

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD AUGUST 6, 2020

At approximately 2:00 p.m. on August 6, 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.

Members Present: Eric Borba Dyson Schneider

Steve Kisling John Corkins

Dennis Townsend Geoffrey Galloway

Matthew Leider Michael Knight (Alternate)

**Curt Holmes** 

Members Absent: Monte Reyes

Others Present: Aubrey Mauritson Rogelio Caudillo

Steve Etchegaray Todd Turley
Ryan Jensen Justine Massey
Garrett Busch Sean Geivet

## ROLL CALL

Director Corkins
Director Kisling
Director Townsend
Director Leider
Director Holmes
Director Schneider
Director Galloway
Chairman Borba

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Eric Borba announced the public comment period. Justine Massey presented a comment.

#### ANNOUNCMENTS

General Manager Caudillo advised that there were no new announcements.

## **MINUTES**

# Approval of Minutes of the July 2, 2020 Board Meeting

Director Corkins moved for the approval of the minutes of July 2, 2020 board meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Townsend and approved by way of the following roll call vote:

#### In Favor:

Director Galloway
Director Holmes
Alternate Director Knight
Director Townsend
Director Kisling
Chairman Borba
Director Schneider
Director Corkins

Opposed: None

Abstain: Director Leider

#### ADMINISTRATION

# Consider Approval of Proposal for Groundwater Management Software- Basinsafe

Eric Riley of Basinsafe provided the board with a report regarding the proposal presented to ETGSA by Basinsafe. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #5a is a copy of the report. The finance committee has recommended that the Board approve the proposal.

Director Kisling moved to approve Basinsafe's proposal for groundwater management software. The motion was seconded by Director Leider and approved by way of the following roll call vote:

#### In Favor:

**Director Corkins** 

Director Galloway

Director Schneider

**Director Holmes** 

Alternate Director Knight

Director Leider

Director Townsend

**Director Kisling** 

Chairman Borba

Opposed: None

## Consider Approval of DRAFT ETGSA Rules and Regulations

General Counsel Mauritson provided an overview of the current draft of the ETGSA's Rules and Regulations. The draft was published on the ETGSA website, which allowed for public access of the draft and encouraged public comments regarding the rules and regulations. General Manager Caudillo also included letters received by the GSA, copies of which are collectively attached hereto as Agenda Item #5b, Exhibit B, and incorporated by reference.

The following public comments were presented:

Ryan Jensen and Justine Massey of the Community Water Center referred to the CWC's previous written comment. Additionally, they recommended that a buffer of 10% above demand be put into place for groundwater allocations, in order to accommodate community adjustment. Mr. Jensen and Ms. Massey also expressed concern regarding domestic wells, and highlighted the CWC's recommendation that ETGSA implement a domestic well mitigation program.

Don Davis of the Friant Water Authority noted FWA's continued work with staff concerning various issues. He advised that FWA appreciates ETGSA's moving forward with rules and regulations, as they are critical to mitigating subsidence impacts. Mr. Davis discussed several issues, including sustainable yield, definition of the term "water year," and the timing associated with implementation of penalties.

Garrett Busch suggested that the Rules and Regulations be circulated again to ETGSA's committees. Mr. Busch also referred to previously submitted written comments. Mr. Busch also discussed concerns regarding gross acreage allocations to lands with no history of exercise of the overlying right. Mr. Busch advocated requiring a showing of beneficial use prior to allocation. Mr. Busch also commented that recharge policies are not addressed.

Todd Turley of South Valley Farms also provided comment. He advised that his concerns were similar to those expressed by Mr. Busch. Mr. Turley also supported circulating the draft Rules and Regulations to the committees. He indicated that there are several elements of the draft that could benefit from further discussion, including the calculation of water consumed.

Steve Etchegaray also advocated circulating the draft to the committees in order to strengthen the overall product.

Sean Geivet supported approval of the draft Rules and Regulations. Mr. Geivet noted that the document would be subject to ongoing changes and adjustments over time.

Director Corkins moved to approve the draft ETGSA Rules and Regulations, and to refer the draft back to the committees for further discussion. Director Lieder seconded, and the motion and was unanimously carried by the following roll call vote:

#### In Favor:

Director Corkins
Director Galloway
Director Schneider
Director Leider
Director Holmes
Alternate Director Knight
Director Townsend
Director Kisling
Chairman Borba

Opposed: None

## Consider Approval of Notice of Exemption for ETGSA Rules and Regulations

General Counsel Mauritson explained the function of the Notice of Exemption under CEQA. A copy of the Notice of Exemption for the ETGSA Rules and Regulations is attached hereto as Agenda Item #5c and incorporated herein by reference.

Director Corkins moved to approve the of Notice of Exemption. Director Townsend seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried by the following roll call vote:

#### In Favor:

Director Corkins
Director Galloway
Director Schneider
Director Holmes
Alternate Director Knight
Director Townsend
Director Kisling
Director Leider
Chairman Borba

Opposed: None

# Consider Approval of Rate Payers Report and Set Date for Public Hearing on Groundwater Extraction Fee

Consulting Engineer De Groot provided a report concerning the 2020-2021 Water Rate Study attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #5d. Mr. De Groot discussed the services to be financed, as well as a breakdown of water rate per acre-foot. It was the staff's recommendation to hold a public hearing for the Water Rate Study on October 1, 2020.

Director Townsend moved to approve the Study and set the date for public hearing on the Groundwater Extraction Fee for October 1, 2020. The motion was seconded by Director Kisling and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote:

#### In Favor:

**Director Corkins** 

Director Galloway

Director Schneider

Director Leider

**Director Holmes** 

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 presented the Finance Committee Monthly Report, a copy of which attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #7a.

## Receive Executive Committee and Stakeholder Committee Meetings Monthly Reports.

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

#### 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.

Director Kisling moved for the approval of financial statement, ratification of bills paid, and approval of bills to be paid. Director Leider seconded, and the motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

## In Favor:

Director Corkins
Director Galloway
Director Schneider
Director Holmes
Alternate Director Knight
Director Lieder
Director Townsend
Director Kisling
Chairman Borba

Opposed: None

## 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 the report. General Manager Caudillo also noted that the next meeting will be held on October 21, 2020.

## Land IQ Report

General Manager Caudillo provided a report. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #9b, Exhibits A and B, is a copy of his report.

## Presentation by Thomas Harder on ETGSA Land Subsidence Management Plan DRAFT

Thomas Harder provided a presentation on the draft ETGSA Land Subsidence Management Plan. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #9c is a copy of the draft plan.

Discussion ensued regarding proposed new monitoring locations and the involvement of and coordination with other GSAs.

Public comment was received from Peter Harmon. Discussion ensued regarding the Santa Margarita aquifer.

The board recommended to invite Thomas Harder to the next meeting of the Executive Committee on August 20, 2020.

#### 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.

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## **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.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Next Regular Meeting- Thursday September 3, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the ETGSA Joint Powers Authority shall be held on September 3, 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