MINUTES

Meeting of the

Technical Advisory Committee

July 12, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

Lindmore ID Board Room

240 West Lindmore Street, Lindsay CA 93247

TAC Members Present: Craig Wallace (Lindsay-Strathmore) Calvin Monreal (Lindmore) Matt Klinchuch Craig Hornung (Wutchumna) Nick Keller (Exeter/Ivanhoe) Gene Kilgore (SCID) Aaron Bock (County/County) Becky Mesedahl (City of Lindsay) **TAC Members Absent:** Brian Watson (At-large) Paul Buldo (Sentinel Butte)	**Staff/Consultants:** Mike Hagman (EKGSA) Chris Hunter (EKGSA) Scott Maskell (EKGSA 10:00AM) Kaitlyn Palys (remote) Abhishek Singh (remote) Matt Klinchuch **Members of the Public**

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m.

2. **Self-Introductions:** Executive Director Hagman provided introductions and the roll was taken. Hagman noted Chair Buldo was not able to attend and that Vice-Chair Klinchuch would run the meeting.

3. **Public Comment** – Kilgore discussed a coordinated project between Self-Help & GKGSA that will build a water station to accommodate tanker trucks (Farmersville) to assist Self Help provide potable water. Members discussed potential EKGSA's ability to join in the cost-share of the project. Kilgore recommended EKGSA contribute to the cost of implementation and GKGSA pay cost of water/maintenance. Kait recommended members contact self-help to discuss their portion of the cost share.

4. **Committee Administration**

   a. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for May 10, 2024: Vote was tabled until next meeting.

5. **Committee Business**

   a. Klinchuch/Hagman provided review of the Kaweah Subbasin inflows and updated 25 year rolling average precipitation data.

      Precipitation and Evapotranspiration: Since rainfall is picked up in the spectral analysis of Evapotranspiration (ET), and ET is being used to back into groundwater pumping numbers, a credit must be applied to offset this application of water. It was determined in AY2024 that the 25-year rolling average of rainfall would be used in the calculation. The current iteration of the basin analysis indicates that on average approximately 20% of local rainfall enters the aquifer through runoff or percolation and the balance is removed through

evapotranspiration. Klinchuch provided the 25-year precipitation data identifying 11.01 inches as the average over the 25 years. Some discussion was had regarding the inflow versus the evapotranspiration. After discussion, the following occurred:

ACTION: motion and second (Keller/Wallace) was made to recommend to the EKGSA Board of Directors that they apply 80% of the 25-year precipitation rolling average as the Precipitation Credit for Allocation Year 2025; resulting in a Precipitation Credit of 0.73 AF/ Acre. Passed unanimously by those present.

Native Inflows: It is understood that changes in climate and other factors will have effects on the amount of native groundwater inflow. The basin setting approximated 97,000 AF of native inflow on average. The primary native inflows are from the amount of water coming from the Kaweah upper watershed and then precipitation inflows. Klinchuch/Hagman recommended the use of the Kaweah watershed inflows in analyzing basin groundwater inflow calculation. Thus, changes in the basin inflows would reduce or increase the amount of native groundwater inflows. Klinchuch provided Kaweah watershed inflows into the Kaweah subbasin which shows that the change of the 25-year 2023 and the 25-year 2024 is 94% compared to the basin setting. Keller noted that we should use the "inflow" values and not the "outflow" values presented in the analysis. The TAC agreed. After applying inflow data, it was determined that the inflow was sitting at 96%. Therefore, the native number should be lowered to reflect that change. Hagman stated that the inflows of native were calculated to be 97,000 AF. A portion of that supply needs to be not allocated so it is there for non-irrigation needs (ie. domestic water supply, phreatophytes, etc). Historically EKGSA conservatively estimated 4,000 AF for this purpose. But the GSP (Table 2-10) shows 3,100 AF for those purposes. After substantial discussion the following occurred:

ACTION: motion and second (Keller/Kilgore) was made to use the change in the 25-year Kaweah Basin inflow against the calculated native inflow for developing a native allocation recommendation to the Board of Directors. Passed unanimously by those present.

Setting the AY2025 native inflow: In the basin setting, the 1997-2017 native inflow was calculated at 97,000 AF in the EKGSA. Since the 25-year Kaweah watershed inflow change is set at 96%, the calculated impacts would be a reduction of the calculated native inflow by 4%. Therefore, current calculated native inflows are 97,000 AF – 3,880 AF (4%) = 93,120 AF of native groundwater inflow. Staff recommended reducing all uses by 4%. As such the estimated domestic demand is reduced to 3,840 AF. This leaves the amount of water available for setting the allocation at 93,120 AF. Some concern was expressed that the reduction in the domestic may create other problems especially with regard to the Dry Well Mitigation program. Hagman noted that the domestic demand, though estimated to be 4,000 AF, is actually 3,100 AF (Table 2-10 M&I and Phreatophytes – 2022 Amended GSP). Additionally, there is substantial acreage in the EKGSA that does not pump groundwater and those landowners have opted out of the basin allocation and are not assessed. These acres are still in the overall acreage, yet they will not be using water and will not be getting the allocation (about 800 acres). After some discussion the following action occurred:

