



EASTERN TULE  
GROUNDWATER  
SUSTAINABILITY  
AGENCY  
JOINT POWERS  
AUTHORITY

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE HELD AUGUST 13, 2020

At approximately 2:00 p.m. on August 13, 2020, Chairman Bill Bennett called to order a meeting of the Stakeholder Committee of the Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency. 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.

Stakeholder Members Present:	Bill Bennett	Tom O'Sullivan
	Matt Watkins	Sopac Mulholland
	Jason Guthrie	Don Castle

Stakeholder Members Absent:	James Parsons	Kathy Briano
	Julie Inestroza	John Konda

### ROLL CALL

Chairman Bennett called roll call as follows:

Chairman Bennett  
Committee member Castle  
Committee member Guthrie  
Committee member Mulholland  
Committee member O'Sullivan  
Committee member Watkins

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Bennett announced the public comment period. No public comment was presented.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

General Manager Caudillo reminded members of the committee and members of the public to mute themselves when not speaking during the meeting.

### MINUTES

Approve the July 9, 2020 Meeting of the ETGSA Stakeholder Committee Minutes

This matter was tabled and subsequently taken up as indicated below.

## GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

### Presentation by Aquilogic on GSP Comments

Bob Abrams and Tom Watson of Aquilogic gave a presentation to the Committee on Comments of the Tule Subbasin GSP Pertaining to Existing and Predicted Future Subsidence. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #5 is a copy of the presentation.

Public comment was received from Bill Samarin.

Public comment was received from Steve Etchegaray.

Discussion ensued regarding modeling, groundwater levels, and boundary conditions.

### Approve the July 9, 2020 Meeting of the ETGSA Stakeholder Committee Minutes

Committee member O'Sullivan moved for approval of the minutes of the July 9, 2020 Meeting of the ETGSA Stakeholder Committee. The motion was seconded by Committee member Castle. The remaining committee members unanimously approved the motion by way of the following roll call vote:

In Favor:

Committee member Castle  
Committee member Guthrie  
Committee member Mulholland  
Committee member O'Sullivan  
Committee member Watkins

Opposed: None

## POLICY ISSUES

### Review and Discussion of ETGSA Rules and Regulations

Chairman Bennett opened floor for discussion on potential suggestions to the Board of Directors concerning the Agency's Rules and Regulations.

Jared Plumlee of Booth Ranches provided comments concerning banked water and recharge water. Discussion ensued regarding banked and recharged water, and how the rules read in relation to these categories.

Don Davis provided a comment regarding the concerns outlined in his letter to the Board on behalf of Friant Water Authority. Mr. Davis described two primary concerns: (1) a more detailed description of the relation between sustainable yield and a Tier 1 Penalty; and (2) amendment of Section 5.04, to provide notice of the preceding year's usage. It was discussed that the present intent is to distribute monthly billings.

Garrett Busch provided public comment, inquiring concerning the process of review and potential amendment of the rules.

Bill Samarin also provided public comment regarding section 1.07 and recommended that the committee replace the word "before" with the words "at least 72 hours in advance" so that Section 1.07 would read "Except in cases of emergency or where otherwise considered impractical, the owner of the property shall be contacted *at least 72 hours in advance* before entrance onto their property."

Jared Plumlee provided public comment regarding page 10, section 3.05, and recommended that the committee replace the word "greater" with the word "lesser". Discussion ensued.

Sean Geivet provided comment concerning the evapotranspiration and metering methodologies identified on page 10. He advised that the Land IQ data will be the default. If landowners want to challenge that, and they have meters and efficiencies, credit could be given if the flowmeter data proves to be better quality.

Todd Turley provided public comment, urging the committee to allow for flow meter flexibility that would give growers the choice to use either Land IQ or flow meters.

Don Castle provided comment, noting that growers who prefer flowmeters could utilize those. He also noted that it would entail a lot of work for a grower to check for differences on a monthly basis.

General Counsel Mauritson provided comment regarding net groundwater consumptive use.

Consulting Engineer De Groot provided comment, explaining that Land IQ calculates consumed water usage, rather than simply crop evapotranspiration. He noted that consumption can be measured using meters or using Land IQ. Meters can be problematic where there are multiple groundwater pumps on a single farm, and we are attempting to accurately account for water use. Mr. De Groot noted the possibility of identifying a default methodology of consumptive use, as defined, and permitting landowners who wish to do so to follow a process and protocol for using meters. If the meter shows less than Land IQ's calculation, then a credit could be provided. An appeal form detailing the process can be provided.

Todd Turley noted that one organization submitted comments at the last board meeting.

Steve Etchegaray provided public comment.

The Committee instructed counsel to prepare redlines to the document.

Justine Massey provided public comment regarding drinking water and how to properly present those concerns to the committee.

Discussion on Thomas Harder's Land Subsidence Management Zone Recommendations

General Manager Caudillo gave a report on Thomas Harder's Land Subsidence Management Zone recommendation.

Discussion ensued regarding the land subsidence management area, in light of Aquilogic's presentation.

Consulting Engineer De Groot provided an overview of Mr. Harder's recommendations. There would be a more robust monitoring program in the area he has defined. The purpose of the network is to obtain more information in order to validate results and address data gaps. Another issue is the prospect of setting up a committee that would have representatives of stakeholders, tech experts, and other helpful participants. The committee could evaluate the data that is coming through and consider options.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential time table. Consulting Engineer De Groot recommended moving forward with additional monitoring now. He advised that the goal is to achieve a better understanding. Coordination with FWA continues.

Don Castle provided comment, and advised that he would like to learn more on this interesting topic.

Consulting Engineer De Groot reported that it was interesting and well-done presentation, geared toward geology and hydrology. We will need to have further conversation with Tom Harder concerning his findings. One item not included in their report is an extensometer next to the Friant-Kern Canal. This will entail further analysis and discussion, as well as additional data gathering.

Garrett Busch provided comment, noting the importance of evaluating whether the issue is regional and best addressed by the Tulare Subbasin TAC.

Chairman Bennett advised that this will be presented to the Executive Committee next week, and the following week to the Board of Directors.

General Counsel Mauritsen advised that one possible consideration is a short-term ad hoc committee.

Committee member O'Sullivan moved for the formation of a short-term ad hoc committee to (1) help put parameters on the Land Subsidence Management Plan that Tom Harder has proposed, and (2) consider the formation of a long-term management committee as Mr. Harder has identified in Section 8.0 of the Land Subsidence Management Plan. Committee member Castle seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved the motion by way of the following roll call vote:

In Favor:

Committee member Castle  
Committee member Guthrie  
Committee member Mulholland  
Committee member O'Sullivan  
Committee member Watkins

Opposed: None

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee recommended that there be an earlier scheduled meeting date to go over any additional changes/recommendations for the Rules and Regulations that are received by the committee.

Committee member Castle moved that the next scheduled meeting for the ETGSA Stakeholder committee take place August 27, 2020 at 2:00 with the intention of returning to the ETGSA Rules and Regulations. Committee member O'Sullivan seconded the motion. The board unanimously passed the motion by way of the following roll call vote:

In Favor:

Committee member Castle  
Committee member Guthrie  
Committee member Mulholland  
Committee member O 'Sullivan  
Committee member Watkins

Opposed: None

The next Stakeholder Committee Meeting will be on August 27, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Bennett adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman Bill Bennett