

**TULARE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 14, 2014**

**Members Present:**

Richard L. Schafer, District 5 Appointee  
Paul Boyer, District 1 Appointee  
Mike Ennis, Board Alternate Representative  
Dennis Keller, At-Large Appointee  
Mark Larsen, District 3 Appointee  
Chris Kapheim, District 4 Appointee  
Dale Brogan, District 2 Appointee

**Members Absent:**

Allen Ishida, Board Representative and Chairman  
Susana De Anda, At-Large Appointee  
Rudy Mendoza, TCAG Representative  
Keith Watkins, At-Large Appointee

**Staff Present:**

Julieta Martinez, Tulare County Board of Supervisors  
Denise Akins, County Administrative Office  
Will Jackson, County Counsel

**Members of the Public who voluntarily provided their names on the attendance sheet:**

Carole Clum  
Pat Pinkham  
Shane Smith  
Michael Tharp  
Carole Combs  
Tricia Blattler  
Richard Garcia

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to

2. Public Comment Period

Carol Clum of Three Rivers was present to give comment. She provided the Commission with copies of four articles. Two were from the Financial Times and two were from the Earth justice Spring 2014. Please see attachment for comments.

Patricia Stever Blatter, Farm Bureau, shared that Keith Watkins will be stepping down as the Farm Bureau representative on the Water Commission. He will be replaced by Roger Everet upon Board approval. He is

the vice president of the Farm Bureau.

### 3. Approval of Minutes from March 10, 2014 meeting

Motion by Commissioner Keller, Second by Commissioner Larsen. Commissioner Brogan abstained due to his absence at the last meeting. Motion approved.

### 4. Receive an update and provide guidance on Water Well Ordinance revision

Paul Charpentier, Tulare County Environmental Health, was present to give an update on the County Well Ordinance. The draft has been on hold since September 2011 and the draft copy was emailed to Denise Akins for distribution to the Commission. He stated that the Water Well Technical Advisory Committee, which is state formed, has come together to try and rewrite Bulletin 74-90 that was written in June 1991. This is the Bulletin for the California Well Standards that affects water construction and protection of wells. They have been working for two years to update this document with all updated changes. In the future, Environmental Health will provide a power point of changes that will be brought forward. At that point in time they will present all changes to the Water Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Kapheim asked why the committee did not look at a fifty foot annular seal for agriculture wells. He shared that a fifty foot standard would be more appropriate.

Paul Charpentier agreed. He shared that it would be good to get that change in the well ordinance. It is something the stakeholder committee can put together and bring forward.

Commissioner Schafer marked up a copy of all things that troubled him. He shared he was overwhelmed with the massive number of pages to identify an ordinance. Two things that caught his eye were that the language was not consistent. One example, borehole was referred to as shaft. Another note was that with an individual domestic well it says seal depth is only twenty feet for public domestic wells. He wondered if this might be part of the problem in wells in disadvantaged communities where they have an individual well. He also stated that a fifty foot seal would be more appropriate.

Paul Charpentier responded that these minimum standards were set back in Bulletin 74-90 and part of the reason why an update is wanted. The County can always be a bit more stringent than what the regulations currently are. They would need to look at the cost for the individual homeowner depending on the size of the boreholes. Discussion followed.

### 5. Update on Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantage Community Water Study

Denise Akins, Administrative Analyst, shared that the group is winding down and nearing the end of their study. An internal rough draft is being reviewed by Ms. Akins and a representative from DWR. They are going to look it over and check all boxes that were agreed to. There is a Supplemental Oversight Advisory Committee scheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The final round of pilot study stakeholder group meetings will be held in May. There are three that still need their second PSAG meeting. Those are the Technical Solutions, the New Source, and the Individual Households Pilot Studies.

Commissioner Keller mentioned last meeting discussion on policy related issues. He shared an outline has been drafted on those policy recommendations. Some of them deal with things like the depth of conductor and others with land use related issues.

Commissioner Schafer asked Ms. Akins if the project would leave any leftover funds.

Denise Akins shared that there is a little bit of money that was left for the database task and it is set aside

for database maintenance and planning. Staff from the Technology Department will use the remained of that funding to bring a database forward.

## 6. Subcommittee Reports

Schafer. None at this time.

## 7. Staff Reports

Denise Akins shared that the Board of Supervisors went to Washington, DC last week. Drought and water issues were discussed. They met with the Army Corps of Engineers on Success Dam. They will be going to the CSAC Legislative Conference in mid-May. It is a similar platform just on a state level. Supervisor Ishida has been working with Supervisor Larry Ruhstaller from San Joaquin County on a water bond letter. Staff worked with Paul Yoder, Sacramento lobbyist, to draft a letter requesting the legislature to move the water bond forward. Last week, fifty eight copies of that letter was shipped out asking other Boards to sign on.

## 8. Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Boyer stated that one of his co-workers, Jessi Snyder, is involved in the 210 connect program. There is a water forum tonight on water conservation issues.

Commissioner Larsen shared he will be in attendance along with Paul Hendrix, representatives from Cal Water and more organization. The goal is to start out with the broad prospective of the water issues and work all the way down to local issues leading to a discussion on what we can do in our homes.

Commissioner Boyer asked if anyone had a short one page water conservation flyer for indoor/outdoor savings he would like to obtain a copy to pass on to disadvantaged communities

Commissioner Kapheim stated that Dickenson is taking the ACWA frame work on groundwater to legislative council. There is an understanding that she is working with the California Water Foundation. The language will not come out in time for the hearing on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Schafer shared that the Tule River is going to have an April/July run off of 8,000 acre/feet which is thirteen percent of the long term average. It is probably worse than 1977. The good news is that the Army Corps of Engineers will allow the use of the full reservoir this year.

Commissioner Ennis stated that it is encouraging to put an RFP out for a marina so if there was a wet year, it can be filled up.

Commissioner Schafer commented that ACWA just issued a detailed report of recommendations for achieving groundwater sustainability. It came out last week. Although it has a lot of good comments and statements, indicating authority by the State Board beyond its current authority, he was disappointed that they didn't outline projects that would create additional yield for both the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project. He felt they did not go far enough. They should have gone into an identification of the projects that need to be developed. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Brogan has a question on the groundwater subcommittee that was created at the last meeting and what its purpose was.

Denise Akins stated it was established in response to the states recent moves on groundwater regulation to help the County answer questions the state is asking. There was a first meeting but it was mostly about the

well water ordinance update but it would be a forum for other things in the future as well.

Commissioner Brogan commented that the last time a subcommittee was created it was for a groundwater ordinance. He asked if that was part of the discussion.

Commissioner Larsen shared that because the state seems very determined to look at ways groundwater should be managed in the state, Denise Akins wanted to know what that meant to the County. Commissioner Larsen himself was concerned about it being another process to design legislation but Denise reassured him that it was more to try to get the County's arms around this process and where it is going, not to necessarily drive it.

Commissioner Kapheim stated that he thinks the land use agencies will be tied somewhat to this process, and probably should, all the way through.

9. Next meeting – Monday, May 12, 2014, 3:00 p.m. – Board of Supervisors Chambers

10. Adjourn