JPA Board Meeting Minutes
Kern Non-Districted Land Authority (KNDLA)
Monday, October 28, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

JPA DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES PRESENT
Derek Yurosek, Arvin-Edison
Amrit Mangat, Buena Vista
Spencer Birch, Cawelo
Tom McCarthy, KCWA ID4
Rodney Palla, Kern Delta
Andrew Hart, Kern Tulare
Kevin Andrew, North Kern
Jeff Siemens, Olcese
Royce Fast, Pioneer
Dan Bartel, Rosedale-Rio Bravo
Dan Waterhouse, Semitropic
Bret Sill, Shafter-Wasco/7th Standard Annex (not present for items 1-6)
Gary Morris, West Kern
Rob Goff, Westside District Water Authority
Michael Blaine, Wheeler Ridge

1. **Roll Call**
   Quorum Determination—Director Fast called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. after confirming the presence of a quorum, which met the threshold required under the JPA agreement.
2. **Flag Salute**
   Completed.
3. **Public Input**
   None.
4. **Approval of Minutes**
   a. **September 23, 2024**
      A motion was made by Director Goff and seconded by Director Waterhouse to approve the September 23, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Director McCarthy abstained. Despite the abstention, the motion passed unanimously.
5. **Financial Report**
   a. **Financial Report & Accounts Payable**
      Ms. Grass reviewed the Financial Report and Accounts Payable for September 2024, focusing on cash calls, deposits, disbursements, receivables, and grant balances. Ms. Grass requested approval for the disbursement of accounts payable:
      - $59,034.37 as presented in Exhibit E for September 2024.

      A motion was made by Director Hart and seconded by Director Yurosek to approve the financial reports and disbursement of payments as advised by Ms. Grass. The motion was unanimously passed.

b. **KGA Closeout Ad hoc Committee Report**
Ms. Grass recommended refunding the thirteen KGA agencies that participated in the 2024 initial cash call, totaling $5,843.38, while retaining $15,600 for future audits. A motion was made by Director Andrews and seconded by Director Yurosek. The motion passed unanimously.

c. **Financial Standard Operating Procedures**
Ms. Grass provided an overview of the Financial Standard Operating Procedures, emphasizing the separation of duties and outlining roles and responsibilities amongst staff.

6. **Administration**
   a. **Update on circulation of RFP for Executive Officer**
   Mr. Bartel reported that the RFP for the Executive Director position was distributed after incorporating the requested changes. No applications have been received yet; additional information is expected from Chairman Watts in the coming weeks.
   b. **Special Board Meeting December**
   Ms. Echeverria suggested rescheduling the December meeting due to holiday conflicts, tentatively proposing Friday, December 13th, at 2:00 p.m. She will follow up with the Board.
7. **White Area Representatives**
   a. **Representative Appointment Process**
   Ms. Kincaid summarized the Non-Districted Land Representative(s) Process Recommendations. She provided an overview of the outreach process, the recommendations/nomination forms to be submitted via email to Ms. Echeverria, and the standard two-vote option. She opened discussion for consideration of term limits, vacancies, and a 75% vote to remove a seat. The Board discussed and provided direction on specific aspects of the process as set forth below:
      - **Terms and Term Limits Motion:** Director Palla moved, and Director Andrew seconded, to adopt a two-year term, with no limits on the number of terms. Motion passed.
      - **Eligibility Clarification Motion:** Director Yurosek moved, and Director Palla seconded, to clarify eligibility requirements for Non-District Landowners; to be eligible nominees must own land within the jurisdiction of the KNDLA or otherwise represent an entity that owns land within the KNDLA jurisdiction. Motion passed.
      - **Removal of Representatives and Voting Requirement Motion:** Director Hart moved, and Director Palla seconded, that a non-districted land representative may be removed from the KNDLA Board after appointment by motion, consideration, and 75% affirmative vote. In addition, it was clarified that the motion would adopt a standard two-vote option as set forth in the staff memo. Motion passed.
      Director Sill then summarized the review process for nominations.

8. **DWR Grant Administration**
   a. **Report on DWR Grant Administration**

Mr. Gianquinto discussed the amendment request for the basin study to modify scope and hydrological models. Only Request No. 6 was received from DWR, and issues with the KGA name change remain unresolved.

b. **Monitoring Well Component Budget Amendment**
Mr. Gianquinto and Ms. Kincaid presented Amendment No. 2, recommending the addition of Todd Groundwater and sub-consultants. Mr. Gianquinto also recommended modifying grant Amendment No. 2 to include language to improve the equipment of four wells.
A motion was made by Director Bartel and seconded by Director Hart to approve Amendment No. 2. The motion unanimously passed.

9. **County of Kern Participation**
   a. **Kern County Participation Ad hoc Committee**
   Director Palla reported on a meeting with the County held a few months prior. Another meeting with the County is scheduled for Wednesday, where Directors Fast and Yurosek will introduce KNDLA and provide updates.
10. **Kern Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)**
   a. **Report on the establishment of Representative Monitoring Wells**
   Mr. Muhar and Mr. Bartel discussed the process of identifying representative monitoring wells and shared a draft access agreement along with a cover letter for property owners. Mr. Bartel informed the Board of a potential well near Choctaw Valley, while Mr. Muhar is working to identify a well in Caliente. Mr. Taylor provided updates on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) well mitigation plan, including funding requirements and budget implications. The Board tabled further discussion for the next meeting.

11. **Legal**
   a. **Joint Defense Agreement**
   Ms. Kincaid introduced the Joint Defense Agreement, which protects privileged discussions regarding litigation exposure at the subbasin level. She clarified that funding was not required.
   A motion was made by Director Morris and seconded by Director McCarthy to approve the Joint Defense Agreement. The motion was unanimously approved.

12. **New Business**
   None.
13. **Correspondence**
   None.
14. **Closed Session**

   a. **Potential Litigation – Government Code Section 54956.9(d)2**
   The closed session commenced at 3:00 p.m. and concluded at 3:06 p.m. Director Fast announced that there were no reportable actions taken during the session.

15. **Adjournment**
   A motion to adjourn was made by Director Palla, seconded by Director Waterhouse, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.