



**Kings River Water Quality Coalition**

AKA Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority

February 20, 2018 at 11:20 a.m.

KRCD Board Room

**Called to Order:** 11:25 a.m.

**18 of 27 Members Present:**

- ALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT – Alt Director Chad Wegley
- CLARK’S FORK RECLAMATION DISTRICT #2069 – Director Ron Allvin
- CONSOLIDATED IRRIGATION DISTRICT – Director Larry Cruff
- CORCORAN IRRIGATION CO – Alt Director Mark Unruh
- CRESCENT CANAL COMPANY – President Mark McKean
- EMPIRE WEST SIDE ID – Director John Howe
- JAMES ID – Alt Director Steve Stadler
- KINGS RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT – Director David Cehrs, Alt Director Mark McKean, Alt Director Paul Peschel
- KINGS RIVER WATER DISTRICT – Alt Director Steve Boos
- LAGUNA IRRIGATION DISTRICT – Director Frank Zonneveld, Alt Director Scott Sills
- LAST CHANCE WATER DITCH CO. – Alt Director Mark Unruh
- LEMOORE CANAL & IRRIGATION – Director Bill Newton
- LOVELACE WATER CORP. – Alt Director Mark Unruh
- REED DITCH COMPANY – President Mark McKean
- RIVERDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT – Director Leonard Acquistapace
- SOUTHEAST LAKE WATER CO. – Alt Director Mark Unruh
- TULARE LAKE BASIN WSD – Alt Director Mark Gilkey
- TULARE LAKE CANAL CO. – Alt Director Mark Unruh

**Adjourned:** 12:27 p.m.

**9 of 27 Members Absent:**

- BURREL DITCH CO.
- FRESNO ID
- JOHN HEINLEN MUTUAL WATER
- LIBERTY CANAL CO.
- LIBERTY MILL RACE CO.
- PEOPLES DITCH CO.
- STRATFORD ID
- TULARE LAKE RECLAM DIST #761
- UPPER SAN JOSE WATER CO.

**Others Present:**

- |                                     |                                    |                      |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Casey Creamer, Coordinator          | Joe Hughes, Klein-DeNatale-Goldner | Eric Athorp, KRCD    |
| Christine Simon, Secretary          | Brian Trevarrow, KRCD              | Randy Shilling, KRCD |
| Matt Razor, 4Creeks                 | Eric Osterling, KRCD               | Paul Peschel, KRCD   |
| Lauren Layne, Baker, Manock, Jensen |                                    | Steve Haugen, KRWA   |

**Minutes**

1. Addition to or Deletion from the Agenda

Presenter: President McKean

**Discussion:**

None.

**Actions:**

None.

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**2. Public Presentation**

**Presenter: President McKean**

**Discussion:**

None.

**Actions:**

None.

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**3. Organizational Updates**

**Presenter: Paul Peschel**

**Discussion:**

Paul Peschel, Alternate Director of the Coalition and General Manager of the Kings River Conservation District, thanked Casey Creamer, Coordinator, for his service to the Valley and updated the Coalition on responsibilities KRCD staff members will assume in the interim.

**Actions:**

None.

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**4. Coordinator Report**

**Presenter: Casey Creamer**

**Discussion:**

Casey Creamer, Coordinator, reported to the Coalition that 300 membership dues (covering approximately 3,000 acres) are still outstanding, which is a small percentage of the Coalition's total membership and a higher membership renewal rate than previously experienced. The Coalition will not be conducting outreach for the next couple of weeks and will be meeting with growers in time for the March 1<sup>st</sup> filing deadline. Coalition staff will conduct an additional outreach meeting in March with the Fresno County Farm Bureau and Creamer directed the Coalition to inform Paul Peschel or Eric Osterling if additional outreach events are desired.

Creamer reported on CV-SALTS activity as well as Irrigated Lands Program Ag Waivers. Creamer directed the Coalition to begin considering whether or not the Coalition should continue participation in the current IRLP Ag Waiver program, set to expire in 10 years or to participate in the CV-SALTS program. Creamer recommended that if the Board pursues CV-SALTS, that they set up management zones and coordinate with the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies for best coverage. Creamer explained the process of creating management zones and clarified questions regarding which irrigated operations qualify for the Ag Waiver permit.

