

## **Kings River East GSA Meeting - Minutes**

**DATE:** August 20, 2015

**TIME:** 2:00PM

**LOCATION:** City of Dinuba, City Hall Council Chambers, 405 E El Monte Way, Dinuba CA

**ATTENDANCE:** Chris Kapheim, Alta ID  
Norman Waldner, Alta ID  
Jack Brandt, Alta ID  
John Kalendar, Alta ID  
Steve Worthley, Tulare County  
Bernardo Jimenez, Fresno County  
Michael Rivera, Representative for Assembly Member Henry Perea  
Luis Patlan, City of Dinuba  
Maribel Reynoso, City of Dinuba  
Dean Uota, City of Dinuba  
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove  
Kevin Fabino, City of Reedley  
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley  
Jim Wegley, Keller/Wegley, Engineer  
Doug Jensen, Baker, Manock & Jensen, Attorney  
Fernie Rubalcaba, Cutler P.U.D.  
Fergus Morrissey, Orange Cove ID  
Dennis Mills, Kings CWD  
Michael Pardo, Sr., SCSD/AGUA  
Tricia Blatter, Tulare County Farm Bureau  
Ryan Mayo, Fresno County Farm Bureau  
Laura Brown, CA Citrus Mutual  
Stephen Hundt, Hydrometrics WRI  
Derrick Williams, Hydrometrics WRI

### **Welcome:**

Chris Kapheim welcomed everyone. Also thanked the City of Dinuba for allowing the meeting at City Hall.

### **Approval of Minutes of last meeting (7/16/15):**

There were no objections to the minutes presented.

### **Additions to the Agenda:**

There were no additions to the Agenda.

### **Interested Parties:**

### **Status of the Kings EAST GSA MOU:**

Chris Kapheim said all MOUs have been authorized and it shows that people are interested.

**Status of the Kings River East GSA:**

**Chris Kapheim** said the next step is to look at the priority list of issues from interested parties. The initial results from those who previously submitted the survey indicated two main issues, funding and coordination. Other issues mentioned were reliability and sustainability. Kapheim went around the room and asked all the interested parties to prioritize their primary issues. Seven priority issues were discussed: Boundary, sustainability, coordination, fee, funding, governance, local control and outreach & education.

**Chris Kapheim** said the purpose of prioritizing the issues is to decide where we go from here. The legislation AB 1135 is still pending. We need to look at initiating an MOU. By doing so, it will help ensure we meet State's requirements to develop a GSA on or before June 2017.

**Bernardo Jimenez** asked why we are not looking at forming a joint power agreement.

**Chris Kapheim** explained that a JPA would not be able to include the Ag representation as part of the GSA governance because Ag is not a local agency, as defined by the groundwater legislation that was enacted in 2014.

**Bernardo Jimenez** said Fresno County is looking at consistency within the county; but does understand why we want to include Ag in the GSA.

**Chris Kapheim** said we have special circumstances and to be successful, Ag needs to be included.

**Nicole Zieba** asked two questions. First, she asked the assembly member representative, why bill AB 1135 was pulled? Second, why are we looking at doing an MOU versus other options?

**Chris Kapheim** explained that the legislation is pending, and if Ag is to be included in the governance, an MOU would be necessitated as an interim measure.

**Doug Jensen** explained that a special act is the only way to get a private entity in the GSA.

**Chris Kapheim** stated Alta does not detach urban development from the district. Other special districts, such as KRCD, detach urban development from the district.

**Chris Kapheim** said this is a long term deal. Production Ag is important; we need to have their support to move forward.

**Michael Rivera** discussed why AB 1135 was pulled from the hearing. He said things were going well in the days leading up to the hearing. On the Monday before the scheduled hearing, Perea was advised that there were issues and concerns coming from different voices from the Fresno metro area. He felt that these voiced concerns needed to be addressed. He wanted to hear both sides of the concerns especially about production Ag. The intent is to pull all sides together. On September 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a stakeholders meeting to review all the issues and where we go from here.

**Chris Kapheim** said Nisei Farmers League voiced their concerns of the split viewpoints in the Kings River Basin.

**Chris Kapheim** stated that the MOU will be an interim process. He proceeded to ask all interested parties for their support in moving forward. It was a general consensus by the members to continue with the MOU process.

**Tricia Blattler** questioned if we will end up with the same issues and a disruption of the process of the MOU. There is also concern with the change in leadership within KRCD. She also said she doesn't know if doing an MOU changes anything but we shouldn't lose momentum and move forward with it.

**Chris Kapheim** stated it is best to move forward in forming an MOU, as an interim measure. If the legislation moves forward, the MOU can be terminated.

**Bernardo Jimenez** said he would vote for the MOU governance approach. There will be a meeting to address communication issues that lead to misunderstanding and mistrust. We need to identify what we can agree on. DWR won't accept individual plans. They will only accept a collective plan and early submission will be important.

**Nicole Zieba** was concerned how one person disrupted the collaborative efforts of this group. There have been many accusations and doesn't understand the mistrust.

**Michael Rivera** said there was much misunderstanding with the issues of the GSA.

**Chris Kapheim** said we want to address the misunderstanding of our issues. We have always intended to coordinate with the rest of the basin. Our GSA is ahead of everyone else. We will circulate a draft MOU. The legislation will continue on its current path.

## **Boundary Issues**

**Chris Kapheim** said there are several issues. He identified 3 specific issues 1.) Smith Mountain, half of it is being farmed. The thought is bring it in to the GSA. 2.) Determine the southern boundary. 3.) Clarify boundary between Kings and Tulare Counties.

**Doug Jensen** said KRCD has a map of four general areas within the basin, ours being one of those areas.

## **Hydrometric Model Presentation**

**Derrick Williams** discussed the assumptions included in the current model and showed various outcomes. The model is a tool to show basin trends.

IJT