



EASTERN TULE
GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY
JOINT POWERS
AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE ETGSA STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE HELD JANUARY 10, 2019

At approximately 2:00 p.m. on January 10, 2019, 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	John Konda
Kathy Briano	Bill Bennett
Matt Watkins	Julia Inestroza
Matthew Leider	Jason Guthrie

Members Absent:

Ben Magana	Sopac Mulholland
Tom O’Sullivan	Jim Parsons

Others Present:

Bryce McAteer	Steve Kisling
Stacie Ann Silva	Garrett Busch
Mike Knight	Sean Geivet
Ryan Jensen	John Michael Domondon
Mark Merritt	David Payne

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

MINUTES

Approval of Stakeholder Committee Minutes of December 13, 2018

Executive Director McAteer presented the Minutes of the December 13, 2018 Stakeholder Committee Meeting, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #3.a.

Member Watkins moved for approval of the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Member Briano and the Committee unanimously approved the motion.

ETGSA MEETINGS REVIEW

Report on ETGSA Executive Committee Meeting of December 20, 2018

Executive Director McAteer provided a report to the Committee on the ETGSA Executive Committee Meeting of December 20, 2018. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #4.a is a copy of his report.

Report on ETGSA Board Meeting of January 3, 2019

Executive Director McAteer provided a report to the Committee on the ETGSA Board Meeting of January 3, 2019. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #4.b is a copy of his report.

TULE SUBBASIN COORDINATION

Report on South Valley SGMA Practitioners Roundtable Event (December 18, 2018)

Executive Director McAteer provided the Committee with a report on the recent South Valley SGMA Practitioners Event, which was hosted on December 18, 2018 and open to the public. A copy of his report, a copy of the Agenda from the event, and a copy of the Tulare Lake Basin GSP Dashboard that was presented at the event are attached hereto and incorporated by reference, respectively, as Agenda Items #5.a, #5.a Exhibit A, and #5.a Exhibit B.

Report on Coordination Agreement Drafting, TH&Co Task Items, and Proposed Process for Sustainable Management Criteria Develop and Tule Subbasin GSP Coordination

Executive Director McAteer provided the Committee with a report on the status of various Subbasin issues and Task Items being undertaken by Thomas Harder & Company's ("TH&Co"), attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #5.b. Additionally, Executive Director McAteer provided the Committee with a presentation, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #5.b Exhibit A, describing the process that had been discussed amongst the Subbasin GSA Managers and proposed in order to help the Subbasin GSAs coordinate on their Sustainable Management Criteria and GSPs.

GSP DRAFTING

Report on GSP Drafting and Update to Draft GSP Creation Schedule

Executive Director McAteer provided the Committee with a report, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #6.a, on the status of ETGSA's GSP drafting. Executive Director noted that planned completion of draft GSP had been pushed back by approximately two months and that the adjustment to the schedule had been approved by the

Board. The updated Draft GSP creation schedule was provided to the Committee for their review, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #6.a Exhibit A.

Report on Coordination Agreement Drafting, TH&Co Task Items, and Proposed Process for Sustainable Management Criteria Develop and Tule Subbasin GSP Coordination

The Committee asked to return to the discussion regarding coordination among the GSAs on projects and management actions, and asked the Executive Director how projects would be coordinated.

The Executive Director referred the Committee to the slides previously presented in Agenda Item #5.b Exhibit B, and described the process proposed for assembling and finalizing future projection scenario runs.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the economic impacts of these projects, and whether the GSAs or ETGSA in particular was considering retaining an economist to address and consider the economic implications of SGMA implementation within the Tule Subbasin. It was mentioned that ETGSA had previously contracted for and later received an economic analysis related to implementation that was undertaken by a UC Berkeley Masters student.

Public comment was received from Sean Geivet, Mike Reed, and Ryan Jensen.

Introduction to new policy matters for discussion and consideration; **may make a recommendation**

Executive Director McAteer noted that, at the last Stakeholder and Executive Committee meetings, a discussion had taken place regarding new policy issues that these Committees may wish to discuss. Those policy issues were summarized in Agenda Item #6.b, attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

The Executive Director then began a presentation, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #6.b Exhibit A, further describing those policy issues and providing an introduction to each one.

The Executive Director briefly reviewed sustainable management criteria, how those might be established, and considerations for each of the sustainability indicators.

Discussion amongst the Committee ensued regarding Management areas, how other GSAs were approaching management areas, whether management areas had been considered in the monitoring plan being developed by TH&Co, and how monitoring sites would be funded and what current sources of funding existed.

