

Kings River Conservation District

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Date & Time: August 8, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. **Location:** Kings River Conservation District Offices

Called to Order: 1:30 p.m. **Adjourned:** 3:06 p.m.

Facilitator: President Cehrs **Note taker:** Christine Simon

Attendees: **Directors:** David Cehrs, Ph.D. (President), D. Paul Stanfield (Vice President), Mark McKean, Norman B. Waldner, Gregory Beberian, Ceil W. Howe Jr.
KRCD Staff: David Merritt, Christine Simon, Paul G. Peschel, Randy Shilling, Brian Trevarrow, Cristel Tufenkjian, Casey Creamer, Eric Osterling
Consultants & Others: Steven Haugen (Kings River Water Association)

Absent: **Directors:** Mike Yoshimoto

Minutes

1. Additions or Deletions from the Agenda

Presenter: President Cehrs

Discussion:

None.

Actions:

None.

2. Public Presentations or Comments

Presenter: President Cehrs

Discussion:

None.

Actions:

None.

3. Approval of Minutes of the July 11, 2017 Regular Board Meeting

Presenter: President Cehrs

Discussion:

- a. Amend the July 11, 2017 minutes to name President Cehrs as the Director who informed the Board about the large amount of spectators watching flows from Pine Flat Dam.

Actions:

- a. It was moved by Director Howe, seconded by Director Stanfield, and carried by Directors Beberian, Cehrs, Stanfield, Howe, McKean, and Waldner that the Minutes of the July 11, 2017 Regular Board meeting be approved, as amended.

4. Water Conditions and Weather Conditions**Presenter: Steve Haugen**

Discussion:

- a. Kings River Water Association (KRWA) Watermaster Steve Haugen summarized a report on water conditions stating that the total storage available to KRWA units in Pine Flat Reservoir as of 2400 hours on August 6, 2017 was 1,011,030 acft with a vacant space of 182,970 acft. On that date, the calculated natural inflow to the Reservoir was 4,279 cfs.
- b. Storage is being released from Pine Flat Dam by approximately 6,910 cfs. KRWA staff members are seeing a slight reduction in irrigation demands, as is expected.
- c. Current forecasts indicate this 2016-17 water year is the third wettest year on record.

Actions:

None.

5. Directors' Reports**Presenter: President Cehrs**

Discussion:

- a. President Cehrs drew the Board's attention to a resource recently published by Duke University published as to how to run your Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and write a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) using data from Australian studies. The Board anticipates more experts will come out of the woodwork and utilize similar tactics to market their services.

Actions:

None.

6. General Manager's Report**Presenter: Paul Peschel**

Discussion:

- a. Paul Peschel, General Manger, provided the following updates to supplement his written report to the Board:
 1. Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Executive Director Tim Quinn will be on medical leave for two months. During this time, former ACWA President Paul Kelley will serve as the Interim Executive Director.
 2. Peschel drew attention to Water Deeply article regarding Semitropic's proposed groundwater recharge project.
 3. Although ACWA requested agencies to join a coalition opposing SB 623 (Monning) Water quality: Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, the Kings River Legislative Committee and Valley Agricultural Water Committee both hold a watch position on the bill. Both committees and are waiting to see if and how amendments are added associated with protections to agriculture, funding and related issues and concerns.
 4. Another "minibus", smaller than a full omnibus package, was passed. The full Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$10 million for Pine Flat Dam in USACE's Operations and Maintenance 2018 budget.
 5. Fisheries Management Program staff met with the Public Advisory Group on July 31, 2017 and the group is moving forward in a positive direction.
 6. Paul Peschel and Eric Osterling were asked to join the ACWA Groundwater Replenishment initiative working group. Peschel and Osterling are encouraging ACWA to take a bottom-up approach by determining needs at the GSA-level to avoid

redundancy, potential conflicts and, if deemed prudent, to not move forward with any effort if added value is not shown.

7. H.R. 23 (Valadao), a bill supported by the Kings River Legislative Committee, will likely not receive Senate approval.
8. Schwarzenegger is proposing a handbook that counters President Trump's direction on climate change. Legislators are proposing legislation by the end of December 2017 that would allow California to have stronger environmental regulatory rules than is proposed in current federal legislation.
9. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service was in support of five Endangered Species Act reform bills that would help the process for better collaboration and accountability.
10. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission made appointments and as a result of filling several vacant positions expects to have a quorum which has not been possible since February 3rd.
11. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is moving forward with its water plan update, including items such as compliance and fund of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014.
12. All 2018-19 ACWA Committee considerations are to be communicated to Christine Simon, KRCD Executive Assistant before close of business on September 22, 2017.
13. The Cap and trade program was signed into law. Cap and trade is expected to address a quarter of the 2030, 50% renewable energy threshold set by the State of California. California's growing trend toward investing in renewable energy resources will affect the energy market in new ways that could provide opportunities for KRCD. On a related matter, the High Speed Rail is planned to operate on 100% renewable energy.
14. In Southern California, a claim to groundwater is being disputed by a local tribe who is arguing that the local agency is mismanaging the groundwater supply. The tribe received the Lower Court's favor and the case is going to the U.S. Supreme Court. Regardless of the decision, the result will affect groundwater rights holders.

