

Eastern Tule GSA - Executive Committee

Minutes

March 2, 2017

2:00 pm

Location: 291 N. Main Street, Porterville
Coleman Conference Room

Attendees: Costas Cecero, David Payne, Keith Norris, Eric Limas, Steve Drumright, Don A Wright, Eric Borba, Sean Geivet, Bill Wallace, Mike Knight, and Mike Reed via teleconference

- I. The meeting was called to order at 2:08 pm.
- II. Self-introductions were made.
- III. Open issues

GSA Public Hearing Recap and DWR filing to become a Groundwater Sustainable Agency (GSA) – Mike Knight will be filing/working on the DWR filing tomorrow, plans are to have everything finished on Monday. Mike Reed shared that there have been a couple of versions floating around and Aubrey Mauritson, GSA attorney, has reviewed and approved the letter.

Review of application process for Stakeholders Committee – Mike Reed recently sent an email out to Board and Executive GSA members with a link to the Stakeholder committee application. It is likely to have those applications at the next Executive committee meeting. Tulare County Farm Bureau President was approached about the application and he agreed to email, or place in the newsletter, that ETGSA is seeking Stakeholders committee members. Steve Drumright revisited who else would be notified, and Sean Geivet mentioned that two seats are reserved for Ducor CSD and Richgrove CSD. It was noted that as part of the recommendation to the Board regarding the applicants to the committee, those seats will be cited. Steve Drumright stated that ETGSA, at the very least, needs to reach out to those two CSD's. Mike Reed reached out to Kristen Dobbin with the Community Water Center, and others in the "interested parties" group, Ms. Dobbin will be contacting those two CSD's about the application. Mike Reed was asked to communicate with Del Oro and CalWater about the Stakeholders committee.

During the last Board meeting, it was reported that three (3) applications have been received for the "White Area" Board seat. The Board of Supervisors are to act on this item at their next meeting.

Executive Committee chair – Eric Borba’s presence was acknowledged as the Board representative. Discussion was opened regarding who shall conduct the committee meetings. Everyone was reminded that these committees are subject to the Brown Act. Suggestions included that the chair of the board run the meetings, or the decision could be deferred to the committee, or to the City of Porterville and the secretary. Sean Geivet advised that the Stakeholder committee should decide who shall run their meetings.

As for the Executive committee, Eric Borba suggested that Mike Reed continue to develop the agenda’s and communicating with members, and that he continue to do his job sitting as the moderator.

Sean Geivet commented that we have a group that is urban and Ag, but the urban side is conducting the majority of the work. From the outside world, if the city is the chair and the secretary, it appears to be a city run agency. However, if the chair was an Ag person, it would appear to be a partnership.

A motion was made by Sean Geivet, seconded by Steve Drumright, to nominate Eric Borba to chair the meetings of the Executive committee and Mike Reed as vice chair in the absence of the chair.

Ayes: Cecero, Norris, Limas, Drumright, Geivet, Borba, Reed

Opposed: None

Disposition: Passed

Stakeholder Committee – Mike Reed repeated specifics from earlier discussion. Additional comment revolved around bringing this item to the Board. Sean Geivet reviewed the CSD’s expectation of seats on the committee, the County Supervisors choice for a seat and the procedure for developing the remainder of the committee.

The flow of recommendations by the committees to the board was briefly discussed. This dialogue should be addressed in the Bylaws.

Should reserve seating for other water companies in the area be brought before the Board as an informational item? Sean Geivet recommended not to provide a forum to give hard seats to the Stakeholder committee at this point. To this it was noted that was not the point of this informational item to the Board, it is an attempt to reach out. Ducor and Richgrove CSD’s have specifically requested to have representatives on this committee, other water companies have not expressed this sentiment. Perhaps at some future time the Board will see the applicants and then act to set the committee up in a certain fashion based on the applicants. It was agreed that an informational item will be placed on the Board of Directors agenda, it was inadvertently omitted at the last Board meeting that the CSD’s will each have a seat on the Stakeholder committee. Once applications have been received, the Executive committee will make recommendations on the committee.

Discussion regarding implementation of draft Bylaws – A draft copy was provided to each of the members. The draft was generated by Aubrey Mauritson, who is working with other GSA’s drafting their bylaws. It is recommended that the document be reviewed and comments provided at the next meeting of the Executive committee meeting.

