Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

Date: *Thursday, May 7, 2026*
Time: *1:30 P.M.*
Location: *Rosedale-Rio Bravo WSD, 849 Allen Road, Bakersfield, CA 93314*

DIRECTORS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT
Charlie Riddle, Henry Miller WD
Rob Fanucchi and Steve Teglia, Kern Delta WD
Andrew Hart, Kern-Tulare WD
Chad Carroll, Semitropic WSD
Ben Wilson, Shafter-Wasco ID
Robert Holtermann and David Hampton, North Kern WSD
Dennis Johnston, Arvin-Edison WSD
Michael Blaine, Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa WSD

DIRECTORS AND ALTERNATES ABSENT
Jeevan Muhar, Arvin-Edison WSD
Skye Grass, Kern-Tulare WD
Roy Pierucci and Zach Smith, Rosedale-Rio Bravo WSD
Jeff Siemens and Jim Nickel, Olcese WD
Jason Gianquinto, Semitropic WSD
Kris Lawrence, Shafter-Wasco ID
Neil Durham, Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa WSD

ASSOCIATE MEMEBERS PRESENT
David Halopoff, Cawelo Water District Coalition

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Morgan Campbell, Westside Water Quality Coalition
David Halopoff, David Ansolabehere, Cawelo Water District Coalition
Tim Ashlock, Buena Vista Coalition

OTHERS PRESENT
Nicole Bell, KRWCA Manager
Ryan Dodd, P&P
Steve Torigiani, General Counsel, Young Wooldridge, LLP
Jana Marquez, Kern Delta WD

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   The meeting was called to order by Chairman Riddle at 1:30 PM.

2. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM**
   Chairman Riddle announced a quorum.

3. **INTRODUCTIONS**
   None.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
   None.

5. **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**
   APPROVAL of February 5, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes* Director Rob Fanucchi moved to approve the regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2026. Upon second by Director Robert Holtermann, the vote was taken with no abstentions and was unanimously carried.

6. **TREASURER/FINANCIAL REPORT**
   February, March and April 2026 Accounts Payable/Receivable Ratification* and May 2026 Account Payable/Receivable Approval*
   Manager Bell reviewed the Financial Reports with the Authority Board. It was reported that Treasurer Johnston has reviewed all financial reports and recommends ratification. Director Michael Blaine moved to ratify the February, March and April 2026 Financial Reports and to approve the May 2026 Financial Reports. Upon a second, by Director Andrew Hart a vote was taken with no abstentions and was unanimously carried.

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE**
   a. New Lease Update, 5-year sublease with AEWSD: Manager Bell reported that the move was complete. After realizing the AEWSD is not able to receive rent payment by ACH, it was agreed that payment would be issued quarterly by check.

8. **KRWCA MANAGER REPORT/ILRP PROGRAM UPDATE**
   Manager Bell reported on the following:
   a. Administrative:
      i. Member Reporting Update: FE/MPIR: 98% reported, INMPS: 97% reported. 39 members had not started their reports.
      ii. CVRWQCB Compliance: CVRWQCB continues to issue letters to members who have not reported and not enrolled acreage that appears to be farmed.
      iii. ASA, SAA and MOU Income Update: the board was reminded that we receive $180,000 each year for the ASA, $28,000+/- for SAA and $15,000 for Managers CVSALTS Coordinator work. Manager time is split 50/50 for the ASA.
      iv. AB 2447: Comment letters provided. The Bill will not move forward.
         1. AB 2447 ILRP Coalition's Opposition Letter
         2. AB 2447 Harter Opposition Letter
      v. 2nd Expert Panel Comment Letter

b. Outreach and Education:
    i. Winter Outreach Meetings were held from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM: Zoom January 13, 2026, In-Person January 15, 2026.

9. NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ZONE

Manager Bell reported on the following:

a. Kern Water Collaborative (KWC) Update:
    i. KRWCA Appointments to KWC Board (3-Yr Term)*: Director Andrew Hart moved to reappoint Sheridan Nicholas, Laura Brown and Tim Holtermann to the KWC Board. Upon a second, by Director Michael Blaine a vote was taken with no abstentions and was unanimously carried.
    ii. Application, Well Test and Water Delivery Update: 228 applications, 153 not eligible, 35 outside KWC boundary area, 27 wells tested, 17 homes receive water.
    iii. FMZP/EAP, submission 2/16/2026
    iv. Community Outreach and Engagement https://KWCMZ.org
    v. Modesto Resolution for ILRP GO Update – Hearing June 3, 2026
        1. P1 Comment Letter Package provided.
        2. P2 Comment Letter provided.
b. SGMA Coordination:
    i. KMEC Member: no activity since last meeting.

