

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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

Meeting Minutes

Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

June 14, 2022 | 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: 225 North 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)	R Evan Markey	City of Willows
X Matt Deadmond	Leslie Nerli	Glide Water District
X John Amaro (Chair)	R Thad Bettner	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
Gary Enos	Lance Boyd	Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District/ Provident Irrigation District

Directors attending remotely are designated with "R" and are not counted toward a quorum, do not vote, and are considered members of the public.

Others in attendance:

Lisa Hunter (GGA/Glenn County), Valerie Kincaid (GGA Counsel), Ashlee Veneman (Glenn County staff/clerk), Donald Bills (GGA TAC), Patricia Vellines (DWR), Jaime Lely (landowner), Ben King (CGA TAC), Jenny Scheer (Water and Land Solutions), Brandon Davison (DWR), Holly Reimers, Arne Gustafson, Lisa Humphreys (Glenn County Farm Bureau), Carol Thomas-Keefer (CGA).

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chair Amaro called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

2. ROLL CALL

- Roll call was taken as indicated above.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022 FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR

- *Election of Chairperson
 - *Election of Vice-Chair Person
 - *Election of Secretary
 - *Confirm appointment of Treasurer as County of Glenn
- The Board reviewed the current slate of officers and the consensus was to nominate the same members.

On motion by Director Schonauer, seconded by Director Roundy, it was unanimously ordered to elect Director John Amaro as Chairperson, Director Gary Hansen as Vice-Chairperson, GGA Program Manager Lisa Hunter as Secretary and the County of Glenn as Treasurer.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. * Approval of meeting minutes from May 9, 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 May 9, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

5. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ben King stated the pool in Arbuckle has suffered a crack and encouraged the Board to vet projects through the Technical Advisory Committee.

6. STAFF UPDATES

- Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA) Program Manager, Lisa Hunter, provided hard copy reports of the recently completed audit for each Director to share with their respective agency.
- Ms. Hunter stated she has had initial discussions with the Glenn County Administrative Officer in regards to cost-sharing the onboarding of a new employee, and he has directed her to work with the Planning and Community Development Services Agency (PCDSA) Director to determine the criteria for cost-sharing. Ms. Hunter further stated that the new position was included in the County's new fiscal year budget.
- Ms. Hunter reviewed potential future agenda items that may be coming in the following months, notably the potential need for a grant writing consultant and Requests for Proposals (RFP) to be issued for the next annual report (in coordination with the CGA) and for auditing services.
- Ms. Hunter noted that the County is still processing the initial 2022/2023 Fiscal Year budget and there may be credits issued in 2023/2024 Fiscal Year for certain estimated expenses, as costs are applied and adjusted appropriately.

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 Schonauer, seconded by Director Gary Hansen, it was unanimously ordered to accept the Monthly Activities Report as presented.

- Director Carmon asked if the GGA Counsel could provide a breakdown of what services are included for each invoice (litigation versus day-to-day activities), whereby GGA Counsel, Valerie Kincaid, reviewed the options of sharable information and agreed to provide a more detailed breakdown.

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

8. *APPROVE LETTER OF SUPPORT: COLUSA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT RECHARGE PROJECT

- Ms. Hunter reviewed the aforesaid matter, stating the letter of support is being requested to enhance the agency's grant application and the project is consistent with the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).
- Chair Amaro noted this area would benefit from the project and commented on the overall benefits of the project.

On motion by Director Schonauer, seconded by Director Roundy, it was unanimously ordered to approve the letter of support to the Colusa County Water District for the benefit of the Colusa County Water District Recharge Project.

9. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

- a. GSP Development Grants (Proposition 1 and Proposition 68) and Project Agreements
 - b. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation
 - c. Discussion on upcoming Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant
- Relating to item 9.a, Ms. Hunter stated the updated grant balance figures are provided in the meeting packet and though the balances may seem higher than expected, some funding has not yet been billed for the work associated with the Well Monitoring Pilot Program.
 - In relation to item 9.b, Ms. Hunter stated the consultant team has prepared a presentation and flyer about the GSP and current groundwater conditions for public consumption and outreach.
 - Ms. Hunter further stated that five new wells have had equipment installed for the Well Monitoring Pilot Program, though no sites are within the GGA service area, only in Colusa County.
 - Ms. Hunter reviewed an Airborne Electromagnetic Survey (AEM) project flight line map of the basin recently made available by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Discussion ensued regarding the data collection methods. Don Bills asked if the map expands into the Corning Subbasin, whereby Ms. Hunter confirmed it does and that all high and medium priority basins were surveyed and encouraged all to visit the DWR site to explore the interactive map.
 - In relation to item 9.c, Ms. Hunter reviewed the projected grant timeline, noting that DWR has indicated the application submittal date may be delayed from September 2022 to late 2022/early 2023 and that the InSAR quarterly data will be available in the next few weeks. Director Lohse asked if there is one grant application per basin, whereby Ms. Hunter confirmed there is. Ms. Hunter encouraged the Board to direct the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to review the project and management actions (PMA) list and data gaps to determine what the appropriate mix of projects is in anticipation of the grant application. Ms. Kincaid asked if this round of grant funding is competitive, whereby Ms. Hunter confirmed it was. Director Lohse asked how much total funding is being offered with this funding round, whereby Ms. Hunter stated it is approximately \$200 million. Director Roundy asked if the City of Orland's recently awarded grant will impact the GGA's grant application for this round of funding, whereby Ms. Kincaid said it is very unlikely this will have a negative impact. Patricia Vellines stated the grant awards per basin will range from \$2-20 million.