Establishment of protocol should be developed between the Stakeholder committee and the Executive committee and addressed in the bylaws. Mike Reed is seeking thoughts on if a budget should be addressed in the bylaws, or at least the sharing of the costs. The JPA does not include wording about sharing costs. The JPA could be amended and structure a budget within the JPA, or a cost sharing statement. Sean Geivet shared that the JPA states the Board will adopt a budget and it will dictate how members will cost share. JPA amendments will require all the agency home boards to re-adopt. Whereas, if it’s put in the bylaws it can be changed by a Board vote. Mike Reed will run that by the attorney, and thinks it’s a good thing to have a section in the bylaws that whatever the budget may be, we share equally, or share on a proportional basis based on acreage. He will ask her to add in the bylaws a statement about cost sharing, board budget and cost sharing based on acreage. Sean Geivet read JPA Section 6.04 – Assessment of Members, which states that the board has the power to assess, but it doesn’t describe how it will be calculated. It was restated that we’re on an acreage basis now, at some point, it may change. Aubrey Mauritson should be invited to the next Executive committee meeting. Sean Geivet restated thoughts on the Stakeholders committee vs the Executive committee that can be incorporated before or provide thoughts and discuss at the next meeting. Mike Reed restated that comment for understanding that the Executive committee review the bylaws, between now and the next Executive committee meeting come up with comments, structure that the Stakeholder committee report to the Executive committee, then make a recommendation to the Board of Directors. He thinks there should be a round-table discussion at the next Executive meeting, then make a discussion at that meeting if it is presentable to the Board. Sean Geivet foresees the Stakeholders saying the Executive committee is going to wash all our recommendations. He also feels that if he were a Board member, he wouldn’t want conflicting recommendations from the two committees. The Board may also say that they do not want just the Executive committee talking to the Board and would like to hear from the Stakeholders committee. Another option, should the Board see an issue with the Stakeholders committee reporting to the Executive committee, then let the Stakeholders have a spot on the Board agenda to report their discussions, then the Board could say we like that, run it back through the Executive committee for their opinion. Also, if Eric Borba chairs both the committees, he could make the decision on bringing to the Board directly or go through the Executive committee. For that matter, any Director should be able to take a Stakeholder issue to the Board directly.

IV. New business

Groundwater Sustainability Plan – Sean Geivet shared that Mike Young spoke to him again, he is still working on a draft proposal, and if funds can be found, make two trips. The first trip in May would be an information gathering meeting, then returning in a June timeframe to begin the work for the GSP. At the next Board meeting, have an attachment to the agenda of the current generic version of the roadmap. Since this document is 80+ pages, perhaps just a summary can be presented to get the thought process moving. Sean Geivet stated that we need a way to shift gears off of governments and onto the real work of the GSP. There will be a lot of forces wanting to make management of groundwater as complicated as possible. He does not feel that it's that complicating, it takes a sophisticated accounting system and rules. The complication is how to transition from how much water is being used today to a sustainable use of groundwater without putting agencies out of business. The roadmap contains things that we need to have in a GSP. Even if it's just 3 things that are disagreeable to us. We may feel that we are not going to do what the experts say who make the annual decision. We have set up the GSA's and we expect the GSA's to say how to do it. Or the coordination agreement, we may instead do as our hydraulic modeler reveals what the Subbasin allocation is and we get a share based on acreage or whatever format we decide on. With the roadmap, it can help to get people focused on it and thinking about it. Start with handing out the executive summary with instructions to read and be prepared to discuss. This task needs to start soon. And, the board needs to be brought up to speed on the GSA's and the Subbasin and the coordination agreement, and give them an overview of what's happening in that group, history, local involvement, where it is act and where we expect it to move.

- V. Other Business – Agenda for next March 16 Board of Directors. Mike Reed summarized what he had heard committee members requested to be on the agenda. Sean Geivet suggested caution in calling “it” the roadmap, instead using “GSP.” Considering the roadmap to be a draft concept for the GSP. Mike will put together a history of the GSA presentation, coordination agreement, follow up specific to the ETGSA as it relates to the GSP. Progress on modeling is a subject that the Board needs to be informed about. RL Schaffer should be informed of Board members contact information, this information needs to be shared with Aubrey Mauritson for the Controller's office or the Secretary of State. Form 700's must be completed by all the Director's and Alternates. Mike Reed will notify all of them of the Form 700 requirement. Mike Knight will send a roster out to the Executive committee members to provide email addresses. Aubrey Mauritson needs all the information and she will structure the form. Mike Reed again went over his notes for the next Board meeting, 1) Informational item re Stakeholder committee; 2) Informational item re Bylaws; 3) Informational item re the presentation of the Tule Subbasin GSA's and coordination agreement; 4) Informational item re moving toward the GSP with the roadmap attached. No action items. The 1st Thursday of every month was confirmed as the Executive committee meeting, April 6 at 2 pm will be the next

meeting. Mike Reed stated his wished to work closely with Sean Geivet and anyone else when he puts the presentation together and the GSP together. Bill Wallace expressed confusion about how the committee's will communicate with the Board. Communication will be laid out in the Bylaws. In particular, it was asked how the Stakeholders committee will communicate with the Board. In answer to that, it was shared how the Executive committee will discuss and develop the Board's agenda, with items determined for the agenda presented to the Board in open session. It was reiterated that the Stakeholders will come to the Executive for placement on the agenda. Structure for all this protocol will be laid out in the Bylaws. Discussion turned to experience of the members, and it was answered that all the Board members are Director's on their respective irrigation districts, and knowing who the nominees are for the White area representative, they are all very experienced ag/water farmers. Mike Knight will add Public Comment at the beginning of the Board meeting, and Public Comment before Adjuourment.

VI. Adjournment was at 3:20 pm.



Michael K. Reed
Eastern Tule Groundwater
Sustainability Agency

Approved as amended April 6, 2017