Actions:

None.

7. Public Information

Presenter: Cristel Tufenkjian

Discussion:

- a. Cristel Tufenkjian, Manager of Community & Public Relations, provided the Board two articles that included quotes from KRCD staff members. The first was published by the online news website, Water Deeply, and covered the Semitropic Water Storage District's proposed groundwater recharge project. The second article was published by Ag Alert and covered the flood releases on the Kings and San Joaquin rivers due to the excessive snowmelt.

Actions:

None.

8a. Power Resources, Flood O&M, and Environmental Status Report and Presentation

Presenter: David Merritt

Discussion:

- a. David Merritt, Deputy General Manager, presented the following information to the Board:
 1. 142,040.1 Net MW
 2. Merritt submitted a temporary permit to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to release water above the current licensed amount from power house with a

support letter from the Department of Water Resources on Thursday, August 3, 2017. KRCD staff members expect to receive SWRCB's response August 25, 2017.

3. Merritt submitted a PL84-99 Request for Rehabilitation Assistance to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on August 7, 2017 to reimburse expenses for the South Fork Levee failure.
4. The Riverdale flood staff have greatly benefitted from the new tractor and mower, recently approved by the Board.
5. Merritt provided Terranova project updates to the Board.
6. KRCD is awaiting feedback regarding the appraised value of Flood Easements at DWR.

Actions:

None.

8b. Business Operations Status Report and Presentation Presenter: Randy Shilling

Discussion:

- a. Eric Osterling, Manager of Water Resources, reported the following:
 1. 99% of medium and high priority basins are in compliance and do not require enforcement from the SWRCB.
 2. GSAs are working on Prop 218 elections and hiring technical consultants.
 3. An accompanying FAQ document for the Prop 1 Draft Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for GSPs and DAC Projects was released. Tulare Lake Subbasin now has an interim coordination agreement with the other GSAs in order to apply for grant funding.
 4. DWR is working on additional best management practices documents including one that will address establishing sustainability thresholds and another BMP addressing outreach and communications.
- b. Casey Creamer, Manager of Water Quality, provided the following updates to the Board:
 1. The Coalition will be sending out annual membership dues for July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018 near the end of August and early-September 2017 that reflects the SWRCB's updated dues. The Coalition is working with SWRCB regarding the assessed fees, which could be \$0.80-\$0.91 per irrigated acre for regional Coalition members, based on proposals submitted by SWRCB staff.
 2. The Coalition's technical consultant 4Creeks is developing nitrate summary report templates which will include individualized information for each grower based on crops and township as required by the irrigated lands regulatory program.
 3. The Coalition remains heavily involved in water board nitrate enforcement issues and will be having discussions in closed session at an upcoming Board meeting to decide on a path that is best for the growers. If SB 623 (Monning) Water quality: Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund passes, SWRCB would be prohibited from taking enforcement action to the growers in the area.
 4. The Governor named Eileen Sobeck as Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board starting September 2017. Ms. Sobeck is replacing Tom Howard who retired in May 2017.

Actions:

None.

9a. Financial Report: Budget Expenditures

Presenter: Randy Shilling

Discussion:

Randy Shilling, Deputy General Manager of Business Operations, reported the following:

- a. Audits for KRCD, the Kings Basin Water Authority, and the Water Quality Coalition are scheduled for the last week of August 2017. Staff are reviewing health insurance quotes and may convene the Personnel Committee to review and consider.
- b. Shilling summarized the July 2017 budget expenditures and investment report to the Board.
- c. On August 25, 2017 a company called Modern Custom Fabrication will be breaking ground south of the KRCD offices. Two driveways will be added to Jensen Avenue; one to the west and another to the east of the KRCD office.

Actions:

None.

9b. Review of Financial Statements

Presenter: Director Stanfield

Discussion:

- a. Vice President Stanfield reported that he reviewed the bills, found them to be in order, and recommended that they be approved.

Actions:

- a. It was moved by Director Stanfield, seconded by Director Howe, and unanimously carried by Directors Beberian, Cehrs, Stanfield, Howe, McKean, and Waldner that bills in the amount of \$677,120.79 as presented in the schedule of Disbursements and Current Accounts Payable, were approved and ordered paid.

Other Items for Discussion

Presenter: President Cehrs

Discussion:

None.

Actions:

None.

Submitted by:

Paul G. Peschel
Board Secretary

Board President approved on September 12, 2017