



MINUTES OF THE COMBINED MEETING OF RURAL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE AND STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE Held February 25, 2024

At approximately 1:30 p.m. on February 25, 2025, at the office of the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District and remotely via Go-To Meeting, GKGSRA Rural Community Committee Chair Tantau called to order a meeting of the Combined Rural Communities and Stakeholder committees.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

RURAL COMMUNITIES

Chris Tantau
Paul Boyer
George Barnes
Emmanuel Llamas, Alt.
Bobby Lentz

STAKEHOLDER

John Gailey
Joe Cardoza
James Silva Marty
Toomey
Zack Stuller
Blake Mauritsen
Matt Hutcheson
Collin Fernandes
Brian Watte
Soapy Mulholland
Cornell Kasbergen

MEMBERS ABSENT:

RURAL COMMUNITIES

Monroe Self
Rudy Mendoza
Carol Fina
Danny Holguin

STAKEHOLDER

Jonathan Vaughn

i. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Chair Tantau called the meeting to order.

ii. ROLL CALL

- a. Roll call was taken for the meeting and documented above.

iii. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Greater Kaweah GSA program manager mentioned that she received a comment from Landowners regarding the allocation of tiered water the price and how it is viewed. Chair Tantau agreed that he's heard comments from Landowners, and we will address in the allocation discussion later in the meeting.

iv. MINUTES:

General Manager Larsen presented the meeting minutes of the November 25, 2025, Combined Rural Communities Committee (RCC) and Stakeholder Committee (SC), attached hereto and incorporated by reference are the minutes.

A motion was made by Member Mullholland, it was seconded by Member Silva and unanimously carried out that the minutes were approved.

v. SUBSIDENCE MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT:

Key Topics Discussed:

Overview of land subsidence challenges in the region.

The three guiding documents for managing subsidence:

Lower Aquifer Subsidence Transition Management Action Plan (LASTMAP)

Friant-Kern Canal Monitoring and Action Plan (FMAP)

Regional Subsidence Management Action Plan

Importance of transitioning groundwater pumping from the lower aquifer to the upper aquifer between 2023 and 2035.

Current uncertainties in defining safe lower aquifer pumping levels.

Stakeholder Discussion:

Agreement on the need for adaptive management.

Discussion on whether subsidence management should be based on the presence of the Corcoran Clay layer or total depth of pumping.

Consideration of installing additional extensometers for accurate monitoring.

Potential for grant funding to support subsidence monitoring efforts.

vi. GSA ADMINISTRATION:

Water Forum and invoicing system updates:

Landowners can now manage credit settings and view allocations through the water dashboard.

Paper invoices were mailed out; any discrepancies should be reported for review.

Hiring updates:

Interviews ongoing for a third team member to support GSA operations.

vii. KAWEAH SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANS:

Groundwater Monitoring:

Spring 2024 depth to water was 146.7 feet, a 4.3-foot improvement from Spring 2023.

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Fall 2024 depth to water was 134.5 feet, showing a 1.6-foot increase compared to Fall 2023.

Overall, groundwater levels have benefited from a wet 2023, but concerns remain for dry years ahead.

viii.

- **State Water Board Review:**

- No major concerns raised; review process ongoing.
- Kern Subbasin's probation hearing was postponed, like Kaweah's experience.

5. Implementation Committees

- Overview of active implementation teams and their roles, including:
 - **Subsidence Management** – Ongoing collaboration with neighboring subbasins.
 - **Groundwater Quality Monitoring** – Sampling efforts progressing on schedule.
 - **Mitigation Plans** – Evaluations underway for well mitigation requests.
 - **Interconnected Surface Water Monitoring** – Identifying priority areas for new stream gauges.
 - **Water Accounting Framework** – Refining allocation methodologies across GSAs.

ix. 2025 GROUNDWATER ALLOCATIONS:

Reallocation of water resources pending final invoicing data.

The board to review available supply before determining adjustments.

Stakeholder request to compare allocation policies with neighboring GSAs.

x. MITIGATION PLAN:

The evaluation process by SELF HELP is ongoing, as the situation in the Hypericum area remains complex. We are working to ensure that all concerns are appropriately addressed.

The Board has decided to proceed with replacing the well, while continuing efforts to address the broader challenges in the area. This includes exploring opportunities for groundwater recharge, reducing ongoing pumping, and providing direct surface water supplies to support long-term sustainability.

The third phase, as a long-term solution, involves exploring options to tap into another system, though this would be very costly. We will continue to evaluate potential solutions and collaborate with the state to seek their recommendations.

xi. SUBBASIN SAFE STORAGE AUTHORITY CONCEPT:

Larsen discussed the concept of Safe Storage, a fund Kaweah is developing to support mitigation efforts, enhance water availability, and improve conditions in the area. Tantau requested additional input from committee members regarding this initiative.

With overdraft no longer an option for landowners, the goal is to utilize this fund to provide additional water resources in critical situations. Originally intended for purchasing water, the concept has evolved into a broader strategy focused on addressing basin-wide challenges and ensuring long-term sustainability.

xii. GREATER KAWEAH SUBBASIN STATUS REPORT

General Manager, Larsen provided reports of the October Board Meeting as well as the October Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, referring to the summary pages included in the agenda packet.

xiii. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND MEETING DATES:

- Continue discussions on subsidence solutions, including extensometer installation.
- Review potential for grant funding to support monitoring efforts.
- Provide comparative analysis of water allocation policies in upcoming meetings.
- Schedule follow-up meetings for subsidence and mitigation teams.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday March 21, 2025. – Cancelled

xiv. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Larsen, Combined RCC & SC Secretary