Discussion amongst the Committee then ensued regarding the information TH&Co was expected to provide and whether or not they might ask the Executive Director to bring back conceptual management area maps to help visualize different approaches.

The Committee asked the Executive Director to review with them the Water Budget Areas that TH&Co was using for the groundwater flow model. Executive Director McAteer referred the Committee to the map of Water Budget Areas provided in the Scope of Work proposal related to Friant-Kern Canal subsidence, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #6.b Exhibit B.

It was noted by the Committee that it would be helpful to receive a higher quality map of the water budget areas, particularly focused on the ETGSA and including geographic references such as streets to help viewers have a better frame of reference.

Public comment was received from Mike Reed.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the City of Porterville's effluent recharge operation and whether it is included in TH&Co's study on subsidence.

The Executive Director then reviewed the information that TH&Co was developing for the GSAs, and noting that the majority of their work would assist the GSAs in developing SMCs, evaluating projects and management actions, and developing future water budgets. Additionally, the Executive Director noted that the Tule Subbasin must both coordinate amongst themselves and with adjacent subbasin, as SGMA and the GSP Regulations state that the implementation of a Plan cannot adversely affect the ability of adjacent basins to become sustainable. A major area of concern is continued subsidence along the Friant-Kern Canal, and he noted the GSAs in Kern and Tule have had initial discussions on the matter and are looking to have future coordination meetings in the coming months.

Discussion then turned to reviewing various elements related to the sharing system that would be reviewed with the Committee at its next meeting.

Discussion then moved to the topic of recharge projects, and potential criteria to consider for validating recharge projects within the ETGSA.

Public comment was received from Bill Samarin.

Discussion was had amongst the Committee regarding the different information that might be required for different types of recharge projects.

Public comment was received from Bill Samarin.

Additional discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding whether there was any document or source describing all the permits and procedures necessary to build recharge projects, what State regulations currently exist, what permits the County and City currently

require, what District Policies exist within the ETGSA, and the criteria for valid sources of surface water.

Public comment was received from Mike Reed, Sean Geivet and Bill Samarin.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding recharge projects that had been included in TH&Co's historical water budget.

Executive Director then began a discussion regarding the concept of historical use, and what considerations might be made when considering both the term's definition and implementation. He noted Legal Counsel Mauritsen would be available at the Executive Committee meeting to answer more in depth questions, if requested.

*Matt Watkins left at this time.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding how other adjudicated basins had handled historical use, existing case law, and whether there is a legal definition for historical use.

Public comment was received from Sean Geivet.

Additional discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding receiving an overview on case law and how different adjudications have handled their determinations of historical use.

Public comment was received from Sean Geivet, Bill Samarin, and Mark Merritt.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the Committee wanted to discuss the term further and, if so, how they might wish to consider it alongside ETGSA's current trajectory.

Public comment was received from Sean Geivet.

Additional discussion ensued regarding how the Committee might wish to discuss historical use and what place it may have in the GSP's policy development. Executive Director McAteer discussed sustainable management criteria and how those would be considered alongside ETGSA's historical aggregate groundwater pumping and how that might provide a benchmark for rampdown.

Public comment was received from Sean Geivet and Bill Samarin.

It was requested that that a memo or summary of different adjudications and their approaches be provided to the Committee.

*Bill Bennet left at this time.

Discussion amongst the Committee then ensued regarding evaluating transfer impacts and whether ETGSA should consider groundwater transfers between other Tule Subbasin GSAs.

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Report and discuss ongoing outreach activities and events; **may make a recommendation**

Executive Director McAteer provided a report to the Committee on the ongoing outreach of the ETGSA and upcoming SGMA events, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #7.a.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Discuss potential reduction of multiple monthly meetings by Stakeholder Committee

Executive Director McAteer noted that the Stakeholder Committee had been meeting generally twice per month over the course of the last few months, and asked if the Committee would like to continue to do so or if they felt comfortable returning to only one monthly meeting at the regular time every second Thursday of the month.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding waiting for TH&Co's new data, the Farm Show that was to be held in early February, and other considerations.

Next Meeting – Thursday, February 14, 2019 at Transit Multi Purpose Center (15 E. Thurman Ave, Suite D, Porterville); **may make a recommendation**

Member Konda moved and Member Castle seconded to move the next meeting of the Stakeholder Committee to Thursday, February 21, 2019. The Committee unanimously approved.

The next meeting of the ETGSA Stakeholder Committee will be held Thursday, February 21, 2019 at the Transit Multi Purpose Center (15 E. Thurman Ave, Suite D, Porterville).

ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Leider adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryce G. McAteer, Secretary to the Board