



McMullin Area
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MCMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY November 4, 2020

The Board of Directors of the McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency met in the virtual boardroom of the District, via Zoom meeting protocols, on Wednesday November 4, 2020 at the hour of 2:00 P.M. The meeting was recorded.

Chairman Jeevan Singh presided and General Manager/Secretary Hurley kept the Minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jeevan Singh, Chair
Jerry Rai, Vice-Chair (late arrival)
Don Cameron, alternate for Gagan Batth
Matt Abercrombie
Brian Pacheco

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Matthew H. Hurley – General Manager/Secretary
Randy Hopkins, Provost and Pritchard
Lynn Groundwater, Provost and Pritchard
Cristel Tufenkjian, Kings River Conservation District
Rebecca Quist, Kings River Conservation District
Brian Trevarrow, Kings River Conservation District
Amer Hussain, Geosyntec
Malka Kopell
Duncan MacEwan

Chairman Singh called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M.

Chairman Singh asked if the Public had any comment, but none was offered. GM Hurley noted that the agenda was essentially the same as had been posted for the cancelled October meeting.

He explained that he had had a circumstance where he was forced to miss the scheduled meeting and expressed his regret at having missed it (jokingly citing a “check engine” light for his health).

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE September 2, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING

The Board reviewed the draft Minutes of the September 2, 2020 Special Meeting. On the motion of Director Abercrombie, with the second of Director Pacheco, the Board unanimously approved the draft Minutes of the September 2, 2020 Special Meeting, as presented. (4-0-1) (Director Rai arrived after the motion for approval)

II. FINANCIAL

1. Assistant Treasurer Brian Trevarrow presented the current log of checks written since the last approved disbursements. He requested that the Board approve/ratify the checks written through September 30, 2020 as presented. On the motion of Director Abercrombie and the second of Director Pacheco, the Board unanimously ratified the checks written report. (5-0)
2. The next item was the presentation to the Board of the updated estimated financial report for the period ending June 30, 2020 which had been forwarded to the audit firm for their audit review. On the motion of alternate Director Cameron, with the second of Director Abercrombie, the Board voted unanimously to accept the revised and updated estimated financial statements for June 30, 2020 without further comment. (5-0)

III. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

1. This item was a report from the General Manager concerning the following items:

Item a) was general information relative to ongoing agency day to day activities. GM Hurley commented on the continuing Governor’s Order regarding the COVID-19 virus and noted that the Agency would continue to allow for virtual meetings, as necessary. He further indicated that the Agency staff and the City of Kerman would continue to monitor the situation to determine when the Agency might be able to return to live and in-person meetings again. He advised checking the website for updates as they came available. He also reported on progress made in a draft Memorandum of Agreement being developed which would allow for a clear understanding between MAGSA and Raisin City WD as it relates to possible coordinated efforts between the two entities on the expansion of the Terranova Flood Control Project.

He then introduced Amer Hussain with Geosyntec who presented an update on progress on the Marketing grant project. Amer reported that the second Marketing Study Workshop had been held, virtually, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM on October 21st. He gave additional updates relative to ongoing interviews with specific interested parties and reviewed anticipated next steps into the 2021 calendar year.

2. This item was a report on the status of draft MAGSA Policy documents and a recommendation from MAGSA staff and General Counsel for adoption of said Policy documents as specified in the Amended Bylaws on the following items of proposed MAGSA Policy:

- A. Groundwater Export Policy**
- B. Groundwater Banking Policy**

GM Hurley explained that the staff had received several very pertinent comments on the policy documents that had been previously reviewed by the public, the Technical Advisory Committee and the Stakeholder Committee. He suggested that it would be prudent to update the draft policies, acknowledging and including some of the comments and recommendations, as appropriate, and then recirculating the updated versions for review by the public on the website and the TAC and the Stakeholder Committees once more before bring the items back for Board approval at the December meeting. He asked that the item be continued until that time.

IV.GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This item was a report on the status of the GSP implementation and Kings Subbasin coordination. GM Hurley indicated that the process was continuing and several initiatives of the Agency were being developed which would be the subject of additional reports and presentations at upcoming meetings.

V.DIRECTORS REPORTS

Report from County of Fresno: NTR, Director Abercrombie noted he had seen crews in the field doing soil borings and loved to see the project preparation progressing.

Report from Raisin City Water District: Director Rai indicated that election results from the November 3 election for RC Board of Directors would be out next week and noted a PPIC article for recommended reading.

Report from Mid Valley Water District: NTR

VI.AD HOC COMMITTEES

The “crack” Outreach team of Cristel and Rebecca (Huell Howser Best in Blue Award winning team) gave the latest information on Outreach efforts and website activity during the previous month. Of particular interest, they reported on the recently conducted “tour” of the proposed water banking facilities that they coordinated for the Agency. They also previewed their name for the bank to the Board as Aqua Terra. It has a nice ring to it. Lastly, the premiered the video which

was recently created that sets the tone for MAGSA’s approach to the SGMA challenge. As usual, the film, as is all they do, was excellent!

VII.UPCOMING MEETINGS

MAGSA Board: December 9, 2020
MAGSA Stakeholder: November 18, 2020
MAGSA TAC Committee November 18, 2020
Mid-Valley Water District: TBD
Raisin City Water District: November 17, 2020

VIII.CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Singh explained to the public and announced that the Board would be re-convening the meeting into a Closed Session to review the following agenda items:

1. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
 - a. Status of litigation pursuant to paragraph (1) of Government Code Section 54956.9(d).
Fresno Sup. Ct. 20CECG00507 - MAGSA v James Irrigation, et al.
2. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of Government Code Section 54956.9(d): (One potential case)

IX.REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

The Board returned from Closed Session and Chairman Singh announced that the Board had taken no action in the matters discussed.

X.ADJOURNED TO THE REGULAR DECEMBER MEETING.

Attest:

Matthew H. Hurley, Board Secretary

Affirmed:

Jeevan Singh, Chairman