

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT, CONFERENCE ROOM 203, MAIN OFFICE BUILDING
333 EAST CANAL DRIVE, TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA

2:00 p.m., Thursday, May 25, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delhi County Water District, Stan Feathers
Denair Community Services District, David Odom
Hilmar County Water District, Curtis Jorritsma
Keyes Community Water District, Michelle Harris
Keyes Community Water District, Michael Jones
Merced County, Lacey Kiriakou, Vice Chair
City of Modesto, Miguel Alvarez
Stanislaus County, Walt Ward
City of Turlock, Michael Cooke, Chair
Turlock Irrigation District, Tou Her,
Turlock Irrigation District, Debbie Liebersbach
Turlock Irrigation District, Herb Smart
Turlock Irrigation District, Bill Penney
Turlock Irrigation District, Joyce Medeiros
General Counsel to the WTS GSA – Phaedra Norton
Special Counsel to the WTS GSA – Valerie Kincaid

1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Turlock Irrigation District moved, Merced County seconded, that the minutes from the April 27, 2017 Initial Meeting, and the May 15, 2017 Special Meeting, be approved with the corrections as noted by Dorinda Soiseth. All voted in favor with none opposed. The Chair declared the motion carried.

3) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – There was none.

4) ROADMAP PROJECT

A. Debbie Liebersbach advised that the Turlock Groundwater Basin Association (TGBA) has hired a consultant team to develop a plan to assist the two Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) prepare to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Workshops have been held, the planning document is being developed and the GSAs are now formed.

B. Valerie Kincaid spoke of the potential conflict of the roles of TGBA members who also serve on the West Turlock Subbasin Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). There is potential for the individual agencies to act outside of the GSA Board. Once an agreement (MOU) has been signed, the TGBA could possibly be dissolved. The GSA Board could authorize the TAC to act

on behalf of the GSA while participating in the TGBA. There was discussion about whether the GSA would encompass everything that the TGBA has worked on, and the future role of the TGBA in relation to SGMA implementation. Valerie advised that the GSA Board will take action on this at their June 1st meeting. There was additional discussion about not eliminating the TGBA but maybe suspending it or that possibly they just not meet.

5) PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS

A. Debbie Liebersbach provided a copy of the GSA Critical Path document prepared by the Center for Collaborative Policy, to the TAC members. This document outlines the timeframe of the Outreach and Engagement Plan. Public workshops are scheduled for May 31st in Denair.

Herb Smart reported on work done by the TGBA to prepare for the workshops and how information is being provided to the public via press releases, an interested parties notification list and social media.

6) COORDINATION MOU WITH EAST TURLOCK SUBBASIN

A. Michael Cooke reported that the City of Hughson has submitted comments on the draft MOU.

B. Valerie Kincaid commented that issues include County participation, confidentiality and the ability to vote, how to vote, and who is represented where. There was discussion about forming a group, or “Basin Board” that could make decisions, Joint TACs or Sub-TACS that would be advisory to both GSAs, and the establishment of a basin group that oversees coordination of the GSAs. The consensus was that an extra layer of “board” may not be necessary. There was additional discussion about how representatives from each basin could work together to develop an agreement for the GSP such as a Joint-TAC level agreement or holding joint workshops between the Boards. Based on these comments, Valerie will revise the draft MOU to remove one layer of governance, add workshops, include funding efforts per TAC, provide direction on how to split the grant application, add funding solutions, make it more of a Joint TAC Umbrella to require approvals from each Board, and to use the existing framework of the TGBA in the MOU between the basins. She will re-circulate the MOU to the TAC for review.

7) WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GSA WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

A. Herb Smart provided information on the Water Code Statutes that require GSAs to maintain a website, and information on various website builders. There was discussion about the possibility of the TGBA website transitioning to the West Turlock Subbasin website, and that we should secure the domain name now. Another possibility would be to create a generic groundwater site that has links to both the East Turlock Subbasin and the West Turlock Subbasin information. The consensus was that a website is needed.

Tou Her leaves the meeting at 3:00 PM

Phaedra Norton leaves the meeting at 3:20 PM

Curtis Jorritsma leaves the meeting at 3:30 PM

8) ETHICS POLICY

A. Michael Cooke reviewed the policies that were included in the agenda packet. The consensus of the TAC was to recommend the Board adopt the generic policy.

Herb Smart and Bill Penney leave the meeting at 3:35 PM

9) DRAFT PROPOSAL SOLICITATION PACKAGE (PSP) FOR GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANS (GSP) AND PROJECTS

A. Debbie Liebersbach advised that comments on the draft PSP are due July 19. Todd Groundwater could be retained to prepare the grant application, which is partially funded by the TGBA. Valerie Kincaid noted that the GSA, at their June 1 meeting, will take action to retain Todd Groundwater, and to get funds from the TGBA and East Turlock Subbasin to pay the costs and seek reimbursement from funds already paid to the TGBA.

10) TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE EMAIL GROUP

The Committee reviewed the TAC email list and asked the Secretary to remove Devin Cox, Jeff Grant, J. Truxaw, Matt Erickson, N. Costanzo and Stephanie Dietz from the TAC email group.

11) NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2017 at 2:00 PM.

12) ADJOURNMENT

Stanislaus County moved, Denair Community Services District seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 3:52 p.m. All voted in favor with none opposed. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:



Dorinda Soiseth
Interim Secretary to the WTS GSA