



EASTERN TULE
GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY
JOINT POWERS
AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE HELD MARCH 14, 2019

At approximately, 2:02 p.m. on March 14, 2019, at the City of Porterville Transit Main Purpose Conference Room, Chairman Matt Leider, called to order a meeting of the Stakeholder Committee of the Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority (“ETGSA”).

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| Members Present: | John Konda | Bill Bennett |
| | Tom O’Sullivan | Don Castle |
| | Matthew Leider | Matt Watkins |
| | Julia Inestroza | Sopac Mulholland |

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| Stakeholder Members Absent: | Kathy Briano | Ben Magana |
| | Jason Guthrie | James Parsons |

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| Others Present: | Bryce McAteer | Julie Allen |
| | David Payne | Richard Garcia |
| | Mike Knight | Mike Reed |
| | Richard Garcia | Julie Allen |
| | Garrett Busch | John M Domondon |

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

MINUTES

Approval of February 21, 2019 Joint Meeting of the Executive and Stakeholder Committees Minutes

Member O’Sullivan moved for approval of the February 21, 2019 Joint Meeting of the Executive and Stakeholder Committee Minutes. The motion was seconded by Member Konda. Member Watkins abstained from the vote. The remainder of the committee members voted to unanimously approve motion, and the motion carried.

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Report on ongoing outreach efforts and upcoming events

Executive Director McAteer referred the committee to Agenda Item #4.a, attached hereto and incorporated by reference, a copy of his report on ongoing outreach efforts and upcoming events. Included in his report were Exhibits A-D, copies of various fliers for upcoming and recently held outreach events.

ETGSA MEETINGS REVIEW

Report on ETGSA Board Meeting of March 7, 2019

Executive Director McAteer provided a report on the ETGSA board meeting of March 7, 2019. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #5.a is a copy of his report.

TULE SUBBASIN COORDINATION

Report on updated draft Historical Tule Subbasin Water Budget and updated draft Estimated Sustainable Yield

Executive Director McAteer provided a report on the updated draft Historical Tule Subbasin Water Budget and updated draft estimated Sustainable Yield. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #6.a is a copy of his report. Additionally, the Executive Director provided a brief presentation, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #6.a Exhibit A, describing this information and the draft estimated reduction in applied groundwater necessary to achieve sustainable pumping rates.

Discussion ensued amongst the committee regarding the new draft estimated sustainable yield numbers and how they compared with the previous numbers reported in the 2017 Tule Subbasin Water Budget Report. The Executive Director noted that the new draft estimated numbers are an increase from the previous estimates, but that they are not final and still subject to change.

Public comment was received from John Michael Domondon.

Report on draft framework for defining Tule Subbasin Sustainability Goal and Undesirable Results; may make a recommendation

Executive Director McAteer provided a report on the draft framework currently under consideration for defining the Tule Subbasin's Sustainability Goal and Undesirable Results. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #6.b is a copy of his report. Included in his report were Exhibit A, a copy of the working Discussion Draft, Exhibit B, a presentation describing the draft methodology proposed for developing undesirable results, and Exhibit C, a presentation describing how representative monitoring sites and minimum thresholds might be considered in the Tule Subbasin.

Public comment was received from Julie Allen

Discussion ensued amongst the committee regarding the various components of sustainable management criteria and the process of developing those components.

*Soapy Mulholland arrived at this time.

Discussion ensued amongst the committee regarding how the ETGSA's committees might engage with new data to develop sustainable management criteria, when the Board might make a decision on minimum thresholds, various considerations when setting minimum thresholds, and the economic impacts of different minimum thresholds.

Public comment was received from Julie Allen.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the different ramp down scenarios, the definition of BGS (below ground surface) and AMSL (at mean sea level), having different minimum thresholds in different locations, using groundwater levels to track various sustainability indicators, and setting minimum thresholds that are achievable.

Public comment was received from Sean Geivet and David De Groot.

Member Watkins moved to recommend approval of the draft framework presented for defining the Tule Subbasin Sustainability Goal and Undesirable Results. Member O'Sullivan seconded the motion, and the committee unanimously approved the motion.

Report on Tule Subbasin Coordination, TH&Co Task Items, and upcoming TAC Meeting on March 20, 2019

Executive Director McAteer provided a report on ongoing coordination activities. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #6.c is a copy of his report. Included in his report was Exhibit A, a presentation describing the current timeline for Subbasin Coordination and TH&Co deliverables.

The Executive Director noted that the March TAC meeting had been cancelled and rescheduled to April 17, 2019.

Discussion ensued amongst the committee regarding the development of GSPs and staying on schedule.

Report on Inter-Basin & Regional Coordination

Executive Director McAteer provided a report on various inter-basin and regional coordination efforts. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #6.d is a copy of his report.

Public comment was received from Julie Allen.

GSP DRAFTING

Report on ETGSA GSP Drafting; may make a recommendation.

Executive Director McAteer provided a report on the ETGSA's GSP drafting. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #7a is a copy of his report. Included in his report was Exhibit A, a copy of the draft outline for ETGSA's GSP Section 5.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the framework of the draft Section 5, its categorization and description of projects and management actions, and how it compared with other GSAs' draft sections.

Public comment was received from Sean Geivet.