ACTION: Motion and Second (Hornung/Kilgore) to recommend to the EKGSA Board of Directors to set the AY2025 allocation at 0.82 AF/ Acre passed unanimously by those present.

b. Status Report on Kaweah Subbasin Efforts (SMC Update ISW/GWQ, Modeling, etc.)
   i. Palys provided an update on the work being done for ISW and GWA, and the Kaweah Subbasin Model.
   ii. Palys provided an overview of the process and SGMA requirements for establishing SMC.

c. GSP Implementation Items

i. Maskell provided an update on the Water Dashboard and the AY2023 billing process. The key points of discussion were the timeline for AY2022 billing, auto-run for the Credit Manager, and the order of use. Hagman noted that the EKGSA needs to apply the rules per the "Rules and Regulations". However, landowners are not satisfied with the outcome of application of the rules in the Water DashBoard. Additionally, EKGSA needs to close out its FY2023, but staff can't do this because they are still working with landowners on the application of the rules, the use of penalty water, the reduction of future water when over drafting etc. To correct this and help staff close the AY2023 year, staff proposed and Maskell provided the updated billing timeline for Allocation Year 2023:

Description	Allocation Year 2023
EKGSA TAC – Presentation	July 12, 2024
EKGSA AC – Presentation	July 15, 2024
EKGSA Board – Approval	July 22, 2024
AY2023 Mailer Designed	July 24, 2024
Complete QAQC	July 24, 2024
AY2023 Invoice Mailed	July 28, 2024
Credit Manager Published	July 28, 2024
Credit Manager Closed	August 28, 2024
End of Year – Fees Due	~~August 31, 2024~~ October 1, 2024
AY2023 Delinquent Letter	September 1, 2024
EKGSA Board – AY23 Delinquent Account Approval	October 21, 2024

After some discussion, the following action took place:

ACTION: Motion and Second (Keller/Wallace) to recommend to the EKGSA Board of Directors adopt the following staff recommended timeline for AY2023 with the addition of thirty additional days after the "Credit Manager Closed" date passed unanimously by those present.

Credit Manager "Auto Mitigate": Maskell/Hagman noted that the vast majority of landowner billing complaints for AY2022 were centered around the landowner having credits on some parcels in the EKGSA but deficits on other parcels in the EKGSA. This occurs because the default in the "DashBoard" is to allow the landowners to "mitigate" their accounts during the "Credit Manager Open" period. Many landowners did nothing or thought the system would just auto mitigate these instances. As a result, landowners got large bills in AY2022. Nearly all landowners requested that the auto credit manager be defaulted to "ON", and they can choose to mitigate if they didn't like the auto mitigate. Essentially, Hagman stated, "either way will likely be wrong for someone, but following the recommendations by staff to default to set the credit manager to auto mitigate we would be much less wrong". After substantial discussion, the following action took place:

ACTION: motion and second (Kilgore/Hornung) to recommend to the EKGSA Board of Directors that the default Credit Manager be set to "Auto" to pre-mitigate overdraft fees on behalf of landowners passed unanimously by those present.

Order of Use default: The current default in order of use works well for about 15% of the land in the EKGSA (lands that mostly use surface supply and their surface supply is limited to the parameters of their water supply source). About 20% of the EKGSA is groundwater only or they buy surface water (such as the mitigation tier of water). Therefore, along the line of mostly right or mostly wrong, staff recommended the following order of use change:

1. Precipitation

2. Groundwater Carry Over (Native/Tier1/Tier2)
3. AY2023 Native
4. Surface Water Carry Over
5. AY 2023 Surface Water
6. AY 2023 Tier 1 ($500 AF)

ACTION: motion and second (Kilgore/Hornung) a recommendation to the EKGSA Board of Directors to modify the EKGSA Rules and Regulations Section 6.02 and 6.03 default order of use as presented by staff. The motion was passed with all present voting yes and Wallace abstaining.

ii. Projects & Management Actions (tabled)
iii. LandIQ Water (tabled)
iv. Kaweah Subbasin Water Marketing Strategy (tabled)

6. Announcements

a. Special Meeting Date and Time was set for Friday July 19, 2024 at 8:30 AM Friday. Hagman noted that it would be about an hour and can be remote if you let staff know your location for annotation on the agenda.

Next Regular TAC meeting is August 9, 2024 at 8:30 AM

7. Adjournment: Committee Vice Chair Klinchuch adjourned the meeting at 11:11 AM.