



**MINUTES
OF THE COMBINED MEETING OF
RURAL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
AND
STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE
Held November 2, 2021**

At approximately 1:00 p.m. on November 2, 2021 at the office of the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District and remotely via Zoom, GKGSA Chairman Chris Tantau called to order a meeting of the Combined Rural Communities and Stakeholder committees via teleconference.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

RURAL COMMUNITIES

Paul Boyer
Chris Tantau
Jason Waters, Alt.
Barbara Sally

STAKEHOLDER

Brian Watte
Joe Cardoza
Blake Mauritsen
Zack Stuller
James Silva
John Gailey
Don Mills
Jeff Powers
John Kirkpatrick

MEMBERS ABSENT:

RURAL COMMUNITIES

Monroe Self
Rudy Mendoza
Carol Fina
Danny Holguin

STAKEHOLDER

Mike Chrisman
Marty Toomey
Soapy Mulholland
Matt Hutcheson

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Watte called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken for the meeting and documented above.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comment was received.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There was no correspondence or announcements presented at this time.

REPORTS AND COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

The Committee will receive brief updates and may provide direction related to activities of GKGSA Board consultants, staff, and other committees.

a. Groundwater Cap Proposal

Manager Osterling presented a Power Point Presentation on the Groundwater Pumping Cap Proposal. The two-tier system is still being contemplated, on top of a native groundwater supply and a penalty concept. The first 10 inches would be at no cost. Manager Osterling summarized the proposal for the cost to dip into the two tiers. The first tier would be \$100.00 per acre foot, and the second tier would be \$200.00 per acre foot, and the penalty tier is currently described if you go up a cap at \$500.00 per acre foot, plus a 1 to 1 reduction in future allocation. Pumping into the tiers is voluntary, but a request needs to be submitted in order to pump at those levels above 10 inches. It is important to understand that the tier pumping is temporary allotments that over time will have to be reduced. The native supply of the first 10 inches is the base supply that is the sustainable yield, but could be a little more than 10 inches, but less than a foot in a half. As we move towards the year 2040, we will have to reduce the number considerably more. The cap numbers in total, the native supply is 10 inches, and then what we would be putting into the tiered amounts in order to make up the difference would be an amount that would total between 2 feet and 3 feet, and that number is still being reviewed by the technical consultant. There is some flexibility available in what is being called durability, which is carry-over in surface water circles, and transferability groundwater, to move water in plates geographically. Durability of the groundwater needs to be sensitive to the surface water users and not force them to pump. Currently contemplating five years for carry-over of native and base supply with an annual 10% leave behind each year, and a maximum of five years for tier one and tier two with an annual 20% leave behind, and the balance cannot be transferred from one farm unit to another. Previous and undeveloped lands would have no access to tier water, only to the native supply. Ability to transfer water would be at a 3-mile radius. Transferred would have to be applied for, and after five years there would be a loss of the ability to transfer tier two. A water market for sustainability for the sub-basin better defines durability and transferability, and there is a grant that Tulare Irrigation District has that the GKGSA participates on. Stantec and other consultants are working on what a water market in this area might look like. A bucket for credit is not something being contemplated specifically in the cap proposal but is being reviewed on how it might be handled as a bucket for credit, i.e., doing intentional recharge, Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR), you need to have a mechanism in place to give credit for that intentional salvaging of water. Accounting of that activity is on the person who wants the credit. Similarly in the estimating and measuring put forth and telling what a landowner should be charged and limited at, based on either an ET value or a pumping amount, if there is disagreement to those estimates, the burden of proof is on the landowner to provide the information to convince otherwise.

Drinking water stakeholders are handled slightly differently in each of the three GSA's. The volume that the public water systems pump in this area is estimated at about 1.2-to-1.4-acre feet per acre. They are also under state mandates to further conserve, which will factor what their overall demand is currently. Farmersville has been used as an example of what the overall costs would be.

