

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

PO Box 351, Willows, CA 95988 | 530.934.6501

Meeting Minutes

Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

January 11, 2021 | 1:30 pm

LOCATION: Teleconference

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-29-20 this meeting was conducted by teleconference. The meeting was accessible via telephone, computer, smartphone or tablet.

Director Members Present:	Alternate/2 nd Alternate Directors	Agency Representing:
Grant Carmon	X Tom Arnold	County of Glenn
X Bruce Roundy	Pete Carr	City of Orland
	Ed Vonasek (2 nd)	City of Orland
X 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
	X Andrea Jones (2 nd)	Orland-Artois Water District
X Randy Hansen	Wade Danley	Kanawha Water District
	Michael Alves (2 nd)	Kanawha Water District
X Mark Lohse	Seth Fiack	Monroeville Water District
X Gary Enos	Lance Boyd	Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District/ Provident Irrigation District

Others in attendance:

Lisa Hunter, GGA/Glenn County; Valerie Kincaid, GGA Counsel; Jaime Lely; David Kehn, CalWater/GGA TAC; Joshua Dowell; Mary Fahey, CGA; Byron Clark, Davids Engineering, Inc.; Mathew Jones; Arne Gustafson; Don Bills, GGA TAC; Jenny Marr, DWR; Jessica Boyt; Mariana Rivera-Torres, CBI; Ryan Luster, TNC

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Amaro called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and indicated above.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. *Approval of meeting minutes from December 15, 2020.

The meeting minutes from December 15, 2020 were approved as presented.

Motion: Gary Hansen, Second: Gary Enos, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

Bruce Roundy: AYE

Gary Hansen: AYE

John Amaro: AYE

Charles Schonauer: AYE

Randy Hansen: AYE

Mark Lohse: AYE
Gary Enos: AYE
Tom Arnold: AYE
Leslie Nerli: AYE

4. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. INTER-BASIN COORDINATION UPDATE

- a. Receive a presentation on Inter-basin Coordination efforts in the Northern Sacramento Valley.

Mariana Rivera-Torres from the Consensus Building Institute gave a presentation on the inter-basin coordination efforts in the Northern Sacramento Valley. She indicated these efforts include eleven subbasins within the region and highlighted four types of coordination: general coordination, technical coordination, conflict resolution process, and voluntary agreement. The participants indicated desired outcomes including technical coordination on cross-boundary flow, stream-aquifer interactions, and water budgets. The technical coordination has begun with information-sharing resources and compiling information. Future work may include coordination on GSP topics, process for identifying differences and resolving conflicts and making recommendations to the GSAs regarding voluntary agreement(s). Staff and consulting teams have recently focused efforts on preliminary findings from the information-sharing template and regional outreach and engagement strategies. Materials from these efforts can be found on the website hosted by Butte County. It was acknowledged that the subbasins are at different stages in GSP development and not all technical information is prepared and available for comparisons. The technical teams from neighboring basins will meet as necessary to compare and communicate technical topics. Key findings will be shared with GSAs and the public.

Mr. Amaro noted the GGA has had questions on these activities recently and the information provided was helpful.

6. STAFF UPDATES

Lisa Hunter indicated a Program Manger Report will be distributed later in the week. Ms. Hunter reminded Board members that FPPC Form 700s are due April 1. She noted that if members were due for ethics training, Golden State Risk Management is providing a compliant training on January 21. The multi-completion monitoring well being installed in the Corning Subbasin continues to move forward and a logistical site visit was completed recently. These efforts are funded by DWR through their Technical Support Services program. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Watershed Coordinator grant, submitted by the Colusa County RCD on behalf of the subbasin was not selected for funding. There was nearly \$7.5 million requested and only \$1.5 million available. Five projects out of 26 were funded. She also mentioned she will be providing an update to the Orland Rotary in the next month.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. *Review and accept Monthly Activities Report.
- b. *Review and consider approval of claims.

There was a motion to approve the Monthly Activities Report.

Motion: Charles Schonauer, Second: Randy Hansen, Vote: 8-0 (one member- no audio)

Roll Call Vote

Bruce Roundy: NO AUDIO
Gary Hansen: AYE
John Amaro: AYE
Charles Schonauer: AYE
Randy Hansen: AYE
Mark Lohse: AYE
Gary Enos: AYE
Tom Arnold: AYE
Leslie Nerli: AYE

There was a motion to approve the claims.

