JPA Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Kern Non-Districted Land Authority (KNDLA)
Monday, February 24, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

JPA DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES PRESENT

Scott Spitzer, Arvin-Edison
Amrit Mangat, Buena Vista
Spencer Birch, Cawelo
Rodney Palla, Kern Delta
Andrew Hart, Kern Tulare
Kevin Andrew, North Kern
Jeff Siemens, Olcese
Royce Fast, Pioneer
Barry Watts, Rosedale
David Daniels, Semitropic
Bret Sill, Shafter-Wasco and 7th Standard Annex
Dolores Salgado, TCWD
Gary Morris, West Kern
Rob Goff, Westside
Michael Blaine, Wheeler Ridge

1. **Roll Call**
   Quorum Determination—Chairman Watts called the meeting to order at 2:01 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. **December 13, 2024, and February 3, 2025**
      A motion was made by Director Hart and seconded by Director Blaine to approve the December 13, 2024, Special Board Meeting Minutes and February 3, 2025, Special Board Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Financial Report**
   a. **Ratification of January Payments, Financial Report, and Accounts Payable**
      Ms. Grass reviewed the Financial Report and Accounts Payable for December 2024 and January 2025, focusing on cash calls, deposits, disbursements, receivables, and grant balances. Due to the canceled Board meeting, Ms. Grass requested the ratification of payments:
      - $16,470.98 as presented in Exhibit E for December 2024.

      A motion was made by Director Fast and seconded by Director Hart to approve the financial reports and ratification of payments as advised by Ms. Grass. The motion was unanimously carried.

Ms. Grass reviewed and requested approval of the current accounts payable:

- $10,488.60 as presented in Exhibit E for January 2025.

A motion was made by Director Andrew and seconded by Director Morris to approve the disbursement of payments as advised by Ms. Grass. The motion was unanimously carried.

b. Accounts Payable Policy

Ms. Grass proposed an Accounts Payable Policy to ensure vendor payments in the absence of a board meeting. Key provisions include:

- Payments align with prior budget approvals or ongoing contracts
- Payments do not exceed $10,000 per invoice.
- Payments are necessary for the continued operation or fulfillment of obligations of the JPA.
- Checks shall be signed by two Governing Board Members.

A motion was made by Director Birch and seconded by Director Watts to approve the Accounts Payable Policy. The motion unanimously carried.

6. Administration

a. Executive Director Report

Ms. Holtermann provided an update on recent activities, including attending meetings, the Kern Subbasin hearing, grant processes, and correspondence.

b. Consideration of Administrative Services Contract Extension

Ms. Grass presented the Administrative Services Contract extension with Provost & Prichard Consulting Group. She explained that the amendment is to continue management services through 2025 utilizing the remaining funds from prior agreements, while including additional time for grant management and web support. A motion was made by Director Blaine and seconded by Director Morris to approve the amended contract. The motion unanimously carried.

7. White Area Representatives

a. Candidate Introductions

Chairman Watts and Ms. Holtermann introduced candidates for White Area representation. Each candidate provided an overview of their background and engagement with SGMA:

- Devin Yurosek – A family farmer on the east side actively involved in SGMA discussions since 2015.
- David James – A third-generation Kern County resident with experience in resource management, title insurance, agricultural lending, and a strong understanding of SGMA compliance issues.
- Mike Echeverria – A local beef cattleman with SGMA experience, and involvement with the Eastside Water Authority.
- Debbie Wise – A third-generation Kern County resident with expertise in rangeland and tree farming, and an understanding of SGMA regulatory requirements.

Chairman Watts expressed appreciation for the candidates' participation, and Director Hart encouraged continued engagement.

b. **Vote for White Area Representatives**

Ms. Kincaid explained the voting procedures. Following the vote, the newly elected representatives were Debbie Wise (13 votes) and Devin Yurosek (11 votes).

Debbie Wise: 13 - Scott Spitzer (Arvin-Edison), Amrit Mangat (Buena Vista), Spencer Birch (Cawelo), Rodney Palla (Kern Delta), Kevin Andrew (North Kern), Royce Fast (Pioneer), Barry Watts (Rosedale), David Daniels (Semitropic), Bret Sill (Shafter-Wasco), Brett Sill (7th Standard Annex), Dolores Salgado (TCWD), Gary Morris (West Kern), Rob Goff (Westside).

Devin Yurosek: 11 -Scott Spitzer (Arvin-Edison), Spencer Birch (Cawelo), Rodney Palla (Kern Delta), Andrew Hart (Kern Tulare), Jeff Siemens (Olcese), David Daniels (Semitropic), Bret Sill (Shafter-Wasco), Brett Sill (7th Standard Annex), Gary Morris (West Kern), Rob Goff (Westside), Michael Blaine (Wheeler Ridge).

Mike Echeverria: 5 - Jeff Siemens (Olcese), Royce Fast (Pioneer), Barry Watts (Rosedale), Dolores Salgado (TCWD), Michael Blaine (Wheeler Ridge).

David James: 3 - Amrit Mangat (Buena Vista), Andrew Hart (Kern Tulare), Kevin Andrew (North Kern).

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

      Chairman Watts provided an update on the status of Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant payments and outstanding requests.
9. **County of Kern Participation**
   a. **Kern County Participation Ad hoc Committee**

      Director Fast reported on an upcoming February 25, 2025, meeting with the Agency to discuss potential county participation, with a follow-up meeting planned.
10. **Kern Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)**
    a. **Update on Representative Monitor Well Access Agreements**

       Ms. Echeverria provided an update on an access agreement for a monitoring well near Caliente, which is currently under legal review by The Nature Conservancy. The agreement is expected to be finalized within a week.
    b. **Report on KNDLA at risk domestic wells**

       Mr. Bartel identified two areas of concern regarding at-risk domestic wells: approximately 15 wells located near a housing development adjacent to the Frito-Lay factory, and a few wells near the Caliente area. Board members discussed historical land divisions before the 1970s Subdivision Map Act. Concerns were raised about how these historic subdivisions, often created before groundwater management regulations, may contribute to well vulnerability and sustainability challenges under SGMA.
    c. **Consideration of RMW Monitoring Services**

       Ms. Holtermann provided an update on groundwater monitoring near Caliente, including proposed water level and quality sampling. She emphasized the importance of monitoring to support SGMA compliance and informed the Board of estimated costs. She also added that the RMW located near Choctaw would be done internally by the owner. Director Fast made a motion to approve water sampling expenses up to $3,000. Director Hart seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.
    d. **DWR Portal GSA Name Change**

Ms. Holtermann reported ongoing delays in updating the portal name from Kern Groundwater Authority (KGA) to KNDLA. Ms. Holtermann added that Kristin Pittack is assisting in resolving the matter.

11. **Legal**
    a. **Statewide Update**

    Ms. Kincaid provided a legal update on statewide groundwater management activities:

    - The State Water Resources Control Board's probationary hearing for the Kern Subbasin resulted in a recommendation against probation due to recent improvements in local coordination efforts.
    - Of the 71 subbasins with approved GSPs, 13 remain under review. No disapprovals have been legally contested yet, though some approvals have faced challenges.
    - New SGMA-related legislation is being introduced, with summaries to be provided in future meetings.

12. **New Business**

    None.

13. **Correspondence**

    None.

14. **Closed Session**

15. **Adjournment**

    Director Birch moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Salgado. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.