In summary the charges will go to the GSP and Project and Management Actions that it outlines most supported lists of needs, but we would also likely conduct a Prop 218 that would identify additional needs. There will be significant additional monitoring and reporting and staff needs, data gap filling, and really focusing on Management Actions, which could include the purchase of land or putting land under contract.

Manager Osterling discussed the schedule of this process. The TAC looked at the proposal and did not support using the current numeric model, so Provost and Pritchard has been hired to work on more of spreadsheet fashion to look at how any other concepts we're considering would be impacting the region. The overall obligation as a GSA is the Measurable Objectives and Minimum Thresholds, and there are monitoring locations that track those.

There will be continued early targeted outreach and move towards early January having an official 90-day public comment period.

Full implementation would not occur until October of 2022, but there are still possible needs for action to be taken sooner.

Member Johnny Gailey presented a spreadsheet and explained a strategy of trying to find a way to give farmers flexibility and manage their water budgets and continue to achieve the objectives of the GSP. A proposal was put together which allocated out water in five-year blocks and ratchets those down as the years progress, using Land IQ data that was made available, figuring out how much each block period would reduce the demand. It starts out allowing 5-acre feet in tier one and in tier two to use in the first five-year period, starting in 2022. The minimum supply reduction if all water in tier one and two were traded would still reduce the supply by 18,000 acre feet. Discussion ensued.

Manager Osterling reported on a meter study conducted by Fresno State. The system necessary for a grower to register their farm unit and understand what their ET is and have his account easily accessible would be similar to the program ILRP has in place. Discussion ensued. It was suggested to bring back to the GKGSA Board different options for the cap and have the flexibility to see what works and what doesn't, and also remain cautious that an emergency action could potentially come about if conditions worsen. It was recommended to present the block proposal to the Board as an example and get further direction.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND MEETING DATES:

The next meeting was scheduled for January.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the committees, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Osterling, Combined RCC & SC Secretary



MINUTES OF THE COMBINED MEETING OF RURAL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE AND STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE Held May 16, 2022

At approximately 9:00 a.m. on May 16, 2022 at the office of the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District and remotely via Zoom, GKGSA General Manager Eric Osterling called to order a meeting of the Combined Rural Communities and Stakeholder committees via teleconference.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

RURAL COMMUNITIES

Paul Boyer
George Barnes
Jason Waters, Alt.
Chris Tantau

STAKEHOLDER

Brian Watte
Joe Cardoza
Mike Chrisman
Zack Stuller
Marty Toomey
Matt Hutcheson
James Silva
John Gailey
John Kirkpatrick

MEMBERS ABSENT:

RURAL COMMUNITIES

Monroe Self
Rudy Mendoza
Carol Fina
Danny Holguin
Barbara Sally

STAKEHOLDER

Jeff Powers
Blake Mauritsen
Soapy Mulholland

CALL TO ORDER

General Manager Osterling called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken for the meeting and documented above.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comment was received.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There was nothing reported on this agenda item.

MINUTES:

General Manager Osterling presented the meeting minutes of the October 19, 2021 and March 31, 2022 Combined Rural Communities Committee (RCC) and Stakeholder Committee (SC), attached hereto and incorporated by reference are the minutes.

Have a quorum of the Stakeholder Committee, a motion was made by Committee Member Gailey, seconded by Committee Member Hutcheson, and unanimously carried that the minutes of October 19, 2021 and March 31, 2022 be approved.

DISCUSSION OF GOVERNOR'S DROUGHT EXECUTIVE ORDER:

The Committees will receive an update and may provide direction to staff on the Governor's Emergency Executive Order requiring GSA involvement in well permitting.

General Manager Osterling updated the committees on the well permit applications that will be handled in collaboration with the Counties and the GSA's.