**Actions:**

None.

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**5. Technical Consultant Report**

**Presenter: Matt Razor**

**Discussion:**

Matt Razor, 4Creeks, demonstrated a Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) Report Card available to Coalition members when they log into the website using their unique user name and password. A statistical analysis of nitrogen applied and removed, the Report Card indicates how individual growers compare with other anonymous Coalition growers based on crop. The fact sheet receives its data from the NMP reports growers are required by the

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to submit to the Coalition on an annual basis. As time passes, 4Creeks will be able to identify trends.

The Coalition received a conditional approval letter from the SWRCB for the Coalition's Groundwater Quality Management Plan, developed in conjunction with the Southern San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition Management Practices and Evaluation Plan, and re-submitted a modified report for the Board in January 2018. Staff are waiting for a response from the Board.

Additionally, staff are making progress on the Trend Monitoring Plan and are maximizing available information that is readily available to minimize costs. Creamer recommended that the Coalition consider avoiding monitoring wells attached to growers' property and, instead, finance and construct monitoring wells owned by the Coalition to best protect grower confidentiality. This will prevent the Coalition from relying too heavily on using the wells of individual growers and Irrigation Districts.

The Central Valley Groundwater Monitoring Collaborative (CVGMC) will be monitoring wells in the Fall of 2018 on behalf of the Coalition. Razor reported on progress within the Central Valley Groundwater Monitoring Collaborative and that a technical consultant is preparing a workplan that will be submitted to the Central Valley Water Quality Board at the end of April 2018. Razor also reported on pesticide report progress as well as General Order requirements that are being met.

Creamer and Razor explained their efforts to protect grower information by aggregating data in reports given to the SWRCB. Razor thanked Creamer for his service and offered 4Creeks as an interim resource. Creamer and Razor discussed how KRCD staff and 4Creeks anticipate helping during the staff transition to ensure the Coalition's needs are met.

**Actions:**

None.

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**6. Approval of the Minutes**

**Presenter: President McKean**

**Discussion:**

None.

**Actions:**

Approved: It was moved by Director Zonneveld, seconded by Director Unruh, and carried to approve the Minutes of the December 19, 2017, as presented.

**AYES-**

CLARK'S FORK RECLAMATION DISTRICT #2069 – Director Ron Allvin  
CONSOLIDATED IRRIGATION DISTRICT – Director Larry Cruff  
CORCORAN IRRIGATION CO – Alt Director Mark Unruh  
CRESCENT CANAL COMPANY – President Mark McKean  
EMPIRE WEST SIDE ID – Director John Howe  
JAMES ID – Alt Director Steve Stadler  
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REED DITCH COMPANY – President Mark McKean  
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TULARE LAKE BASIN WSD – Alt Director Mark Gilkey  
TULARE LAKE CANAL CO. – Alt Director Mark Unruh

**NOES-** None.

**ABSTAIN-**

ALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT – Alt Director Chad Wegley

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**7. Financial Report**

**Presenter: Randy Shilling**

**Discussion:**

Randy Shilling, Assistant Treasurer, summarized the December 2017-January 2018 Financial Report and bills for the Coalition. Shilling expects the SWRCB water quality bill is in the mail and will arrive to our offices soon.

**Actions:**

Approved: It was moved by Director Stadler, seconded by Director Aquistapace, and unanimously carried to approve the expenditure to budget comparison report for the period ending January 31, 2018, and disbursements for December 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018, as presented.

**AYES-**

ALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT – Alt Director Chad Wegley  
CLARK'S FORK RECLAMATION DISTRICT #2069 – Director Ron Allvin  
CONSOLIDATED IRRIGATION DISTRICT – Director Larry Cruff  
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SOUTHEAST LAKE WATER CO. – Alt Director Mark Unruh  
TULARE LAKE BASIN WSD – Alt Director Mark Gilkey  
TULARE LAKE CANAL CO. – Alt Director Mark Unruh

**NOES-** None.

**ABSTAIN-** None.

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**8. Central Valley Groundwater Monitoring Collaborative (CVGMC)  
Fiscal Agent and Contract for Technical Consulting Services**

**Presenter: Casey Creamer**

**Discussion:**

Creamer explained that the technical contract with Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers was approved by CVGMC members and requires an approval by the Coalition, who serves as the CVGMC's fiscal agent. Creamer discussed the content and the expenses associated with the contract.

