



EASTERN TULE
GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY
JOINT POWERS
AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE HELD MAY 13, 2021

At approximately 2:00 p.m. on May 13, 2021, Chairman Bill Bennett called to order a meeting of the Stakeholder Committee of the Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Consistent with Executive Order N-29-20 and social distancing directives, the meeting was conducted by teleconference only, with no physical location for the meeting.

Stakeholder Members Present:	Bill Bennett	Julie Inestroza
	Matt Watkins	Tom O'Sullivan
	John Konda	Don Castle
	Julia Inestroza	Jason Guthrie
	Sopac Mulholland	

Stakeholder Members Absent:	Kathy Briano	James Parsons
	Matthew Leider	

Others Present:	Rogelio Caudillo	Aubrey Mauritson
	David De Groot	Thomas Harder
	Sean Geivet	Trelawney Bullis
	Peter Harmen	Matt Brady

ROLL CALL

Chairman Bennett called roll call as follows:

Committee member Castle
Committee member Guthrie
Committee member Inestroza
Committee member O'Sullivan
Committee member Watkins
Committee member Konda
Committee Chairman Bennett

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Bennett announced the public comment period. No public comment was presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

General Manager Caudillo recommended that members save the date of June 8, 2021 (afternoon) for a workshop for landowners. More details on the event will be forthcoming.

MINUTES

Approve the February 11, 2021 Meeting of the ETGSA Stakeholder Committee Minutes

Committee member Castle moved to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2021 Meeting of the ETGSA Stakeholder Committee. The motion was seconded by Committee member Inestroza, and unanimously approved the motion by way of the following roll call vote:

In Favor:

Committee member Castle
Committee member Guthrie
Committee member Inestroza
Committee member O’Sullivan
Committee member Watkins

Opposed: None

Abstain: Committee member Konda

PRESENTATION

General Manager Caudillo explained that the Community Water Center (CWC) had previously provided comment to the Board regarding the prospect of making a presentation on the Center’s drinking water well programs to the committees.

Justine Massey from CWC provided a presentation on the CWC Drinking Water Mitigation Program.

POLICY ISSUES

Report and update on ETGSA Meetings

General Manager Caudillo provided a report on the last several board meetings. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #6a is a copy of his report.

Review Proposal for ETGSA Water Market Board

General Manager Caudillo provided a report on the 4Creeks proposal for a market board. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #6b is a copy of the proposal.

Consulting Engineer David De Groot also provided a report.

Review and Discussion on GSA-to-GSA Transfers

General Manager Caudillo provided a report on GSA-to-GSA Transfers. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #6c is a copy of the proposal. The Board referred the topic to the committees for discussion.

Consulting Engineer David De Groot also provided a presentation. He reported that there are two open issues related to GSA-to-GSA Transfers: (1) potential limits on total transfers, and (2) potential fees associated for processing the request(s).

Discussion ensued regarding marketing.

Tom Harder also provided a report on his findings.

Consulting Engineer De Groot offered a recommendation to limit transfers to other GSAs to 10,000 acre-feet annually.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Harder recommended reviewing quantities annually.

Discussion ensued regarding potential fees and potential recommendations to the Board.

Committee member Mulholland proposed endorsing the 10,000 acre-foot limit on transfers, with regular reevaluation to ensure that charges cover all costs associated with the transfers.

Committee member Castle advised that he had no objections to the suggestions made by Messrs. De Groot and Harder, and suggested that the Executive Committee consider the limit, a minimal fee, annual review, and potential limits on long-term agreements.

Legal commented on landowner agreements.

Committee member Inestroza noted that the specifics of implementation still need to be determined – for example, whether such transfers would be executed on a “first come, first served” basis.

Discussion ensued.

Committee member Inestroza noted the need for clarity and uniformity of communication.

Committee member Castle moved to recommend the 10,000 acre-foot annual limit on the amount transferrable out of the GSA, with a minimal fee, and with tracking.

Discussion ensued regarding limitations on transfers into the GSA. A suggestion was made to recommend 2 annual limits: 10,000 acre-feet *into* the GSA and 10,000 acre-feet moving *out* of the GSA.

Recommendation:

The Committee instructed staff to explore the issue of the conditions under which such transfers would be permitted, including the prospect of a “first come, first served” approach. Discussion also ensued regarding posting to the water market board.

Committee member Castle moved to recommend the following: (1) an annual limit of 10,000 acre-feet for both water transferred into and water transferred out of the GSA; (2) annual review; and (3) a minimal fee to cover the administrative expenses associated with the transfer. The motion was seconded by Committee member Mulholland, and approved by way of the following roll call vote:

In favor:

Committee member Castle
Committee member Guthrie
Committee member Inestroza
Committee member Konda
Committee member Mulholland
Committee member O’Sullivan

Opposed: Committee member Watkins

Presentation and Discussion on Draft Land Subsidence Management Zone Plan

Consulting Engineer De Groot provided a summary of the development of the draft to date.

Mr. Harder gave a PowerPoint presentation summary of the draft Plan. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference is a copy of Mr. Harder’s presentation.

Discussion ensued regarding the total number of acres identified in draft Plan, land use practices in the area identified in the Plan, and figure 13 of the report. Mr. Harder noted that figure 13 came from analysis performed in May of 2017.

Comment provided by Peter Harmen and Trelawney Bullis.

Discussion ensued regarding the measurement of land subsidence for transitional pumping, compared to the expected levels of subsidence identified in the GSP. Discussion also ensued regarding the use of penalty monies, GIS mapping, continued workshops, the number of wells deeper than 600 feet, and the timeline for implementation of a potential plan.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular Stakeholder Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Bennett adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Bill Bennett