DRAFT RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Manager Osterling reviewed the summary of comment letters received regarding the Draft Rules and Regulations. Most of the concerns focused on distance of transferability, allocation amount and losses. The initial pumping cap has been set by the Board at 2.75% af/ac of ET. Manager Osterling reviewed the Board's position on the earlier comment letters received. The committees reviewed the latest comment letters that have been received and provided Manager Osterling with direction on response to those comments to present to the Board for consideration. Lengthy discussion ensued.

GKGSAs REPORTS:

The Committees will receive updates and may provide direction on Kaweah Subbasin SGMA activities not reported on earlier in the agenda.

Manager Osterling presented a quick review of the DWR GSP Determination Update which will be presented at the afternoon's Board of Directors meeting. Responses to the Determination letter are due to DWR by July 27, 2022.

a. **Communications and Outreach:**

A successful Pumping Cap Webinar was held and widely attended. The website continues to be updated. There continues to be progress on collaborations with the Farm Bureau and other agencies.

b. **Board of Directors:**

The Board of Directors will meet on May 16, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Greater Kaweah GSA - Combined Meeting of the RCC and SC
Meeting Minutes
[3]
May 16, 2022

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND MEETING DATES:

A meeting was not scheduled until the Board of Directors meets, and a follow up meeting with DWR.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the committees, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Osterling, Combined RCC & SC Secretary



**MINUTES
OF THE SPECIAL COMBINED
MEETING OF
RURAL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
AND
STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE
Held October 24, 2022**

At approximately 1:00 p.m. on October 24, 2022 at the Tulare County Ag Commissioner’s Office, Stakeholder Committee Chairman Brian Watte called to order a meeting of the Combined Rural Communities and Stakeholder committees.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

RURAL COMMUNITIES

Paul Boyer
George Barnes
Emmanuel Llamas, Alt.
Chris Tantau
Barbara Sally

STAKEHOLDER

Brian Watte
Joe Cardoza
Blake Mauritsen
Zack Stuller
Marty Toomey
Soapy Mulholland
James Silva
John Gailey
John Kirkpatrick
Don Mills

MEMBERS ABSENT:

RURAL COMMUNITIES

Monroe Self
Rudy Mendoza
Carol Fina
Danny Holguin

STAKEHOLDER

Jeff Powers
Matt Hutcheson

CALL TO ORDER

Stakeholder Chairman Brian Watte called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken for the meeting and documented above.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comment was received at this time.

CRITERIA FOR USING EVAPOTRANSPIRATION METHOD – CALCULATION OF PRECIPITATION:

Joel Kimmelshue from Land IQ, and David De Groot from 4Creeks gave a presentation on the criteria for the evapotranspiration methodology as defined in the GKGSA Rules and Regulations, specifically discussing how precipitation will be calculated.

Discussions continued of adding the rainfall allocation back into the Water Dashboard.

A motion was made by Committee Member Gailey to recommend to the GKGSA Board of Directors to put 90% of rainfall back into Water Dashboard and keep the ET at 2.7. Committee Member Cardoza seconded the motion, and the motion was carried

LAND FALLOWING – REVERSE AUCTION PROGRAM:

A motion was made by Committee Member Gailey to recommend to the GKGSA Board of Directors to form a Ad-hoc Committee to meet over the next two weeks to help put in place a land fallowing program, with a recommendation of the Ad-hoc Committee to be made up of board members and landowners. Committee Member Cardoza seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

PENALTY RATES:

A motion was made by Committee Member Gailey to recommend to the GKGSA Board of Directors to reconsider the action taken at the September 27, 2022 GKGSA Special Board of Directors meeting regarding penalty rate fees and put this item on the next board meeting as an agenda item. Committee Member Cardoza seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE APPLICATIONS:

General Manager Eric Osterling announced the passing of Committee Member Mike Chrisman.

Discussion ensued regarding the formation of the Committees. Manager Osterling stated he will review the by-laws regarding the appointment of committee members and will discuss this further at the next meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND MEETING DATES:

A meeting was not scheduled until the Board of Directors meets.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the committees, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Osterling, Combined RCC & SC Secretary