Member O'Sullivan moved to recommend approval of the draft framework presented for ETGSA's GSP Section 5. Member Castle seconded the motion, and the committee unanimously approved the motion.

Discuss and Consider New GSP Policy Matters; May Make a Recommendation

Executive Director McAteer provided a presentation on new GSP policy matters. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #7.b is a copy of his report on the new policy matters and, as Agenda Item #7.b Exhibit A, a copy of his PowerPoint presentation reviewing ETGSA's New Policy Matters and, as Agenda Item #7.b Exhibit B, a copy of a Draft Memorandum describing various considerations for the development of recharge projects provided by ETGSA's consulting engineering firm.

Sustainable Management Criteria

Executive Director McAteer provided an overview of various considerations when developing sustainable management criteria and the data that the Committees could expect to receive to inform their future discussions on the subject.

Discussion ensued amongst the committee regarding new monitoring wells and DWR's technical assistance.

Public comment was received from David De Groot and Garrett Busch.

Management Areas

Executive Director McAteer provided an overview of how management areas are defined in the GSP Regulations and provided the Committee with staff's recommendation on management areas. The Executive Director proposed that there be four initial management area types: a Greater Tule Management Area for the generally agricultural and rural lands, a Community

Management Area or series of Community Management Areas for ETGSA's various community areas, an Inter-Basin Agency Management Area encompassing KTWD, and a Subsidence Management Area to be delineated and determined at a future date.

The committee discussed other management area concept alternatives, as described in the presentation. The Executive Director noted that additional Management Areas could likely be developed in the future, if necessary, and, additionally, that existing Management Areas could likely be consolidated if it was found that they were no longer necessary.

Member Watkins moved to accept staff's recommendation for four initial management area types, as presented by the Executive Director. Member O'Sullivan seconded the motion. Member Konda opposed the motion. The remainder of the committee members voted to unanimously approve the motion, and the motion carried.

Additional discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding Management Areas.

Public comment was received from Sean Geivet.

Results of TH&Co Task Items (and implications)

This item was briefly reviewed by the committee, and will be addressed at a later date.

Mechanisms & Functioning of a Sharing System

Executive Director McAteer discussed with the Committee that, at the previous joint committees meeting, several policy questions had been presented on how a sharing system might function. As presented in the presentation, he provided the committee with several staff recommendations and reasonings for those recommendations for each of the policy questions presented therein.

*Member Konda left at this time.

Discussion ensued amongst the committee regarding groundwater accounts and the staff recommendations. Further discussion ensued regarding the criteria for individuals and entities to create groundwater accounts and the various functions managed through a groundwater account.

*Member Konda returned at this time.

Public comment was received from Sean Geivet.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding saving and banking groundwater, carrying it over into future years, and putting groundwater allocations to beneficial use. Additional discussion ensued regarding when groundwater allocations might exhaust as a result of non-use.

Discussion ensued amongst the committee regarding the reporting of prices paid on transferred allocations.

Member Watkins moved to accept the staff recommendation on requiring that prices paid for transfers be reported (Staff Recommendation – “The ETGSA should require that prices paid for transfers be reported.”). Member Mulholland seconded the motion, and the committee unanimously approved the motion.

Member Konda moved to recommend that groundwater accounts be debited and credited no less than monthly. Member Bennett seconded the motion. Member Mulholland opposed the motion. The remainder of the committee members voted to unanimously approve the motion, and the motion carried.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding keeping groundwater accounts current and how use might be monitored.

Discussion ensued regarding pre-arranged transfers and utilizing a market board to also initiate a transfer.

Member Konda moved to accept the staff recommendation on how transfers might be initiated (Staff Recommendation – “The ETGSA should both facilitate the maintenance of a “market board” and provide for groundwater account holders to initiate transfers with pre-identified participants.”). Member Watkins second the motion, and the committee unanimously approved the motion.

*Member Watkins left at this time

Public comment was received from Julie Allen.

Discussion ensued amongst the committee on the subject of debiting preferences and how various groundwater allocation types might be debited following groundwater use.

*Member Watkins returned at this time.

Member O’Sullivan moved to accept the staff recommendation on debiting preferences (Staff Recommendation – “There should be a default debiting preference for all groundwater accounts, but a groundwater account holder should be able to freely adjust their debiting preferences as they see fit.”). Member Bennett seconded the motion, and the Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Discussion ensued amongst the committee regarding who might be eligible to maintain a groundwater account.

Member Konda moved to table the discussion on eligible groundwater account holders. Member Watkins seconded the motion, and the committee unanimously approved the motion.

Criteria for Validating a Recharge Project

The item was pulled from the agenda and will be raised at a future date.

Evaluating Transfer Impacts

The item was pulled from the agenda and will be raised at a future date.

Historical Use

The item was pulled from the agenda and will be raised at a future date.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Next Meeting (Stakeholder Committee) – Thursday, April 11, 2019 at Transit Multi-Purpose Center (15 E. Thurman Ave., Ste. D, Porterville); may make a recommendation

Discussion ensued amongst the committee regarding scheduling an additional meeting in the month of March.

Member Inestroza moved to schedule a Special Meeting of the ETGSA Stakeholder Committee on March 28th, 2019. Member Watkins seconded the motion. Member Konda abstained on the motion. The remainder of the committee unanimously approved the motion, and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Leider adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryce G. McAteer, Secretary to the Board