Motion: Gary Enos, Second: Gary Hansen, Vote: 8-0 (one member- no audio)

Roll Call Vote

Bruce Roundy: NO AUDIO
Gary Hansen: AYE
John Amaro: AYE
Charles Schonauer: AYE
Randy Hansen: AYE
Mark Lohse: AYE
Gary Enos: AYE
Tom Arnold: AYE
Leslie Nerli: AYE

8. FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 ANNUAL AUDIT

- a. Receive presentation of Draft *Glenn Groundwater Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency Financial Statements and Supplementary Information Year Ended June 30, 2020*.

Mr. Amaro stated that the draft report was reviewed at the December 15, 2020 meeting. This item was postponed until the February 2021 meeting due to the final report not being available.

9. *AUTHORIZE SUBMITTAL OF 2020 MULTI-COUNTY AGENCY BIENNIAL NOTICE OF REVIEW OF THE GGA BOARD'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE

Ms. Hunter introduced that this item is being brought to the Board for consideration later than normal due to some confusion in the process. Valerie Kincaid mentioned that normally an agency within multiple counties sends the requested form to the FPPC, while an agency within a single county submits the form to the County. She suggested completing the notice and submitting to the FPPC and then work with the FPPC to determine if that is the appropriate channel. She recommended checking the first box indicating the agency has reviewed its conflict of interest code and it is still valid based on the additional criteria listed. Ms. Hunter asked if the statement on the first page indicating the statements will be retained by the Glenn County Department of Agriculture on behalf of the agency would need to be updated more formally through this process. Ms. Kincaid felt the statement is not a substantive change that could be updated through notification to the FPPC after the Board approves the change at a Board meeting.

A motion was made to authorize submittal of the 2020 Multi-County Agency Biennial Notice of Review of the GGA Board's Conflict of Interest Code with no changes.

Motion: Gary Hansen, Second: Charles Schonauer, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

Bruce Roundy: AYE

Gary Hansen: AYE

John Amaro: AYE

Charles Schonauer: AYE

Randy Hansen: AYE

Mark Lohse: AYE

Gary Enos: AYE

Tom Arnold: AYE

Leslie Nerli: AYE

10. THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AND DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES MULTI-BENEFIT RECHARGE PROJECT
 - a. Receive a presentation on The Nature Conservancy and Department of Water Resources Multi-Benefit Recharge Project.

(This item was taken after item 12.) Ryan Luster with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Jenny Marr with DWR gave a presentation on the Sacramento Valley Flood-MAR Multi-Benefit Recharge Pilot Project. DWR published a White Paper on Flood-MAR in 2018 to look at opportunities and challenges to implement Flood-MAR type projects which look at multi-benefit recharge. It is a scalable strategy, which is one advantage to this type of project. TNC and DWR have partnered to look at how the multi-benefit recharge program through TNC could incorporate flood risk reduction as another potential benefit. They are interested in identifying pilot study sites for this project.

Ryan Luster mentioned TNC has been working with CGA on a multi-benefit recharge project which just completed its second season. They contract with private landowners to put about four inches of water on fields during particular times to attract migratory shorebirds. The target timeframe is mid-July to October. The spring window is mid-March through April. This also creates recharge opportunities so areas with groundwater declines are desired areas to pilot the study. The current program is testing mechanisms such as outreach and monitoring. This new two-year program is intended to target the first two benefits (shorebird habitat and groundwater recharge) and add the third benefit of flood risk reduction utilizing a flood nexus. He stated that row crop fields are eligible, but orchards are not. TNC contracts directly with the landowner and covers all costs including field work to prepare the site and monitoring equipment. The pilot project is being implemented in four counties (Yolo, Colusa, Glenn, Tehama).

Ms. Nerli asked if they have approached people with grounds set aside or already developed for habitat? Mr. Luster indicated that if the GSA is interested in working with them, the GSA could help decide which areas would benefit most, but all land is on the table. Ms. Nerli suggesting TNC provide a list of areas they are looking at to help inform the group. Mr. Luster answered they could work with Ms. Hunter to narrow down areas.

Don Bills asked if the team has evaluated or considered excessive ET. Mr. Luster stated instrumentation is used to collect data. Davids Engineering is currently contracted to install the equipment and analyze the data to determine how much recharge is occurring which accounts for ET.

Mr. Amaro asked if they have had good participation in the previous work. Mr. Luster said they are currently in the process of working with the GSAs for this project, but in the CGA project, which is a bit different, the participation has been successful.

Ms. Hunter stated a two-page flyer is included in the meeting packet. A more condensed version could be made available if there is interest.

11. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

- a. Receive update on Plan development, activities, and outreach.
- b. Receive update on GSP Development Grants (Proposition 1 and Proposition 68).
- c. Receive update on Project Agreements.
- d. *Consider approval of amended Colusa Subbasin Sustainability Goal.

