

Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association

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MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2014 (1.30 P.M. – 3.00 P.M.)

MID CONFERENCE ROOM 3A

The meeting was called to order on June 5, 2014, at 1.32 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The following members of the Committee were present:

Modesto Irrigation District (MID): John Davids, Anna Brathwaite

City of Modesto: Glenn Prasad, Jack Bond, Anyon Warda

Oakdale Irrigation District (OID): Eric Thorburn
City of Riverbank: Michael Riddell
City of Oakdale: Michael Renfrow

Stanislaus County: Walt Ward

Also in Attendance:

Department of Water Resources (DWR): Jason Preece

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments

3. Approve 5/1/14 Meeting Minutes

The Meeting Minutes for 5/1/2014 were unanimously approved.

4. Groundwater Management Plan Update

Mr. Davids informed the group that only two Statement of Qualifications (SOQ's) had been received, and if agreed by the Committee, he could proceed straight into the interview process. After some discussion, the Committee opted to continue with the qualifications, and subsequent proposal review process. Mr. Bond added that going through this process will help him develop a more thorough scope of work. The Committee agreed on the following general timeline:

Complete RFQ review Third week of June

Draft RFP to Committee July 3, 2014
Authorize issuance of RFP August 7, 2014

Mr. Davids mentioned that the SOQ packet will be provided to the selection committee members from the Turlock Groundwater Basin Association (TGBA) this week.

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5. USGS Groundwater Model Update

Mr. Davids provided an update regarding his last communication with Steve Phillips. Mr. Phillips was not able to deliver the draft Scientific Investigations Report (SIR) on May 14, 2014 as previously promised. Committee members expressed that they have pursued all avenues to ensure timely completion of the work, but are now left with no choice but to wait for the draft SIR from Mr. Phillips.

6. Stanislaus County WAC/ TAC

Mr. Ward led the discussion by stating his intent to go to the County Board of Supervisors with a revision of the 100 Day Action Plan, and with some amendments to the Groundwater Ordinance, particularly the sections involving the definition of groundwater mining. He will be requesting the Board to grant him authority to implement the Plan, but no money will be requested at this time. Upon inquiry, Mr. Ward mentioned that the County Board members have relayed that there is no money to fund the implementation of the elements within the Action Plan.

Mr. Davids questioned the need for a Groundwater Management Plan encompassing the already existing STRGBA management area. Mr. Preece added that from the State's point of view, it will be confusing to have conflicting management plans. Mr. Ward emphasized that his recommendation to the County Board will be to develop a Groundwater Management Plan, without any redundancy with the existing groundwater management plans. Rather, Mr. Ward acknowledged that the County Groundwater Management Plan has to be developed with the support of all the existing groundwater management associations, including the STRGBA and the TGBA.

Mr. Bond expressed his disapproval to any governance structure that would set the County as the sole authority to initiate new groundwater management efforts in areas that are already managed by the STRGBA and TGBA. Mr. Ward mentioned that he is conceptualizing other governance models followed in the central valley, including the formation of a Joint Powers Authority (JPA).

7. Next Meeting/ USGS Conference Call

- a) The next meeting was scheduled for July 3, 2014 at 1.30 p.m. in the MID Conference Room 3A.
- b) A conference call with Mr. Phillips will not be held in order to allow him to continue working on the SIR.

8. Items too late for the Agenda

There were no items too late for the agenda. The meeting was adjourned at 2.37 p.m.

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