

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

225 N. Tehama Street, Willows, CA 95988 | 530.934.6540

Meeting Minutes

Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

May 10, 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:
X Grant Carmon	Tom Arnold	County of Glenn
X Bruce Roundy	Pete Carr	City of Orland
	Ed Vonasek (2 nd)	City of Orland
X Gary Hansen (Vice Chair)	X Evan Markey	City of Willows
George Nerli	X Leslie Nerli	Glide Water District
X John Amaro (Chair)	Thad Bettner	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X Charles Schonauer	X Emil Cavagnolo	Orland-Artois Water District
	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	X Lance Boyd	Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District/ Provident Irrigation District

Others in attendance:

Lisa Hunter, GGA/Glenn County; Valerie Kincaid, GGA Counsel; Jaime Lely; Joshua Dowell; Mary Fahey, CGA; Holly Dawley, GCID; Michael Bolzowski, Cal Water; Ryan Soden; Susan Silveira; Ashlee Veneman, Glenn County

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Amaro called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken as indicated above.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- *Approval of meeting minutes from April 12, 2021
- *Approval of meeting minutes from April 22, 2021 CGA/GGA Joint Board Meeting

On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Schonauer, the meeting minutes of April 12, 2021 were approved as presented by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Carmon, Roundy, G. Hansen, Amaro, Schonauer, R. Hansen, Lohse, Enos, L. Nerli

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

On motion by Director Gary Hansen, seconded by Director Randy Hansen, the CGA/GGA Joint Board meeting minutes of April 22, 2021 were approved as presented by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Carmon, Roundy, G. Hansen, Amaro, Schonauer, R. Hansen, Lohse, Enos, L. Nerli

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

4. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were presented or heard.

5. STAFF UPDATES

- Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA) Program Manager, Lisa Hunter, stated the letter to the Governor requesting a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) deadline extension was finalized and submitted, and the Government Compensation Report was submitted to the State Controller's office.
- Ms. Hunter further stated the Golden State Risk Management Authority (GSRMA) 2021-2022 contribution indication and payroll estimate report was submitted.
- Ms. Hunter announced the Fair Political Practices Commission successfully received the agency's Biennial notice.
- Ms. Hunter stated she received Ag Water Management Plans notifications and water transfer notifications and will be forwarding that information to the Board members.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

No comments or questions were heard for either item referenced above.

On motion by Director Carmon, seconded by Director Roundy, it was ordered to accept the Monthly Activities report as presented by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Carmon, Roundy, G. Hansen, Amaro, Schonauer, R. Hansen, Lohse, Enos, L. Nerli

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

On motion by Director Enos, seconded by Director Gary Hansen, it was ordered to approve the claims as presented by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Carmon, Roundy, G. Hansen, Amaro, Schonauer, R. Hansen, Lohse, Enos, L. Nerli