Ms. Hunter mentioned the Davids Engineering memo will be distributed when it is available. The memo provides good updates on current work. The TAC discussions have focused on water budgets sub-areas, sustainable management criteria (SMC), and management areas (MAs). She mentioned there is much interest in MAs, particularly in the CGA area and recommended having an item to focus on MA discussions at the next Board meeting. The SGMA-series public outreach meeting summaries are being prepared and will be posted to the website once complete. Social media continues to be updated. The Colusa Subbasin Logo and other branding is being finalized. The Projects and Management Actions solicitation form has been launched. The Well Monitoring Pilot Program flyer will be distributed today and the program workshop will be on January 25 at 4:00 pm.

Ms. Hunter noted the invoices and progress report for the **GSP Development Grants** is being prepared for submittal this month. The GGA will also be invoicing the CGA for the project costs to be included in the grant invoice.

Project Agreements include the two agreements with Davids Engineering. The Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model and Water Budget Project is approximately 95% complete with about \$17,000 remaining out of \$378,000. The draft section should be available soon. There were no updates for the GSP Development project. Approximately \$84,000 has been expended.

Mr. Amaro stated a few words were left out of the **Colusa Subbasin Sustainability Goal** approved at the last Board meeting and so it needs to be re-addressed.

There was a motion to approve the **Colusa Subbasin Sustainability Goal** with the proposed changes.

The sustainability goal for the Colusa Subbasin GSP is to maintain, through a cooperative and partnered approach, locally managed sustainable groundwater resources to preserve, and enhance the economic viability, social well-being and culture of all Beneficial Uses and Users, without experiencing undesirable results.

Motion: Leslie Nerli, Second: Charles Schonauer, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

Bruce Roundy: AYE

Gary Hansen: AYE

John Amaro: AYE

Charles Schonauer: AYE

Randy Hansen: AYE

Mark Lohse: AYE

Gary Enos: AYE

Tom Arnold: AYE

Leslie Nerli: AYE

12. *ELECT VICE CHAIRMAN TO SERVE THE REMAINDER OF THE 2020/2021 TERM

Mr. Amaro opened nominations for the vacancy of Vice Chairman. Leslie Nerli nominated Gary Hansen. The nomination was seconded by Gary Enos. Bruce Roundy nominated Chuck Schonauer. Mr. Schonauer declined the nomination. Tom Arnold commented that he would like to be considered for this position in the future and he would like to be involved. A roll call vote was conducted for the election of Gary Hansen for Vice Chairman.

Motion: Leslie Nerli, Second: Gary Enos, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

Bruce Roundy: AYE

Gary Hansen: AYE

John Amaro: AYE

Charles Schonauer: AYE

Randy Hansen: AYE

Mark Lohse: AYE

Gary Enos: AYE

Tom Arnold: AYE

Leslie Nerli: AYE

13. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VACANCY

- a. *Consider appointing Executive Committee member to fill vacancy.

Mr. Amaro suggested having Gary Hansen, Vice Chairman, to fill the Executive Committee vacancy. There was some discussion on the procedure to fill the vacancy. Ms. Kincaid noted the bylaws state at the discretion of the board for permanent committees. There was no opposition to Mr. G. Hansen filling the vacancy and there were no other interested individuals to serve in that capacity. Mr. Amaro appointed Gary Hansen to fill the Executive Committee vacancy.

14. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE VACANCY

- b. *Consider nominations from board members and appoint Technical Advisory Committee member.

Mr. Amaro referred to the letter of interest provided by Don Bills who has property in Glenn County. No other nominations were received. Ms. Nerli stated she listened to the last TAC meeting and noted Ms. Bills made good comments and nominated Mr. Bills to fill the TAC vacancy. Bruce Roundy seconded the nomination and added he is qualified and interested in serving.

Gary Enos asked Mr. Bills to share a little bit about himself. Mr. Bills shared that he was born and raised in the Orland area and attended CSU, Chico where he received a BS in Earth Studies and graduate studies in hydrology and water quality. He worked extensively in the ag industry in junior high through college. He also worked for California Division of Forestry as a Fire Prevention Officer. He moved to Arizona and worked for the US Geological Survey Arizona Water Science Center as a hydrologist. He has spent forty years working on various aspects of hydrology in the southwest. He has experience in setting up and collecting information and water resource assessments as well as surface water-groundwater interaction and an EIR/EIS study on the Colorado River. He also highlighted work around geophysical studies and groundwater well development and tribal engagement. He also mentioned he currently resides in Arizona, but plans to move back to the Orland area in

the next few years. Mr. Schonauer shared his family has deep roots in the Orland community and were active members of the community.

