



*EASTERN TULE
GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY
JOINT POWERS
AUTHORITY*

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD JUNE 4, 2020

At approximately, 2:00 p.m. on June 4, 2020, Chairman Eric Borba, called to order the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority (“ETGSA”). Consistent with Executive Order N-29-20 and social distancing directives, the meeting was conducted by teleconference only, with no physical location for the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: John Corkins Eric Borba
 Steve Kisling Matthew Leider
 Monte Reyes Geoffrey Galloway
 Dennis Townsend Steve Dalke
 Eric Limas

Members Absent: Dyson Schneider Curt Holmes

ROLL CALL:

Director Corkins
Director Galloway
Director Limas
Director Leider
Director Reyes
Director Kisling
Chairman Borba

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

General Manager Caudillo announced that yesterday was the deadline for comments to DWR concerning EGSA’s GSP. Mr. Caudillo noted the comments received to date, which are available for review on DWR’s website.

*Directors Townsend and Dalke arrived at this time.

MINUTES

Approval of May 7, 2020 Meeting of the Board Minutes

Director Corkins moved for approval of the minutes of the May 7, 2020 board meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Leider, and unanimously approved by way of the following roll call vote:

In Favor:

Director Corkins
Director Galloway
Director Limas
Director Leider
Director Dalke
Director Reyes
Director Townsend
Director Kisling
Chairman Borba

Opposed: None

ADMINISTRATION

Consider Approval of Scope of Work and Cost Estimate to Conduct an Analysis of Potential Water Exchanges and Transfers by Thomas Harder

General Manager Caudillo provided a report on the scope of work and cost estimate from Thomas Harder concerning an analysis of potential water exchanges and transfers. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #5a is a copy of the scope of work.

Director Limas reported that Pixley ID GSA and Lower Tule ID GSA have agreed to cost share in the proposed scope of work.

Discussion ensued regarding the work's potential benefits for ETGSA.

Director Kisling moved to approve the scope of work and cost estimate as presented in the agenda packet. Director Corkins seconded, and the Board unanimously approved by way of the following roll call vote:

In Favor:

Director Corkins
Director Galloway
Director Limas
Director Leider
Director Dalke

Director Reyes
Director Townsend
Director Kisling
Chairman Borba

Opposed: None

Approval for Engaging an Engineering Firm for Prop 218 Election

General Manager Caudillo provided a report on potential engagement of an engineering firm for a Proposition 218 Election.

Director Corkins moved to approve engagement of Keller Wegley for services in connection with a prospective Proposition 218 Election. Director Kisling seconded, and the Board unanimously approved by way of the following roll call vote:

In Favor:

Director Corkins
Director Galloway
Director Limas
Director Leider
Director Dalke
Director Reyes
Director Townsend
Director Kisling
Chairman Borba

Opposed: None

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Report on Ongoing ETGSA Outreach Efforts

General Manager Caudillo provided a report on the ongoing outreach efforts and upcoming events. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Attachment Item #6a is a copy of the report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Receive Finance Committee Monthly Reports

General Manager Caudillo provided a report. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #7a is a copy of the Finance Committee Monthly report. General Manager Caudillo advised that the Finance Committee also met today.

Receive Executive and Stakeholder Committee Meeting Monthly Report

General Manager Caudillo provided a report. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #7b is a copy of the report.

BILLS AND WARRANTS

Review the Financial Statements; Consider Ratification of Bills Paid and Approval of Bills to be Paid.

General Manager Caudillo provided a report on current financial standing and accounts payable. The finance committee recommends payment of the accounts. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #8a is a copy of the financial statements. The finance committee has recommended approval.

Director Kisling moved and Director Corkins seconded to ratify the bills paid and approve bills to be paid. The Board unanimously approved by way of the following roll call vote:

In Favor:

Director Corkins
Director Galloway
Director Limas
Director Leider
Director Dalke
Director Reyes
Director Townsend
Director Kisling
Chairman Borba

Opposed: None.

Review ETGSA FY2020-21 Budget Draft

General Manager Caudillo provided a report on the ETGSA FY2020-21 Budget draft. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference is Agenda Item #8b, is a copy of the budget draft.

Discussion ensued regarding the timing of the approval. The Board directed staff to send the draft budget to the committees for review.

TULE SUBBASIN AND REGIONAL REPORTS AND ITEMS

Report on Tule Subbasin Coordination and TH&Co Task Items

General Manager Caudillo provided a report. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #9a is a copy of his report. The potential scope of work will be circulated to the committees for comment.

Consider Appointment of Member & Alternate to Tule Subbasin Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

General Manager Caudillo provided a report on appointment of member and alternate member to the Tule Subbasin Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The Stakeholder Committee recommended that Steve Etchegaray serve as the member. The Executive Committee recommended that Steve Etchegaray serve as member, and that Matthew Watkins serve as alternate.

Director Corkins moved and Director Leider seconded to appoint Steve Etchegaray as member of the TAC and Matthew Watkins as alternate. The Board unanimously approved by way of the following roll call vote:

In Favor:

Director Corkins
Director Galloway
Director Limas
Director Leider
Director Dalke
Director Reyes
Director Townsend
Director Kisling

Opposed: None.

ETGSA POLICY

Discussion and Presentation from Staff on Recommendations to “Landowner Groundwater Cheat Sheet”

General Manager Caudillo reported on the committees’ discussion of the Cheat Sheet. Consulting Engineer De Groot gave a report on the committees’ review of the document and the framework presented in the document. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #10a is a copy of his updated Cheat Sheet.

Discussion ensued regarding allocation and use of total precipitation allocations. An inquiry was made concerning grass lands and fallowed lands, and how such lands would be accounted for and tracked.

Consulting Engineer De Groot explained that the total precipitation allocation is based upon a long-term average, and is allocated at the beginning of each year. The expense that goes against the amount of consumed water is based on Land Sat ET. The amount expensed depends on how factors such as grazing and management of land and water. As proposed, each landowner has the ability to decide which buckets of water he would like to use against that expense.

Discussion ensued concerning the calculation of the long-term average for the purpose of the total precipitation allocations.

Public comment was received from Stacie Ann Silva, Bill Samarin, and Garrett Busch.

Discussion ensued regarding Tier 2 penalties, landowner account management, and the next steps in the process.

Director Corkins moved and Director Kisling seconded to direct staff to begin the development rules and regulations and software based on the Cheat Sheet presented, with the fee structure yet to be finally determined. The Board unanimously approved by way of the following roll call vote:

In Favor:

Director Corkins
Director Galloway
Director Limas
Director Leider
Director Dalke
Director Reyes
Director Townsend
Director Kisling

Opposed: None.

Review Draft ETGSA Groundwater Banking and Recharge Policy and Feedback from Committees

General Manager Caudillo and Attorney Mauritson gave a report on the prospective ETGSA groundwater banking and recharging policy. The consensus of the Board was to proceed with the development of the policy, but to remove the five-year time period for beneficial use previously included in the policy. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #10b is a copy of the draft policy.

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
[Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)]
Number of Potential Cases: One
Claimant: Friant Water Authority

The Board of Directors, while in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2), met with General Counsel Aubrey Mauritson regarding one potential item of anticipated litigation.

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Report Action Taken in Closed Session Required by Government Code 54957.1

Chairman Borba reported there was no reportable action from closed session. General Manager Caudillo reported he will email the report to the interested party list.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Next Regular Meeting – Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 2 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the ETGSA Joint Powers Authority shall be a meeting, set for July 2, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Borba adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rogelio Caudillo, General Manager