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

7. 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 CGA/GGA Joint TAC recommendations on Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) for Water Quality
 - e. *Consider CGA/GGA Joint TAC recommendations on Sustainable Management Criteria for Land Subsidence
 - f. *Consider CGA/GGA Joint TAC recommendations on Sustainable Management Criteria for Groundwater Storage
 - g. *Consider CGA/GGA Joint TAC recommendations relating to Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems
 - h. Discussion on Projects and Management Actions
 - i. Discussion on Management Areas
- Ms. Hunter spoke on items 7.a-7.c and highlighted the memo provided by Davids Engineering (lead consultant) describing Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) activities and noted the team continues to update the social media as appropriate.
 - Ms. Hunter spoke of the Administrative Record included in the meeting packet and reminded Board members the record can be viewed at any time at the Box link (<https://app.box.com/s/2w5ewrd7qmw3b8ngcslbg9wlsithey40>). The consultant team is compiling comments as they are received.
 - Ms. Hunter also stated the comment period for draft Chapters 1-4 of the GSP ended May 5 and that comments are still being accepted, though they may not be immediately addressed. The referenced chapters are also available at the Box link above, on a separate spreadsheet.
 - Ms. Hunter encouraged the Board to communicate with their respective agencies to facilitate the adoption process once the GSP is fully ready later in the year.
 - Ms. Hunter announced three sites for the **Well Monitoring Program** have been selected for each respective GSA area and once the initial site visit is concluded and the wells are confirmed to meet the specifications, staff will move forward with the landowner agreements and installation of the equipment will begin. Notification has been sent to the applicants and the list has been provided with the agenda packet.
 - Ms. Hunter stated there is no update on the **GSP Development Grants (Proposition 1 and Proposition 68)** though she expects there will be an update next month.
 - Ms. Hunter provided updates on the **Project agreements**, stating the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model & Water Budget Project is complete and the project team is reviewing the deliverables to finalize the project. The Colusa Subbasin GSP Development project still has \$913,000 left in funding to complete the remaining GSP process.
 - Chair Amaro introduced items 7.d-7.g. Director Nerli asked if no action was taken on these items today, if the agency would still be able to complete the project on time, whereby Ms. Hunter stated action and input is welcomed and helps to guide the consultant team but may be subject to later revision if new information becomes available. It is important to keep items moving forward with constructive discussion, though inaction would likely not delay the project, but would create less firm direction for building the GSP. GGA Counsel, Valerie Kincaid, suggested the Board may benefit from a detailed conversation about what is in development, but action may be better when SMC recommendations are

more final at a later meeting, keeping in mind, nothing is final until the final GSP is adopted. There was clarification that the SMC presented include Minimum Thresholds (MT) and Measurable Objectives (MO). Director Schonauer inquired about comments received on Chapters 1-4 relating to this discussion. Ms. Hunter indicated the SMC will be covered in Chapter 5, which is yet to be released. Director Roundy indicated his support for moving forward with the recommendations. Ms. Kincaid noted there are several items to review and the Board may benefit from discussion on each item to better understand the recommendation from the TAC for each indicator and bring recommendations in a more final form at a future meeting. Ms. Hunter suggested reviewing each item and determining if the Board is prepared to action or to postpone until a future meeting.

- **Item 7-d Water Quality SMC:** Chair Amaro asked if water quality is a significant issue in the basin, whereby Ms. Hunter stated there may be some saline water upwelling in the Colusa County portion of the basin and some localized areas of arsenic, but overall, there are no major issues with water quality. Director Nerli suggested there will be additional work done and the technical team was suggesting that levels be set at the 5-year update. Mr. Lohse agreed with Director Nerli and noted there are significant data gaps. Ms. Kincaid stated there is further work to be done to ensure compliance on this issue as there are significant data gaps; discussion ensued. Director Nerli suggested Ms. Kincaid attend future TAC meetings to help disseminate the information to the Board. The Board was in agreement that Ms. Kincaid attend the TAC meetings when available. No action was taken on this item. This discussion will be communicated to the TAC and the technical team for this item to be revisited.
- **Item 7-e SMC Land Subsidence:** Directors Amaro, Lohse and Nerli were all complementary of the proposed recommendations on land subsidence. The benchmarks will be checked every five years but there will be annual checkups for some areas. Director Nerli noted some concerns that were raised about faults or earthquakes causing some subsidence and gas wells not contributing to subsidence, whereby Ms. Hunter clarified the GSA only has authority over subsidence caused by groundwater pumping and this will be clarified even more when the chapter is written.

A motion was made by Director Roundy to adopt the Sustainable Management Criteria on Land Subsidence as recommended by the CGA/GGA TAC as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Carmon and passed by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Carmon, Roundy, G. Hansen, Amaro, Schonauer, R. Hansen, Lohse, Enos, L. Nerli

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

- **Item 7-f SMC Groundwater Storage:** Ms. Hunter stated groundwater levels are recommended to be used a proxy for the measurable objectives and minimum thresholds, with the idea that if water levels are protected, so is groundwater storage.