**Actions:**

Approved: It was moved by Director Cehrs, seconded by Alt Director Mark Unruh, and unanimously carried to approve the Contract for Technical Consulting Services and for the Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority to serve as the Central Valley Groundwater Monitoring Collaborative Fiscal Agent.

**AYES-**

ALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT – Alt Director Chad Wegley  
CLARK'S FORK RECLAMATION DISTRICT #2069 – Director Ron Allvin

CONSOLIDATED IRRIGATION DISTRICT – Director Larry Cruff  
CORCORAN IRRIGATION CO – Alt Director Mark Unruh  
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TULARE LAKE BASIN WSD – Alt Director Mark Gilkey  
TULARE LAKE CANAL CO. – Alt Director Mark Unruh

**NOES-** None.

**ABSTAIN-** None.

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**9. SSJV MPEP Committee Research Agreement A18-1437**

**Presenter: Casey Creamer**

**Discussion:**

Creamer discussed the contents of the agreement up for consideration and explained that this item is funded by a grant the SSJV MPEP received. Again, the Coalition would approve this item as function of its fiscal agent duties.

**Actions:**

Approved: It was moved by Alt Director Stadler, seconded by Alt Director Mark Unruh, and unanimously carried to enter into research agreement A18-1437 with the University of California for the Southern San Joaquin Valley MPEP Committee, as presented.

**AYES-**

ALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT – Alt Director Chad Wegley  
CLARK'S FORK RECLAMATION DISTRICT #2069 – Director Ron Allvin  
CONSOLIDATED IRRIGATION DISTRICT – Director Larry Cruff  
CORCORAN IRRIGATION CO – Alt Director Mark Unruh  
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RIVERDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT – Director Leonard Acquistapace  
SOUTHEAST LAKE WATER CO. – Alt Director Mark Unruh  
TULARE LAKE BASIN WSD – Alt Director Mark Gilkey  
TULARE LAKE CANAL CO. – Alt Director Mark Unruh

**NOES-** None.

**ABSTAIN-** None.

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**10. Legal Representation Agreement with Bill Thomas of Churchwell White LLC**

**Presenter: Casey Creamer**

**Discussion:**

Creamer discussed Bill Thomas' activity as the Coalition's special counsel and his new placement at Churchwell & White LLC. Joe Hughes, explained the proposed agreement is standard business when legal representatives switch firms. The Board discussed current and anticipated legal representation needs and determined to evaluate the Coalition's organizational structure and submit a Request for Qualifications.

**Actions:**

Sills motioned, Cehrs seconded and it was unanimously carried that a Committee prepare a RFQ for special counsel legal representation.

**AYES-**

ALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT – Alt Director Chad Wegley  
CLARK'S FORK RECLAMATION DISTRICT #2069 – Director Ron Allvin  
CONSOLIDATED IRRIGATION DISTRICT – Director Larry Cruff  
CORCORAN IRRIGATION CO – Alt Director Mark Unruh  
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SOUTHEAST LAKE WATER CO. – Alt Director Mark Unruh  
TULARE LAKE BASIN WSD – Alt Director Mark Gilkey  
TULARE LAKE CANAL CO. – Alt Director Mark Unruh

**NOES-** None.

**ABSTAIN-** None.

Chair McKean appointed Directors Sills, Zonneveld, Stadler and legal counsel Hughes to be members of the Committee.

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**11. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel**

**Presenter: President McKean**

**Discussion:**

The Board met in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 to confer with legal counsel regarding the subpoena for records and documents in the matter of the State Water Resources Control Board Enforcement Division investigation of: *Kings Basin Water Quality and Nitrogen Application.*

**Actions:**

None.

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**12. Reconvene to Open Session**

**Presenter: President McKean**

**Discussion:**

None.

**Actions:**

None.

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**13. Adjournment**

**Presenter: President McKean**

There being no further business, President McKean adjourned the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

Submitted by:

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Paul Peschel, P.E.  
Board Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ approved on April 17, 2018  
Board President