



Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association
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Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association

February 13, 2014

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order on February 13, 2014 at 1.37 p.m.

1. Introductions

The following members of the Committee were present:

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|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Modesto Irrigation District (MID): | John Davids |
| City of Modesto: | Glenn Prasad, Jack Bond |
| Oakdale Irrigation District (OID): | Eric Thorburn |
| City of Oakdale: | Thom Clark |
| City of Riverbank: | Michael Riddell |
| Stanislaus County: | Walt Ward |

Also in attendance:

Department of Water Resources (DWR): Tom Lutterman

2. Public Comment

There was no business from Public.

3. Work Plan for 2014 Calendar Year

John Davids informed the group that there is approximately \$34,000 within the STRGBA's budget, to continue groundwater basin management activities. He pointed that a few more invoices will be charged to this account by USGS for the remaining work.

The Draft Work Plan that was initially presented during the STRGBA meeting on January 9, 2014 was revisited. After discussions, Committee members agreed that (1) Continued Development of Groundwater Flow Model with USGS, (2) Integrated Regional Groundwater Management Plan (IRGMP) Update, and (3) Update of STRGBA's Current MOU, were the highest priority projects/ activities that should be pursued in 2014. Completion of the USGS model was the number one priority.

Glenn Prasad mentioned that the Integrated Regional Groundwater Management Plan Update may have to revisit our current monitoring plan, in light of the

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CASGEM requirements. He also mentioned that a water budget may also be developed and/or updated. Walt Ward and Mr. Davids both pointed out that the emergence of the County's groundwater ordinance and its implications to our basin management activities will have to be evaluated.

Mr. Davids mentioned that he does not have enough staff time needed to hire a consultant to update the IRGMP. Michael Riddell and Thom Clark indicated that acquiring funding may be an issue for their respective agencies, depending on the cost-share requested. Mr. Clark clarified that he could justify a cost-share in the neighborhood of \$10,000 to his City Council. Jack Bond volunteered to develop a Draft RFQ on behalf of the STRGBA and circulate it to the group prior to the next meeting such that it can be an item of discussion.

4. Department of Water Resources (DWR) Update

Mr. Bond indicated that he has met with Laura Peters from DWR to discuss the requirements of the Local Groundwater Assistance (LGA) program. In the following weeks, Mr. Bond will be re-scoping the LGA Work Plan and the City of Modesto will be entering into an agreement with DWR.

Tom Lutterman informed the group that recommendations for Round 2 of the Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant have been made. DWR will be sending commitment letters to successful applicants in the near future.

5. California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program

Mr. Lutterman provided information on CASGEM workshops. According to Mr. Davids, the MID was notified by DWR that the STRGBA has been formally accepted as the CASGEM Monitoring Entity for the Modesto Subbasin. The official letter from DWR had been e-mailed by Mr. Davids earlier, and was presented again during the STRGBA meeting. Mr. Davids raised his concerns regarding unknown and potentially excessive groundwater pumping activities in the northeastern part of the Modesto Subbasin.

MID and OID are the only entities from the STRGBA currently reporting under the CASGEM Program.

6. USGS Groundwater Model Update

Mr. Riddell and Mr. Clark pointed out, and the Committee members agreed that an update of the USGS model may have to be performed following its release. The model developed by Steve Phillips includes data through 2004, so it will be outdated when released. The City of Modesto will provide a review of the Draft Scientific Investigations Report (SIR) first and then circulate it to other members for additional comments and subsequent delivery to Mr. Phillips.

7. Stanislaus County WAC/ TAC

Mr. Ward informed the Committee members regarding the formation of the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) as well as their meeting times and location. He further indicated that Mr. Phillips's modeling work will be presented in one of the WAC/ TAC meetings.

In general, the Committee members suggested that this presentation be postponed until the model is completed. If the presentation cannot be postponed, then the status, capabilities, and more importantly, the limitations of the model should be made very clear.

8. Next Meeting

- a) The next meeting was scheduled for April 3, 2014 at 1.30 p.m. in the MID Conference Room 3A.
- b) A conference call with Mr. Phillips will be held on Monday, March 10, 2014 at 8 a.m. The call-in number will be (209) 557-1560

9. Items too late for the Agenda

- a) When asked by Committee members, Eric Thorburn provided an overview of the OID's proposal to pay landowners to fallow their land so that water could be sold to Westland Water District.
- b) Committee members discussed their respective water management strategies to plan for the current drought.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3.06 p.m.