

Joint Colusa Groundwater Authority and Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Meeting

March 10, 2022 | 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Sites Project Office, 122 Old Highway 99, Maxwell, CA 95955

The meeting was also conducted via teleconference; accessible via telephone, computer, smartphone or tablet.

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Colusa Groundwater Authority:

Director Members Present:	Alternate/2 nd Alternate Directors	Agency Representing:
X Denise Carter	Gary Evans	County of Colusa
Jesse Cain	X Denise Conrado	City of Colusa
	Tom Reische	City of Colusa
Sajit Singh	X Alfred Sellers, Jr.	City of Williams
Blake Vann	Thad Bettner	Glenn Colusa Irrigation District
X Knute Myers	X Shelly Murphy	Colusa County Water District
Zach Dennis	X Dan Ruiz (1:55)	Westside Water District
Jim Campbell	Lance Boyd	Provident Irrigation District
X Hilary Reinhard	X Bill Vanderwaal	Reclamation District 108
Derrick Strain	Vacant	Reclamation District 479
X Jim Wallace	Lynell Pollock	Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company
X Darrin Williams		Private Pumper
Jeff Moresco		Private Pumper
Drew Dirks	X Chris Dobson	Maxwell Irrigation District
	X Dan Ruiz (1:55)	Maxwell Irrigation District

Glenn Groundwater Authority:

Director Members Present:	Alternate/2 nd Alternate Directors	Agency Representing:
X Grant Carmon	X Tom Arnold	County of Glenn
X Bruce Roundy	Pete Carr	City of Orland
	Ed Vonasek (2 nd)	City of Orland
Gary Hansen	X Evan Markey	City of Willows
George Nerli	X Leslie Nerli	Glide Water District
X John Amaro	Thad Bettner	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X Charles Schonauer	X Emil Cavagnolo	Orland-Artois Water District
	Andrea Jones (2 nd)	Orland-Artois Water District
Randy Hansen	Wade Danley	Kanawha Water District
	Michael Alves	Kanawha Water District
X Mark Lohse	Seth Fiack	Monroeville Water District
Gary Enos	Lance Boyd	Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District/ Provident Irrigation District

Others in Attendance: Lisa Hunter (GGA), Duncan MacEwan (ERA Economics), Steve Hatchett (ERA Economics), Ben King (landowner), Arne Gustafson, Grant Davids (Davids Engineering, Inc.), Katie Klug (Davids Engineering, Inc.), Holly Dawley (GCID), Joe Turner, Christy Scoffield (landowner), Valerie Kincaid (GGA Counsel), Alan Doud (CGA Counsel), Ashlee Veneman (Glenn County staff), Luis Mendoza (Glenn County staff), Jaime Lely (landowner), Ashley Driver, Brandon Davison (DWR), Elizabeth Yerxa, Greg Plucker, Steven Springhorn (DWR).

1. Closed Session:

Gov't Code §54956.9 – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

Aqualliance, California Water Impact Network, and California Sportfishing Alliance vs. Colusa Groundwater Authority, Glenn Groundwater Authority; Colusa County Superior Court - Case Number CV24584

Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA) Chair, Denise Carter, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:03 p.m.; Ms. Carter introduced the aforementioned agenda item and invited any public comments, to which none were heard. The Chair recessed the meeting into closed session at 1:06 p.m.

The Board returned from closed session at 1:48 p.m. and Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA) counsel, Valerie Kincaid, stated there was no reportable action taken.

2. Call to Order, Roll Call and Introductions (CGA Board and GGA Board)

Ms. Carter reconvened the meeting into open session at 1:49 p.m. and invited attendees to introduce themselves and their representative agencies. Attendance was noted above. A quorum of members was present from each respective Board.

3. *Consider Approval of Resolution No. 2022-03 Renewing Use of Remote Teleconference Meetings in Accordance with Government Code Section 57953(e) (CGA Board)

CGA Chair, Denise Carter, introduced the item, stating the item is only applicable to the CGA Board. On motion by Hilary Reinhard, seconded by Darrin Williams, it was unanimously ordered to adopt Resolution 2022-03 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Denise Carter, Jim Wallace, Knute Myers, Darrin Williams, Hilary Reinhard, Denise Conrado, Alfred Sellers, Jr.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

4. Period of Public Comment

Ms. Carter opened the floor to public comment for items not on the agenda.

Landowner Ben King stated it has been reported that the City of Colusa is experiencing iron and manganese contamination levels, spoke of several water systems in the area experiencing contamination issues and encouraged the respective Boards to review. Mr. King inquired if the relationship with ERA Economics is a direct contract with the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), what the costs are associated with this vendor, and more about their team and operations, whereby Ms. Carter stated ERA Economics is a subcontractor through Davids Engineering, for the purposes of developing the Colusa Subbasin Groundwater

Sustainability Plan (GSP). Grant Davids stated all of the subcontractor's costs are grant funded and that Davids Engineering purposely invited the subcontractor and proposed to each of the GSAs the need to have professional economic input. No other comments were heard.

5. Presentation: Developing a Colusa Subbasin Finance Plan

Economist Duncan MacEwan and Senior Economist Steve Hatchett, of the subconsultant team ERA Economics, provided a presentation discussing the next steps, funding mechanisms and cost summaries throughout the GSP implementation phase. Mr. MacEwan stated the next step in the process is to refine revenue needs over the next five years, as well as the full implementation period. Director Nerli (GGA) asked if the estimates provided in the presentation are from the adopted GSP Plan, whereby Mr. MacEwan confirmed they were. The presentation was broken down into the general series of steps in the process: Specify Revenue Needs, Define Cost Categories, Define/Develop Cost Allocation, Revenue Recovery, Rate Making Process and Final Rate Design. [The full presentation is available on the GGA website.](#)

Ben King spoke to his disagreement over using consultants for the GSP implementation due to costs. Mr. Hatchett stated the GSA does not have to be the entity charging landowner parcel fees, and that the GSA can identify districts willing to participate and pass along charges. Discussion ensued between the Board, consultants and counsel on this as an option. Landowner Jaime Lely spoke against basing revenue needs on a per-acre/parcel fee due to potential inequitable acre distribution, whereby Ms. Carter stated the agency currently has no grant funding for the year and must fund current operations though they are considering modifying the fee model. Discussion ensued and Ms. Carter encouraged each respective GSA to discuss at their individual Board meetings.

6. Presentation: Update on DWR Land Subsidence and other Groundwater Data and Tools

Department of Water Resources (DWR) representative, Steven Springhorn, gave a presentation relating to Land Subsidence in California, as well as groundwater monitoring mechanisms, and the DWR dry well reporting system and related data. [The full presentation is available on the GGA website.](#)

Mr. King asked how close the subsidence is to Interstate-5 and the Tehama-Colusa (TC) Canal, whereby Mr. Springhorn encouraged Mr. King to visit the interactive map and enhance the area in question. Director Tom Arnold (GGA) asked if the structure of the soil and presence of clay in the soil impacts subsidence measurements, whereby Mr. Springhorn explained how low groundwater levels impact the soil, the difference between elastic and inelastic subsidence, how the land surface measurement readings are measured monthly though reported quarterly, the accuracy of the measurements, and the potential opportunity to install ground-based GPS monitoring stations. Discussion ensued.

7. Member Reports and Comments

No member reports or comments were presented or heard.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:55 p.m.