

**SUMMARY REPORT FOR
TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY'S
STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 7, 2018**

ATTENDEES: Kathy Wood McLaughlin, BLM; Carole Combs, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners; Brandon Spain, Hancock Natural Resources Group; Matt Hurley, TCWA; Deanna Jackson, TCWA; Julie Allen; Moe Dean, Gebhardt Farm Manager; Julianne Phillips, Kings County; Mike Nordstrom, Angiola Water District; Kayode Kadara, Deer Creek Storm Water District and TCWA; Dennis Tristao, JG Boswell; David Clark, Mapping Consultant

The meeting began with self-introductions and a brief recap of the last Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting. The attendees represented a diverse set of interests including Agricultural, Disadvantaged Community Representation, Federal Government, Tulare Basin Habitat, and County Government. It was noted the Stakeholder Committee did not have a representative present from State Government and outreach to a representative of the Department of Fish and Wildlife would be pursued.

Mr. Kadara addressed the committee on behalf of Tri-County Water Authority's (TCWA's) Board, stating the Board's commitment to equity for its stakeholders and the individual interests they represent. The committee discussed the stakeholder interest groups and it was noted that TCWA has an agreement with the community of Allensworth to manage their groundwater without cost to its residents, and has very little, if any, municipal or industrial stakeholders within its boundaries. It was recognized that the largest interest group within Tri-County Water Authority is Agricultural Business.

Matthew Hurley gave a report on TCWA's March 1, 2018 Board meeting. At the Public Hearing the Prop 218 Engineer's Report and assessment rate were declined. TCWA is working with Provost & Pritchard to refine the assessments, lowering the contingency factor and accounting for the grant money awarded to the subbasins. The next meeting of the Board to address the new rates will be on March 13, 2018.

Matthew Hurley reported on the grant money awarded to the subbasins. The Tule and Tulare Lake Subbasins were each awarded \$1,500,000. The Tule Subbasin has 6 Groundwater Sustainable Agencies (GSAs) writing 6 individual Groundwater Sustainable Plans (GSPs). The Tule Subbasin's grant application proposed to utilize the money on a monitoring grid and on work being completed by their modeler, Thomas Harder. The Tulare Lake Subbasin has 5 GSAs and intends to develop 1 GSP. Its grant application proposed to use the money to develop a single plan, and has sent out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Groundwater Sustainability Plan writer and engineering team.

Committee governance was discussed. Moe Dean volunteered to serve as the Chairman of the Committee and his nomination was accepted unanimously. Julie Allen and Brandon Spain volunteered to support Mr. Dean and it was determined these volunteers would comprise the Leadership Team for the Stakeholder Advisory Committee. It was decided the roster of people in

attendance would reflect TCWA's Stakeholder Committee Members, with future participants welcome to join.

The committee deliberated the goals, direction and obligations of the group. The Stakeholder Committee discussed its role in developing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Julie Allen suggested the Technical Committee would likely determine the numbers and the Stakeholder Committee will quantify the goals and objectives working with the current technical data, recognizing the parameters will change over the 20 year period working towards sustainability as the data gets refined.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires annual reporting and five year milestone assessments. TCWA's goal is to write a plan that satisfies SGMA requirements and documents where we are currently and how we will work towards sustainability, but does not attempt to satisfy all groundwater problems. The committee discussed utilizing the Technical Advisory Committee's numbers and making policy recommendations as to how those numbers address the undesirable results as they pertain to SGMA. One of the main goals of the Technical Committee is to categorize water data. The Technical Committee intends to rely heavily on real data in its process and rely less on modeling, especially in the beginning when real data for model calibration will be meager. The Technical Committee will incorporate the policy directive set forth by this committee. Dennis Tristao mentioned the need to discuss and incorporate climate change language and consider other water related issues such as CV Salts and the Irrigated Lands program.

The group determined one of its tasks is to develop creative solutions to bring the demand and supply gap into compliance. The committee will develop policy ideas to recommend to the Board of Directors and will be tasked with contributing to portions of the GSP as policy decisions are formed. The committee will assess the information coming from each subbasin. Mr. Dean asked if the committee would make policy decisions such as administering a land fallowing program. Mike Nordstrom noted that each landowner should have the ability to manage their supply share. There was a discussion of how projects and goals for sustainability identified by the committee would be incorporated by the Technical Committee and the GSP. These concerns and ideas will be studied at future meetings.

Planning and process was indicated as a critical goal of the group. The committee suggested the development and implementation of an action plan with deadlines to be met during the GSP writing process. Julie Allen noted the planning process should be considered an iterative process which will be refined continually as the meetings progress and should include informing the public during the planning process, and documenting the steps taken to do so.

The Committee agreed to bring ideas to the next meeting regarding a values statement and ground rules for group participation. Mr. Kadara will circulate an example document of committee ground rules to facilitate discussion within the group. The committee will consider a formal question asking process to record the expectations from each representative. It was agreed a white board and paper would be supplied at the next meeting.

The next Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2016 at 1:00 P.M.