A motion was made by Director Carmon to adopt the Sustainable Management Criteria on Groundwater Storage as recommended by the CGA/GGA TAC as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Nerli and passed by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Carmon, Roundy, G. Hansen, Amaro, Schonauer, R. Hansen, Lohse, Enos, L. Nerli

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

- **Item 7-g SMC Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems:** Directors Amaro, Nerli and Carmon spoke in favor of waiting to take action on this item. No further comments were heard or presented.
- Ms. Hunter reviewed the GGA's prior discussion on **Management Areas (item 7.i)**, stating the consensus is that management areas are not necessary at this point but if there is future benefit determined, the Board will address it at that time. Ms. Hunter further stated that the Colusa Groundwater Authority, per the actions of their April 27, 2021 meeting, would halt management areas discussion until GSP implementation and Management Areas will not be included in the initial GSP. They instead will create four zones focused on community outreach and engagement, which will help determine if Management Areas are needed in the future.
- Ms. Hunter requested to return to agenda item **7.h Projects and Management Actions** after Agenda Item 9 was completed. Ms. Hunter stated the consultant team and the GSAs have had discussions related to implementing a process to create and maintain a list of project submittals. Ms. Hunter reviewed the proposed Project and Management Area submittal process. She reviewed the deadlines to submit project ideas to be included in the initial draft chapter and the final draft GSP and noted submittals will be honored moving forward. Ms. Hunter stated the Boards and TAC will be well informed and have opportunity to comment on the projects, but in order to move forward on chapter development, the technical team will not be asking for a formal recommendation or approval on the project list, unless the Board objects to the proposed process. No objections were heard. Chair Amaro asked how much detail is required in the submittal, whereby Ms. Hunter stated the online form requests the project name, project description and project contacts but as much additional detail as desired can be submitted. Ms. Kincaid encouraged the Board to consider if there will be a list of projects in the GSP what the timeline for those projects would be and if the GSA has any authority to implement those projects. Director Nerli commented that many of these projects would be on private lands and asked who would make contact with landowner and who would pay for the infrastructure?

8. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. 2021/2022 Budget Ad Hoc Committee
 - b. Executive Committee
 - i. CGA/GGA Joint Executive Committee
 - c. Multi-Benefit Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee
 - d. Stakeholder Engagement Committee
 - e. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Director Amaro stated the Budget Ad Hoc Committee, Executive Committee, Multi-Benefit Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee and the Stakeholder Engagement Committee have not met since the last meeting and have nothing to report.
 - Ms. Hunter stated David Kehn, the Technical Advisory Committee representative to the GGA Board, was not able to attend the meeting but most information was covered in prior discussion. The other TAC members had nothing else to report.

9. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- Director Roundy stated the City of Orland has received reports of wells running dry within the Orland area, further noting that the depth range seems to be about 30-40 feet, while the deeper wells are holding steady and the Orland Airport well is dropping. Director Roundy was complimentary of County residents' conservation efforts, as usage was lower in 2019 and 2020 than during drought years 2015 and 2016, and that conservation information will be disseminated soon through the City of Orland's social media accounts.
- Director Carmon stated he has received similar calls from constituents reporting wells running dry, and asked if the GGA has the authority to enact a moratorium on big wells? Ms. Kincaid responded that though GGA does not have authority over the well permitting process, the GGA can limit groundwater extractions, either on a per basin level or a more localized area. Director Amaro stated the County has jurisdiction over land use, which is referenced in SGMA and requires County involvement, whereby Director Schonauer stated the County could overturn action taken by the GGA. Ms. Kincaid mentioned GSAs have written policy into their GSPs that their respective Counties must consult with the GSA before well permits can be processed.
- Chair Amaro stated the Glenn Colusa Irrigation District has a well pumping program, and though they have been pumping water for the benefit of the Tehama Colusa Canal, no groundwater is being exported out of the basin.
- Director Carmon asked if any members knew how many irrigations the Orland Unit Water Users Association will be supplying, whereby Director Schonauer stated he believes there were five to six irrigations occurring once a month, but now there is a possibility an irrigation will occur every two weeks until the supply is gone.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2021 at 1:30 pm.

11. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.