MINUTES
OF THE COMBINED MEETING OF RURAL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE AND STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE
Held February 23, 2026

GKGSA Rural Community Committee Chair Tantau called to order a meeting of the Combined Rural Communities and Stakeholder committees.

MEMBERS' PRESENT:

RURAL COMMUNITIES	**STAKEHOLDER**
Chris Tantau	Brian Watte
Paul Boyer	Zack Stuller
Rudy Mendoza	Matt Hutcheson
Jonathan Vaughn	Marty Toomey
	Joe Cardoza
	Cornell Kasbergen
	Soapy Mulholland

MEMBERS ABSENT:

RURAL COMMUNITIES	**STAKEHOLDER**
Danny Holguin	James Silva
Monroe Self	John Gailey
Carol Fina	Blake Mauritson

1. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Tantau called the meeting of the Combined Rural Communities Committee and Stakeholder Committee to order at 1:30 PM.

2. ROLL CALL
Roll call was taken for the meeting and documented above.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT
Chair Tantau opened the floor for public comments on items not on the agenda. No public comments were received.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
The Committee reviewed the December 22, 2025, meeting minutes. Minor corrections were noted regarding attendance. A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected.

Motion:	Marty	Toomey
Second:	Cornell	Kasbergen

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

5. GREATER ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Larsen provided an administrative update regarding 2025 invoicing. He reported that invoices are expected to be submitted to the printer by the end of the week, or shortly thereafter. The 2025 invoices will include a mail insert notifying landowners of the upcoming well registration requirement anticipated to begin July 2026.
No additional administrative updates were provided.

6. GREATER MITIGATION PLAN

Mr. Larsen provided a status report on the dry well mitigation program in coordination with Self-Help Enterprises. Six claims have been received to date. One well-related replacement project has been completed. Two wells have been drilled and are nearing completion pending water quality sampling and final work. One claim was recently disqualified following Board review after determining that the well exhibited similar conditions prior to 2014 and therefore was not attributable to current GSA management actions. Two claims remain under evaluation.
Claims are distributed across several areas of the GSA, including the Hypericum area and north-central Visalia.
Mr. Larsen reported that approximately $3 million remains set aside for mitigation, in addition to Self-Help funds. Early costs appear generally consistent with expectations, though final totals for the two nearly completed wells are pending. Discussion included well depth determinations, which are based on minimum threshold planning levels and input from local drillers. Members requested that staff consider providing a future map showing mitigation of well locations.

7. GREATER SUBSIDENCE, MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT

Mr. Larsen and consultant Tom Harder provided an update regarding subsidence conditions and monitoring efforts.
Mr. Harder reported that in Priority Area 1, three wells have been equipped with pressure transducers (one upper aquifer and two lower aquifer wells) logging hourly data. In Priority Area 2, two wells (upper and lower aquifer) have been equipped. In Priority Area 3, field inspections have been conducted to evaluate additional candidate wells for inclusion in the monitoring network. A well near the Hypericum recharge site has been secured for monitoring, and a willing partner has been identified at the Herbert Preserve for installation of a new dedicated monitoring well.
Discussion included verification of perforation depths, liability concerns associated with pump removal for inspection, and the importance of distinguishing between upper and lower aquifer conditions. Members discussed regional pumping impacts, including well fields and neighboring subbasins.
Mr. Larsen then presented an overview of the concept of establishing "Management Areas" within the GSA to group areas of like conditions and prioritize management actions. Potential influences discussed included hydrologic zones, analysis zones, subsidence grid ("quilt") sections, precipitation zones, irrigation district boundaries, and sustainable management criteria (SMCs).
Discussion focused on:

- Appropriate scale of management areas
- Monitoring zones versus management implementation zones
- Experiences in neighboring subbasins
- Infrastructure protection and regional coordination
- Whether management areas should be contiguous or may consist of grouped areas with similar conditions

Mr. Larsen outlined a tentative 2026 schedule for continued evaluation and refinement of management areas, with potential adoption later in the year.

8. SUBBASIN WELL REGISTRATION

Mr. Larsen reported that the Board directed staff to proceed with mandatory well registration by July 1, 2026.

The registration platform will request owner contact information, parcel location (via interactive map), well depth and perforations (if known), year constructed (if known), and any available water quality or groundwater level data. Unknown information may be left blank.

Discussion included the relationship between ET-based accounting and well-specific extraction depth, applicability to domestic wells, and the importance of improving model accuracy and subsidence management through enhanced data collection. The Board is considering enforcement mechanisms for noncompliance, including potential penalties and limitations on water transfers for landowners not in good standing.

9. SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANS

Mr. Larsen reported that staff recently met with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) SGMA Division to provide a high-level overview of the amended GSP. DWR indicated it will conduct its own review and will contact staff with any follow-up questions or requests for subject-matter meetings.

Staff also noted that DWR is initiating a multi-level coordination process regarding subsidence Best Management Practices (BMPs), including statewide, subbasin-level, and regional discussions.

