

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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

Meeting Minutes

Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

April 11, 2022 | 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: 225 N. Tehama Street, Willows, CA 95988

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

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
X Gary Hansen (Vice Chair)	X Evan Markey	City of Willows
X Matt Deadmond	X Leslie Nerli	Glide Water District
X John Amaro (Chair)	X Thad Bettner (2:10)	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X Charles Schonauer	X Emil Cavagnolo	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), Ashlee Veneman (Glenn County staff/clerk), Donald Bills (CGA TAC), Brandon Davison (DWR), Jaime Lely (landowner), Michael Bolzowski, Jim Brobeck, Matt Jones, Denise Carter (Colusa County/CGA), George (last name unknown).

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Amaro called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken as indicated above.

3. AB 361 OPEN MEETINGS: STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES: TELECONFERENCES

- a. *Consider approval of Resolution 2022-004 Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings in Accordance with Government Code Section 54953 (e)

- Chair Amaro introduced the item. No further discussion was heard.

On motion by Director Enos, seconded by Director Lohse, it was unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 2022-004 "Authorizing Teleconference Meetings in Accordance with Government Code Section 54953 (e).

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. * Approval of meeting minutes from March 16, 2022

- Chair Amaro invited comments or revisions on the aforementioned meeting minutes. No comments were heard.

On motion by Director Gary Hansen, seconded by Director Carmon, the meeting minutes of the March 16, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

5. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comments were presented or heard.

6. STAFF UPDATES

- Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA) Program Manager, Lisa Hunter, announced the Golden State Risk Management Authority (GSRMA) Annual Report is available for review.
- Ms. Hunter stated the Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) survey launched by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will begin helicopter flights in the region (Sacramento Valley, Redding Area, Eel River Valley and Sierra Valley) starting April 26th and will continue until approximately May 25th. Director Nerli asked where more information can be gathered for the program; whereby, Ms. Hunter stated she would send the link to the DWR webpage (<https://water.ca.gov/programs/sgma/aem>). Ms. Hunter reviewed some of the program details and what data would be gathered.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

- No discussion was held on item 7.a.

On motion by Director Nerli, seconded by Director Randy Hansen, it was unanimously ordered to accept the Monthly Activities Report as presented.

- No discussion was held on Item 7.b.

On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Gary Hansen, it was unanimously ordered to approve the claims as presented.

8. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

- a. GSP Development Grants (Proposition 1 and Proposition 68) and Project Agreements
- b. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation
- c. Well Monitoring Pilot Program
 - i) *Approve selection of Well Monitoring Pilot Program Round 2 sites
 - ii) *Authorize Chairman to execute Well Monitoring Pilot Program Round 2 Landowner Agreements for well sites within the GGA area

- Ms. Hunter stated grant amendments four and five have been approved and the agency is on track to finish the tasks still needing completion. Ms. Hunter further stated an invoice will be submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the period from January 1, 2022 and March 31, 2022 and there are no updated expended numbers on the grant as invoicing has not been completed. The two project agreement details were included in the meeting packet as well.
- In relation to item 8.b, Ms. Hunter stated a status report was provided from the consultant and is available in the meeting packet; the consultant is also working on creating a public presentation for GSP Implementation outreach and to share with each respective agency. Ms. Hunter further stated the GSP comment period will close April 23, 2022, with one comment being received and available in the meeting

packet. Ms. Hunter relayed the first GSP Annual Report was submitted by the April 1, 2022 deadline and no comments have been received at this point.

- Ms. Hunter encouraged the Board to review the Annual Report on the SGMA portal (DWR website) to see the information available for the public; whereby, Director Nerli asked Ms. Hunter to review the site with the Board and she presented and reviewed each section of the Annual Report, including the map of the basin, groundwater extraction, surface water supply information, total water use, water storage and the monitoring network. The Board discussed some of the metrics shown.
- Chair Amaro introduced item 8.c.i. No further discussion was heard.

On motion by Director Schonauer, seconded by Director Carmon, it was unanimously ordered to approve the selection of Well Monitoring Pilot Program Round 2 sites as presented.

- Chair Amaro introduced item 8.c.i.i. No further discussion was heard.

On motion by Director Gary Hansen, seconded by Director Enos, it was unanimously ordered to authorize the Chair to execute Well Monitoring Pilot Program Round 2 Landowner Agreements for well sites within the GGA area.

9. *APPROVE AGREEMENT 1178.03 AMENDMENT 3 COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN WITH DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC. PENDING LEGAL REVIEW

- Chair Amaro introduced the item and asked if this agreement was for the completion of the annual report; whereby, Ms. Hunter stated it is not and this agreement is to align the uncontracted grant funds as discussed in September 2021, which will be adding funding to the Well Monitoring Pilot Program and the installation of subsidence benchmarks with a total budget increase of \$204,600.

On motion by Director Randy Hansen, seconded by Director Schonauer, it was unanimously ordered to approve Agreement 1178.03 Amendment 3 Colusa Subbasin GSP with Davids Engineering as presented pending legal review.

