Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Leider adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryce G. McAteer, Secretary to the Board