10. REPORT OF PROVOST & PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP

a. General Program Updates

Mr. Dodd provided status updates via a PowerPoint presentation on the routine surface water monitoring activities for the KRWCA. It was noted that in the 2024-25 Water Year 12 samples were collected and analyzed from the Kern River and 2 samples were collected from Chanac Creek. Two constituents (C. Dubia and pH) exceeded water quality objectives from the Kern River and three constituents (turbidity, two E. coli, and two zinc) exceeded water quality objectives from Chanac Creek. Year to date for the 2025-26 Water year, seven samples have been collected and analyzed from the Kern River resulting in two toxicity exceedances (C. Dubia and fathead minnow). The C. Dubia exceedance from the Kern River was the second exceedance in a three-year period and triggered a Surface Water Quality Management Plan (SQMP) to address the exceedance. An overview of current SQMPs for the KRWCA was provided, noting that there are active SQMPs for Chanac Creek, Kern River, Poso Creek, and El Paso Creek consisting of various constituents and timelines that vary by site.

Mr. Dodd also provided status updates for the Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring (GTM) program. For the 2025 sampling event, 43 of 51 possible wells (84%) were sampled and analyzed. Eight wells were not sampled because of access issues, wells in need of repair, or wells that have been mothballed and were unable to be sampled. One member submitted a reimbursement request for Demand Charges for two wells, and the member was reimbursed according to KRWCA policy.

Mr. Dodd reported that the second Central Valley Groundwater Monitoring Collaborative (CVGMC) Five-Year Assessment Report is due by November 30, 2026. This is a collaborative effort between 10 Central Valley ILRP coalitions. The report will summarize GTM and other publicly available data to characterize groundwater quality throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Dodd provided brief updates on the Second California Agricultural Expert Panel on Nitrogen. It was noted that the Draft Report from the Expert Panel was available for review and that the Central Valley coalitions submitted a comment letter on May 4, 2026. An update on AB 2447 (Water Nitrogen Pollution Act) was also provided. This bill requires ILRP Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) to be revised by 2028 and full compliance with those revised requirements by 2030.

Mr. Dodd presented that the 2017 Southern San Joaquin Valley (SSJV) Management Practice Evaluation Program (MPEP) workplan is being updated and should be submitted to the Regional Board by June or July 2026. The update should describe the MPEP process for the next three plus years and will mostly focus on outreach and education efforts to support growers in meeting Groundwater Protection Targets and A/R Acceptable Ranges. A brief update on SSJV MPEP grant activities was provided, noting that the USDA NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) is currently supporting approximately 9 growers with the expectation of working with 35 growers to provide irrigation and nitrogen management planning assistance. A 1-year no cost extension until Fall 2028 was requested.

11. CV-SALTS www.cvsalinity.org

Manager Bell and Land IQ represent KRWCA at the Monthly CV-SALTS Meetings. Information related to CVSALTS is available at www.cvsalinity.org.

12. OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. ATTORNEYS REPORT

Mr. Torigiani discussed a required website update.

14. CLOSED SESSION - None.

a. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation/Significant exposure to litigation-Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2). One item.

15. KRWCA & KWC MEETING ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS – INFORMATION ITEM

a. 2/6, MZ Leadership Meeting
b. 2/6, KWC Presentation to Delano Kiwanis
c. 2/10, All CV ILRP Coalition's Meeting
d. 2/11, MZ Leaders Meeting
e. 2/11, 2nd Expert Panel Meeting
f. 2/12, CVSALTS/CVSC Executive Committee Meeting
g. 2/12, Meeting with CVRWQCB-Modesto Resolution

h. 2/13, KWC Board Meeting
i. 2/18, MZ DMS Development Meeting
j. 2/19, MZ Leadership Meeting
k. 2/23, CVGMC Meeting
l. 3/4, SSJV MPEP/CVSALTS Meeting
m. 3/11, MZ Leaders Meeting
n. 3/11, 2nd Expert Panel Meeting
o. 3/12, CVSALTS/CVSC Executive Committee Meeting
p. 3/13, MZ DMS Development Meeting
q. 3/13, KWC Annual and Board Meeting
r. 3/20, All CV ILRP Coalition's Meeting
s. 3/24, KWC Community Outreach FMZP Webinar
t. 3/25, Kern Coalitions Technical Assistance Webinar
u. 4/1, SSJV MPEP/CVSALTS Meeting
v. 4/7, All CV Coalitions Meeting RE Modesto Resolution
w. 4/10, KWC Board Meeting
x. 4/10, 2nd Expert Panel Meeting
y. 4/16, MZ Leaders Meeting
z. 4/22, MZ Leaders Workshop
aa. 4/22, CVSC BOD Workshop
bb. 4/23, CVSALTS/CVSC Executive Committee Meeting
cc. 5/6, SSJV MPEP/CVSALTS Meeting

16. NEXT MEETING

Next regularly scheduled meeting is July 2, 2026.

17. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50PM

"*" Notates an action item (Approval/Ratification)