10. *DISCUSSION ON EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22 AND CONSIDER APPROVING WELL PERMIT ACKNOWLEDGMENT RESPONSE

- GGA Counsel, Valerie Kincaid, reviewed the aforesaid matter, stating the Executive Order was passed in March and requires Counties to consult with GSAs on whether a potential well would be consistent with the GSP and will not create subsidence issues before issuing a permit. Ms. Kincaid stated it is difficult to determine what wells will be used for in the future, but the purpose of the Order is to encourage collaboration between Counties and the GSAs. Ms. Kincaid reviewed the acknowledgment form that may be used in the well permitting process that the applicant must sign off on and the GSA can provide this to the State as proof of compliance.
- Director Nerli asked if the order only applies to new well permits going forward and not applications already submitted, whereby Ms. Kincaid confirmed yes.
- Chair Amaro asked if the GSAs are expected to review the well permit applications before the County whereby, Ms. Kincaid confirmed this is likely the case.

- Director Enos asked who enforces and polices this Order, whereby Ms. Kincaid stated it is unclear at this point. Chair Amaro asked if DWR would be clarifying the language within the Order, whereby Ms. Kincaid stated several counties have been in contact with DWR and the Governor for clarification so most likely there will be clarification. Director Nerli suggested waiting until more clarification is presented and as the countywide agricultural well moratorium potentially ends.
- Director Carmon provided an example of how the collaborative permitting process between the County and the GSA could be and discussion ensued.
- Ms. Kincaid stated she would amend the acknowledgment language per the discussion and submit to the County to begin a dialogue on this subject.

On motion by Director Schonauer, seconded by Director Randy Hansen, it was unanimously ordered to approve Well Permit Acknowledgment Response as amended by legal counsel and submit to the County for discussion.

11. *WATER WELL DRILLING PERMITS AND STANDARDS AD HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON COMMENTS TO GLENN COUNTY RELATING TO DRAFT WATER WELL DRILLING PERMITS AND STANDARDS

- Director Carmon stated the committee's vision is for the GSA and the County to work collaboratively on well permitting, having both agencies a part of the approval process. Director Carmon asked to review the comments and recommendations for the Board, whereby Ms. Hunter pulled the draft water well permits and standards draft for review.
- The following comments were reviewed and discussed:
 - Clarify definition of abandoned well or remove verbiage
 - Require an additional inspection for monitoring purposes
 - Change from 8 inch well casings to 6 inch
 - Address district water wells
 - Agreed with having a variance committee
 - Water Advisory Committee language and reference removed or updated
 - Possible fee for appeal process
- Jim Brobeck asked if there are any well drilling regulations that limit well casings and perforations and spoke to the need to protect drainage of shallow aquifers; whereby, Chair Amaro stated that is the committee's objective in reviewing the proposed ordinance and noted the varying land types and use in the County. Director Carmon noted that the proposed ordinance would require periodic sealings to prevent aquifer drainage.

On motion by Director Schonauer, seconded by Director Nerli, it was unanimously ordered to approve the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation on comments so far to Glenn County relating to draft Water Well Drilling Permits and Standards.

12. DISCUSSION ON STAFFING

- Ms. Hunter reviewed the aforesaid matter, bringing staffing information forth as requested from the last meeting. Ms. Hunter noted that the Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA) is also recruiting for an employee and has released a Request for Proposal (RFP) that the GGA may want to review. Ms. Hunter further stated the County is considering adding a regular employee to the Water Resources Division, but that this would

not be effective until the next fiscal year and the anticipated hiring date would be approximately September 2022. Director Nerli suggested the Budget Ad Hoc Committee review what is the best funding option for staffing.

- Ms. Hunter reviewed the types of assistance needed, stating the work is generally administrative in nature revolving, around agendas, minutes, template creations, staff reports, research, data entry, etc.
- Director Roundy stated he is concerned about the current workload and would like to see additional staff hired prior to September. Directors Carmon, Gary Hansen, and Nerli spoke against the GSA recruiting and managing its own employee though funding the position should still be considered.
- Director Enos stated he is in favor of recruiting a full-time employee and does not mind the GSA managing the recruitment. Director Schonauer asked if the GSA funded the position but the County managed the employee, would the County manage the recruitment whereby Ms. Hunter confirmed they would.
- The Board directed Director Carmon to request the County move forward with creating the position for the division.

13. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. 2022/2023 Budget Ad Hoc Committee
 - b. Executive Committee
 - i. CGA/GGA Joint Executive Committee
 - c. Multi-Benefit Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee
 - d. Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee
 - e. Technical Advisory Committee
 - f. Water Well Drilling Permits and Standards Ad Hoc Committee.
- Chair Amaro introduced the item and stated only the Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee have met since the last regular Board meeting.
 - Director Schonauer provided an update for the Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee, stating some committee members attended the Orland Unit Water Users Association Board of Directors meeting and the group is interested in collaborating. Director Schonauer further stated the committee has identified four potential sites and will provide a more descriptive presentation next month.

14. CLOSED SESSION

Gov't Code §54956.9 – Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated or significant exposure to litigation regarding tax refund claims and challenges to previously adopted property related fees.

15. 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

- No public comments were presented or heard for agenda items 14 or 15.
- The Board adjourned to closed session at 3:19 p.m.

16. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

- The Board returned from closed session at 3:59 p.m.; the Board provided direction to counsel.

17. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- Director Roundy provided an update on the City of Orland water project with DWR which includes \$8-12 million of funding to provide water to residents.
- Director Lohse asked if there was any new information on the sinkholes that have been discussed in the past. Ms. Hunter indicated there was no significant update. She has indicated to DWR that there is interest in applying for funding through the Technical Support Services program to better understand the issue.

18. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

19. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m.