10. GREATER KAWEAH & SUBBASIN STATUS REPORT

Mr. Larsen summarized key items from February 9, 2026, Board meeting, including consideration of purchasing surface water credits within the Kaweah system and ongoing evaluation of recharge and crediting strategies. The Board continues to evaluate cost-effective mitigation and management approaches.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2026.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Larsen
Secretary, Combined RCC & SC

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Mark Larsen
DATE: July 13, 2026
SUBJECT: Board Summary

Meeting Overview

The Board of Directors of the Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GKGSA) met on July 13, 2026. The Board received updates on committee activities, fiscal matters, dashboard invoicing, water allocation recommendations, water credit management, and a new nonprofit initiative focused on permanent retirement of groundwater pumping credits. The Board also took action regarding Technical Advisory Committee leadership and approved the County-required fiscal year budget.

Public Comment

The meeting opened with public comment. Board members also discussed the role of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), including whether the committee should continue meeting regularly or transition to an as-needed advisory body. Members of the Board and consultants discussed the value of the committee's technical expertise while recognizing the increasing knowledge and experience of stakeholders throughout the implementation of SGMA.

Committees and Administrative Updates

The Board discussed the future role of the Technical Advisory Committee. Board members considered eliminating regularly scheduled meetings but ultimately agreed the committee continues to provide value on technical issues such as monitoring well placement, interconnected surface water, and other specialized topics. The Board expressed support for convening the TAC on an as-needed basis while maintaining its current structure.

The Board appointed:

- **Brian Watte** – Technical Advisory Committee Chair
- **Stephen Johnson** – Technical Advisory Committee Vice Chair

The appointments were approved unanimously.

Consent Calendar

The Board unanimously approved the minutes from the previous Board meeting.

Fiscal Year Budget

General Manager Larsen presented the annual County-required fiscal year budget update. Because the County operates on a July–June fiscal year while GKGSA utilizes a calendar-year budget, the report provided updated revenue and expenditure projections through the remainder of the fiscal year.

The Board unanimously approved the fiscal year budget for submission to Tulare County.

Greater Kaweah Dashboard Invoicing

Staff provided an update regarding dashboard invoicing and outstanding receivables. Staff reported that larger delinquent accounts are currently being reviewed to determine whether sufficient surface water credits remain available to offset outstanding balances before lien proceedings begin.

Staff also reported:

- Reminder emails will be sent encouraging landowners to transfer available surface water credits prior to lien processing.
- Outstanding accounts receivable have declined since the previous report.
- Several payments have already been received following preliminary lien notifications.

- Staff is coordinating with Tulare County regarding future tax roll collection procedures to improve collections.

2027 Water Allocation Discussion

Four Creeks presented preliminary recommendations for the upcoming 2027 water allocation.
The presentation included:

- Updated precipitation allocation methodology utilizing the rolling 25-year average.
- Recommended continuation of the current Sustainable Yield allocation framework.
- Preliminary Tier 1 and Tier 2 groundwater allocations based upon the existing ramp-down schedule.
- Discussion regarding maintaining current allocations until additional modeling and groundwater data become available.

Board members discussed long-term allocation planning, future management areas, and ongoing subsidence work throughout the Kaweah Subbasin. No action was taken.

Kaweah Subbasin Subsidence

Consultants provided an update regarding ongoing coordination with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) concerning subsidence management.
Discussion included:

- Development of localized management areas.
- DWR's increasing emphasis on "critical head" groundwater elevations.
- Upcoming meetings with DWR's subsidence team.
- Additional modeling efforts intended to support future adaptive management decisions.

Staff noted that management area concepts continue to be refined before formal presentation to DWR.

Water Pricing Discussion

The Board discussed future Tier 1 and Tier 2 pricing for groundwater allocations.
Topics included:

- Current pricing compared to imported water costs.
- Effects of pricing on private water markets.
- Potential future revenue needs as temporary allocation programs decline.
- Long-term financial projections for Agency operations.

While several Board members expressed support for maintaining current pricing, no formal action was taken because the item was presented for discussion only.

Water Credit Management

The Board continued discussions regarding long-term water credit management.
Topics included:

- Potential purchase and retirement of groundwater credits.
- Opportunities to acquire surface water credits from irrigation districts or other entities.
- Future modeling to determine how permanent retirement of groundwater credits could improve basin sustainability.
- Continued evaluation of mechanisms that permanently reduce groundwater demand.

No action was taken.

Water for Tomorrow Presentation

Representatives from **Water for Tomorrow**, a newly formed 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, presented a proposal aimed at permanently retiring groundwater pumping credits through voluntary donations.
The presentation outlined:

- Permanent retirement of donated groundwater credits.
- Tax deduction opportunities for participating landowners.

- Long-term reduction of groundwater demand.
- Proposed partnership with GSAs to verify permanently retired credits.
- Potential administrative funding through modest per-acre and per-acre-foot fees.
- Opportunities to reinvest surplus funds into acquiring and retiring additional groundwater credits.

Board members discussed implementation, accounting considerations, interaction with the Subbasin Water Accounting Framework, appraisal requirements, and long-term impacts on groundwater modeling.

The presentation was informational only, and no action was taken.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors will be held in August 2026.