

CGA/GGA Joint Executive Committee Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2022 | 9:00 a.m.

Due to safety concerns and directives from the Governor and Federal Government related to COVID-19,

This meeting was held remotely ONLY.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introductions

John Amaro, Glenn Groundwater Authority Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

In Attendance:

Committee Members:

GGA: John Amaro, Gary Hansen

CGA: Denise Carter, Hilary Reinhard, Darrin Williams

Other in Attendance: Ashlee Veneman, Grant Carmon (GGA), Mallory Serrao (Provost & Pritchard), Jenny Sheer, Joe Turner, Greg Plucker, Brandon Davison (DWR), Holly Reimers, Lisa Porta

2. Period of Public Comment

No public comment was heard.

3. Colusa Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

- Lisa Hunter, GGA Program Manager, stated the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is moving to the implementation phase and this discussion is intended to serve as a catalyst for GSA coordination during GSP implementation.
 - a. GSA Staffing- Discussion
 - Denise Carter noted that Mary Fahey is no longer with the CGA. Colusa County will no longer be providing staffing services to the CGA. The CGA has formed an ad hoc committee and will develop a Program Manager description. The CGA Board is looking at options for filling the position including recruitment for its own employee or utilizing consultant services.
 - b. Outreach and Engagement Support-Discussion
 - Ms. Hunter introduced the item stating that the contract for Consensus and Collaboration Program (CCP), sub-consultant to Davids Engineering, will be ending soon. She asked if there is a desire for consultant support for outreach and engagement activities. Tasks could include social media updates, basin-wide flyers, and agendas for joint GSA meetings.

- Mr. Amaro asked if these services would be funded through grants or self-funded. Ms. Hunter responded that the current grant funds will be expended soon. DWR has a Facilitation Support Services (FSS) program that could be applied for with a specific scope of work. Otherwise, the outreach support would be self-funded. Ms. Carter added that it is necessary to consider what topics need to be communicated to the constituents over the next year or two, and suggested drought communications may be an example of outreach topics. Ms. Reinhard stated that communication about projects is better done by local advocates and further stated facilitation support may not be needed at this point.
 - Mr. Amaro supported local outreach rather than facilitation and suggested a possible public meeting once every four months to share information about the drought and related actions. Gary Hansen supported local outreach and asked if CCP might be available on an as-needed basis. He further stated he supports press releases and occasional public meetings as well. Ms. Carter suggested checking into a retainer-type agreement with CCP.
 - Darrin Williams spoke to the demands on time for board member participation and suggested having as point person on staff for the CGA to conduct outreach and engage with the public on a regular basis. He supports a local approach to outreach rather than a consultant. There was general agreement with these statements.
 - Ms. Hunter asked if there is interest in pursuing a FSS agreement to help prepare outreach items and meetings and provide staff support to the outreach process. Ms. Carter supported pursuing FSS.
 - Mr. Hansen stated the City of Willows uses Regional Government Services for assistance in finding candidates with specialized skills and encouraged the CGA to consider this avenue for filling the Program Manager position.
- c. Annual Reports- Update and Discussion
- Ms. Hunter stated the Annual Report is being developed by the consultant team and is due April 1. The project is on track to be completed on time. She further stated an update on the Annual Report will likely be given at a Joint TAC meeting.
 - Ms. Hunter encouraged discussion on annual reports on a broader scale. A Request for Proposals could be issued in the summer in order to have a consultant in place by the fall to complete the work by the April 1 deadline. An agreement could include the option to extend for multiple years. Discussion ensued on Annual Report contents, timing, and deadlines. It was clarified that Davids Engineering is completing the Water Year 2021 Annual Report that is due April 1, 2022.
- d. Funding and Financing Mechanisms- Discussion
- Ms. Hunter stated funding and financing are critically important for both GSAs and there have been commitments to review the funding mechanisms during GSP

implementation. She noted there is a small amount of funding remaining in the grant to have one additional meeting with consultant support to outline a roadmap and options to consider. An item is being prepared for a consultant presentation at a Joint Board meeting to facilitate discussion on this topic. Additional discussion will take place on how the GSAs may choose to move forward. Considerations may include a basin-wide approach to funding, each GSA handling its own processes completely, or a hybrid where there is coordination on a consistent approach, but each GSA completes its own process. Ms. Hunter encouraged feedback to better frame up the discussion for the Joint Board meeting. Ms. Carter stated the CGA has designated a long-term funding ad hoc committee. She emphasized the importance of meeting jointly, and having separate GSA discussions, and sharing information between the GSAs. The timeline for fees to be included on the county's tax roll was reviewed, noting an August 10 deadline to submit files to the county.

- Mr. Amaro asked about the timing of meetings and length of time to complete the process. Ms. Hunter reviewed the components and stated one year may be a good target for how long the process might take. Mallory Serrao confirmed the timeframe, but stated additional considerations may affect the length of time needed.
- Mr. Williams stated the list of projects in the GSP will need to be reviewed to determine which projects move forward and which might be the responsibility of CGA and GGA which will influence the funding mechanisms. He suggested the need to fine tune the budget and consider project costs as well as administrative costs. Ms. Reinhard agreed stating the funding of projects is the most complicated part and it is important to know the amount of funding needed. She also emphasized the need for outreach. She further stated that the Colusa Subbasin is one of the largest in the state and tying the GSAs together by using the same funding mechanism might be more complicated and the GSAs may lose flexibility. Mr. Williams spoke in favor of special projects being funded by beneficiaries of the project. He further spoke to the diversity of the subbasin. Ms. Carter spoke of needing to consider general overhead of running agency including annual reports and special studies, and also to policy decisions on how special projects get paid for, how to determine the beneficiaries of a project, and whether projects are funded by the lead agency? Mr. Amaro spoke in favor of focusing discussion on GSA administration and some focus on special studies, and that projects should be grant funded when possible and funded by the areas benefitting from the project. Discussion ensued on structuring special projects to include beneficiaries and how the cost of the special project will be recovered.

e. Next Steps- Discussion

- Ms. Hunter encouraged discussion on what would be helpful in order to continue coordinating, for instance, is there a desire for additional Joint Executive Committee meetings.

- Mr. Williams suggested a joint meeting to begin looking at projects in the GSP and brainstorm how we might start allocating project costs, assigning beneficiaries, and build a roadmap for implementation.

4. Member Reports and Comments

- Ms. Carter spoke to the importance of reviewing Projects and Management Actions (PMAs) in preparation for the grant funding. Brandon Davison encouraged collectively prioritizing the PMAs and know which are the most shovel-ready projects. Ms. Reinhard asked if only the critically over drafted basins are being funded. Ms. Hunter shared that critically over drafted basins are being funded in Round 1 and the Round 2 funding solicitation is expected to be available in the Fall of 2022 which the Colusa Subbasin could apply for and spoke in favor of beginning to prepare for that application soon.
- Mr. Amaro summarized that the board needs to meet more often in a joint setting and start prioritizing projects and other topics.
- Mr. Amaro opened the floor for public comments; whereby, no comments were heard.

5. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.