A roll call vote was conducted for the appointment of Don Bills to the GGA Technical Advisory Committee.

Motion: Leslie Nerli, Second: Bruce Roundy, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

Bruce Roundy: AYE

Gary Hansen: AYE

John Amaro: AYE

Charles Schonauer: AYE

Randy Hansen: AYE

Mark Lohse: AYE

Gary Enos: AYE

Tom Arnold: AYE

Leslie Nerli: AYE

Mr. Amaro asked if there needed to be discussion regarding Brandon Davison's interest in serving as an ex-officio member. Ms. Hunter stated he serves on the CGA TAC and had asked a question if he held the same position in the GGA TAC. Ms. Hunter will follow up with Mr. Davison and bring back an item if necessary.

15. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. CGA/GGA Joint Executive Committee
- b. Stakeholder Engagement Committee
- c. Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. Amaro stated the **Executive Committee** has not met since the last GGA Board meeting and has no additional updates.

The **Stakeholder Engagement Committee** has not met and has nothing to report.

Mr. Amaro called the Board's attention to the **Technical Advisory Committee** materials in the meeting packet. David Kehn, the TAC representative to the GGA Board, gave a report on TAC activities focusing on water budget, sustainable management criteria (SMC), management areas (MA), and reporting out to the GGA Board. The meeting packet contains detailed information. For the water budget, a state-provided model is being used which is under development. Graphs are included in the packet and understanding the water budgets will be an important part of GSP development. Three of the six sustainability indicators will rely on groundwater levels. The consultants presented on different ways to set minimum thresholds (MT) and measurable objectives (MO). Modeling for potential surface water supply changes will continue to determine if those changes will impact the MTs and MOs. There was some discussion on the economic impacts of setting levels which will be further developed. There was discussion on MAs and whether or not they are needed. Some felt there is more local control with MAs while others felt it was more paperwork and the objectives could be accomplished without MAs. There was discussion on pros and cons of MAs. Mr. Kehn also noted they have not yet gotten to making formal recommendations to the GSAs, but have provided guidance based on local knowledge and technical expertise. The policy decisions will be brought to the Boards as recommendations.

Ms. Nerli summarized that different levels can be set without MAs or there could be, for example, a Colusa area and a Glenn area. Mr. Kehn clarified if you were to have county areas, those would be MAs; however, the MTs do not need to be uniform throughout the subbasin. Emil Cavagnolo confirmed that is his understanding as well. Ms. Kincaid clarified that many times, MAs are developed because there is a need for different MTs and MOs. Undesirable Results can be defined without MAs and in different ways. If one area has significantly different thresholds than a neighboring area (a lot of fluctuation) an MA may be desired. Even if the same threshold is set, for example 20%, that provides a different number at each monitoring point. MAs require more monitoring requirements, but can provide flexibility in enforcement. Ms. Nerli also mentioned the basin is judged as a whole and it is the entire basin's responsibility.

Byron Clark clarified the way the consultant team envisions establishing MT for each monitoring point, with or without MA, which will not be uniform throughout the basin. Undesirable Results need to be consistent throughout the basin. To define Undesirable Results, it will include some exceedance of MT over a certain number of wells over a specified period of time. There is flexibility in how they are defined. He also noted groundwater does not respect jurisdictional boundaries and paying for projects would likely need a benefits study.

Mr. Roundy appreciated the materials included in the meeting packet. He asked where subsidence and crop types (permanent, row, rice, nut) come into play and their implications for groundwater. Mr. Kehn stated actual measurements will be used for subsidence rather than groundwater levels. Crop types are accounted for in water budgets. Mr. Amaro commented that surface water may not be as available in the future and crop changes have been occurring. Crops that serve for some recharge have converted to crops that not recharging. Is that being considered? Mr. Kehn answered that to the extent it is updated in the model, it is accounted for. The model captures the overall trends and the model has been refined on local scale; however, it is unlikely that it is updated for current year. Mr. Amaro stated some areas may be adversely affected by these changes and it should be tracked and considered. Ms. Kincaid mentioned it will be important to review and ground-truth the current and historic water budgets. Mr. Schonauer noted the dry conditions and potential for well to go dry this year. Mr. Clark stated the draft water budgets were presented at the public workshops on December 9 and 10, which are available online.

16. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Tom Arnold mentioned he and Supervisor Carmen are looking forward to participating in this process.

17. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2021 at 1:30 pm.

18. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 pm.