Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

Date: *Thursday, July 2, 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
Skye Grass, Kern-Tulare WD
Robert Holtermann, North Kern WSD
Dennis Johnston and Jeevan Muhar, Arvin-Edison WSD
Ben Wilson & Kris Lawrence, Shafter-Wasco ID

DIRECTORS AND ALTERNATES ABSENT
Rob Fanucchi and Steve Teglia, Kern Delta WD
Andrew Hart, Kern-Tulare WD
David Hampton, North Kern WSD
Roy Pierucci and Zach Smith, Rosedale-Rio Bravo WSD
Jeff Siemens and Jim Nickel, Olcese WD
Chad Carroll & Jason Gianquinto, Semitropic WSD
Michael Blaine & 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 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 that there was not a quorum present.

3. INTRODUCTIONS

None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

a. APPROVAL of May 7, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes*: Minutes were reviewed but no approval sought due to no quorum.

6. TREASURER/FINANCIAL REPORT

a. July 2026 Accounts Payable/Receivable Ratification*: Financial reports were reviewed but no approval sought due to no quorum.

7. KRWCA MANAGER REPORT/ILRP PROGRAM UPDATE

a. Administrative:

i. CVRWQCB Compliance Activity: Manager Bell reported that the CVRWQCB continues with compliance actions against members who did not file reports and landowners who have farmed acreage that is not enrolled.

8. REPORT OF PROVOST & PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP

a. General Program Updates:

i. **Surface Water Monitoring**

Mr. Dodd provided an update on 2026 Water Year monitoring and noted that eight samples have been collected and analyzed from the Kern River and two samples have been collected and analyzed from Chanac Creek. Kern River samples resulted in four exceedances of established thresholds (Toxicity to C. dubia, Toxicity to fathead minnow, and two pH exceedances). Chanac Creek samples resulted in two exceedances of E. coli thresholds. It was also noted that there are active Surface Water Quality Management Plans (SQMPs) at the following sites: Chanac Creek, Kern River, Poso Creek, and El Paso Creek. The Chanac Creek SQMP is ongoing and other SQMPs have been submitted to the Regional Board and are awaiting approval.

ii. **Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring (GTM)**

Mr. Dodd noted that the 2026 sampling event is from May 1 to August 31, 2026, and that sampling of approximately 48 wells began on June 23, 2036. Remaining wells will be sampled in July.

iii. **CVGMC 5-year Assessment**

Mr. Dodd provided an update on the Central Valley Groundwater Monitoring Collaborative (CVGMC) 5-year Groundwater Quality Assessment Report (GAR) Update report. This updated report consists of three main parts: 1) GTM Annual Status Report, 2) 5-year assessment of ambient nitrate and salt concentration and trends, 3) 5-year High Vulnerability Area (HVA) updates. A general schedule was provided, and it was noted that the final report will be submitted to the Regional Board on November 30, 2026.

iv. **Second Statewide Ag Expert Panel Update**

Mr. Dodd noted that the Second Statewide Ag Expert Panel process concluded in June 2026 and the final report is publicly available. The report provides recommendations to the State Board who will consider the recommendations for future ILRP General Order updates in approximately one to three years.

v. **AB 2447 – Water Nitrogen Pollution Act**

Mr. Dodd summarized the status of AB 2447, noting that on May 14, 2026, it was "held under submission." The bill will not be advanced in this legislative session and no new ILRP requirements will be promulgated because of AB 2447 at this time.

vi. **SSJV MPEP Workplan**

Mr. Dodd noted that an updated Southern San Joaquin Valley Management Practices Evaluation Program will be submitted by the coalitions in July 2026. The updated workplan describes MPEP actions for the next several years and includes education and outreach to support implementation of Groundwater Protection Targets, A/R Acceptable Ranges, and other ILRP components.

vii. **USDA NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)**

Mr. Dodd noted that implementation of the CIG provides free irrigation and nitrogen management planning assistance to growers. The grant requires 35-40 participating growers. As of July 2, 2026, 16 growers are enrolled in the grant with 3 in Kern County. Approximately 4-8 applications are pending. Mr. Dodd noted that more growers are needed to reach the 35-40 grower requirement.

viii. **A/R Acceptable Ranges – N Efficiency Targets**

Mr. Dodd noted that the A/R Acceptable Ranges Workplan developed by the Central Valley Water Quality Coalitions was approved by the Regional Board on June 23, 2026. The Regional Board required an update to the ranges by July 1, 2031, and every 5 years after, at minimum. It was noted that these ranges will likely supplant the statistical outlier process currently used by coalitions, and that coalitions must still determine the strategy for implementation of these ranges.

ix. **Other General Updates**

Mr. Dodd noted that the SSJV MPEP will likely apply to the 2026 USDA NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant for up to $10M for five years. Grant applications must be submitted by August 24, 2026. It was noted that the SSJV MPEP applied to the previous RCPP cycle and was awarded the grant but funded was rescinded prior to commencement of the grant. Mr. Dodd also noted that staff are working on various annual monitoring reports for surface and groundwater monitoring programs and tracking other regulatory items like the Revised Dairy General Order and the Modesto CV-SALTS Nitrate Control Program Management Zone General Order revisions.

9. NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ZONE

a. Kern Water Collaborative (KWC) Update:

i. Application, Well Test and Water Delivery Update: Manager Bell provided a demonstration of the KWC Application and Tracking Program.

ii. Community Outreach and Engagement https://KWCMZ.org: Manager Bell encouraged the Board to visit the KWC website for outreach activities and updates.

iii. Modesto Resolution will lead to ILRP GO Updates – Hearing June 3, 2026: Manager Bell reported that the CVRWQCB passed the resolution unanimously.

b. SGMA Coordination:
Manager Bell reported the following:
   i. Kern Subbasin Annual Report Workshop, June 30
   ii. KMEC Member; June 5 & June 23, 3 applications reviewed

10. 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.

11. OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

None.

12. ATTORNEYS REPORT

Mr. Torigiani discussed that his office will review whether an amendment to the Authority's conflict-of-interest code is required or recommended prior to the September 2026 regular board meeting.

13. CLOSED SESSION None.

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

14. RECONVENED and REPORT from CLOSED SESSION - Gov't. Code section 54957.1.

15. KRWCA & KWC MEETING ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS – INFORMATION ITEM

a. 5/8, KWC Board Meeting
b. 5/11, P2 MZIP Approach Meeting
c. 5/13, MZ Leaders Meeting
d. 5/14, CVSALTS/CVSC Executive Committee Meeting
e. 5/18, CVGMC Monthly Meeting
f. 5/27, 2nd Expert Panel Meeting
g. 5/29, PEOC Meeting
h. 6/3, CVRWQCB Hearing on Modesto MZ Tentative Order
i. 6/5, KMEC Meeting
j. 6/10, MZ Leadership Meeting
k. 6/10, CVSC Board of Directors Workshop
l. 6/11, CVSALTS/CVSC Executive Committee Meeting
m. 6/12, KWC Board Meeting
n. 6/15, 2nd Expert Panel Meeting
o. 6/23, KMEC Meeting
p. 6/29, Meeting with Audit Team
q. 6/30, Kern Subbasin Annual Report Workshop
r. 7/1, SSJVWQC MPEP/CVSALTS Meeting

16. NEXT MEETING

Next regularly scheduled meeting TBD. Manager suggests September 3, 2026, as the next meeting rather than August 6, 2026.

17. ADJOURN

The Meeting was adjourned at 2:28PM.

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