10. ON-CALL TECHNICAL CONSULTING SERVICES

- a. *Approve Agreement 1178.05 SGMA On-Call Support Services with Davids Engineering, Inc., and authorize the Chairperson to execute the agreement pending Counsel review.
- b. Approve Task Order 1 of Agreement 1178.05 and authorize the Chairperson to execute the Task Order.

On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Randy Hansen, it was unanimously ordered to approve Agreement 1178.05 with Davids Engineering.

- Ms. Hunter stated the task order sets aside \$10,000 for small requests and projects.

On motion by Director Gary Hansen, seconded by Director Carmon, it was unanimously ordered to approve Task Order 1 of Agreement 1178.05.

- Directors Schonauer and Gary Hansen spoke in favor of having an on-call agreement.

11. WATER CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

- Ms. Hunter reviewed the aforesaid matter and provided a handout with various ways to encourage conservation including adopting resolutions, mailing flyers and localized education. Ms. Hunter encouraged the Board to review the materials and noted that a review of the GSP to determine if there is a project that addresses water conservation and/or outreach will be needed.
- Director Arnold asked counsel if mandatory conservation measures are sensitive matters, whereby Ms. Kincaid they are as extraction limits are difficult to implement and enforce, especially for domestic well users. Ms. Kincaid further stated other GSAs have implemented mandatory conservation measures, but they have an enforcement system in place. Discussion ensued on what metrics are more appropriate to use for enforcement and tools that are available to track water usage.
- Director Carmon suggested including agricultural well users as part of the targeted conservation campaign, versus just domestic users.
- Chair Amaro asked if staff had time to administer and manage the campaign, whereby Ms. Hunter stated it depends on the scope of the campaign and deliverables the Board would like to pursue.
- Director Roundy asked what would trigger the GGA to implement mandatory conservation measures whereby, Ms. Kincaid reviewed two other agencies' programs who experienced a deficit in water supply/over drafted basins and placed every water user on a plan, concluding mandatory measures are generally implemented when precise data is needed.
- Discussion ensued on the conservation efforts that are being made by both agricultural and domestic water users.
- Director Carmon stated there may be a way to partner with waste management for a conservation flyer and share the postage expense. Director Roundy indicated the City could help promote the efforts and Director Markey stated Cal Water could coordinate with the GGA efforts as well.

12. RECHARGE PILOT PROJECT AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

- a. Receive report and recommendations from Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee
- b. *Approve Issuing Request for Qualifications for Groundwater Recharge Consulting Services pending Counsel review

c. *Authorize the Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee to complete all tasks necessary to bring a consultant selection recommendation to the GGA Board

- Director Schonauer reviewed the matter, stating the committee met on June 6 and determined a consultant would be very instrumental in preparing and developing the four project sites and that the committee recommends going out to bid for consulting services.
- Ms. Hunter reviewed the proposed timeline of the process, stating the Request for Qualifications could be released this week and an award of services could be expected by September.
- Director Gary Hansen thanked the committee for all of their hard work.

On motion by Director Gary Hansen, seconded by Director Carmon, it was unanimously ordered to approve Item 12.b as presented.

On motion by Director Carmon, seconded by Director Randy Hansen, it was unanimously ordered to approve Item 12.c as presented.

- Director Schonauer thanked the Board for approving the items and stated there will be an Orland Unit Water Users Board of Directors meeting Thursday, June 16th at 1:00 p.m. and encouraged the Board to attend to inform them of the item passing.
- Director Lohse asked the committee to explore any additional grant funding that could be used for these projects, whereby Ms. Kincaid stated the Bureau of Reclamation has a grant program that may be applicable.

13. EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22 AND WELL PERMIT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

a. *Approve Well Permit Acknowledgment Form and authorize staff to finalize the process with the Glenn County Environmental Health Department

Ms. Hunter stated she reviewed the proposed well permit acknowledgment document with Environmental Health staff and no comments or revisions were submitted.

On motion by Director Randy Hansen, seconded by Director Roundy, it was unanimously ordered to approve the well permit acknowledgement form and authorize staff to finalize the process with the Glenn County Environmental Health Department.

14. *AUTHORIZE SUBMITTAL OF 2022 MULTI-COUNTY AGENCY BIENNIAL NOTICE OF REVIEW OF THE GGA CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE

- Ms. Hunter reviewed the aforesaid matter and stated there are no changes that have been made to the conflict of interest code. Ms. Kincaid noted that the document references the Department of Agriculture and should be updated to the Planning and Community Development Services Agency.

On motion by Director Carmon, seconded by Director Roundy, it was unanimously ordered to authorize the Submittal of the 2022 Multi-County Agency Biennial Notice of Review of the GGA Conflict of Interest Code.

15. 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.

- Committee updates were provided in the meeting packet and no further updates were heard.

16. *DISSOLVE 2022/2023 BUDGET AD HOC COMMITTEE

- No discussion was held on item 16.
- Director Roundy exited the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

On motion by Director Schonauer, seconded by Director Randy Hansen, it was unanimously ordered to dissolve the 2022/2023 Budget Ad Committee.

17. 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.

18. 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 17 and 18.
- The Board adjourned to closed session at 2:59 p.m.

19. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

- The Board returned from closed session at 3:29 p.m.; in regards to agenda item 17, the Board provided direction to counsel. In relation to agenda item 18, counsel provided an update on the legal proceedings.

20. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- Director Carmon announced the agricultural well permit moratorium was extended for an additional year at the June 7, 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting. Chair Amaro asked when the State guidelines for new well construction will be released, whereby Ms. Hunter stated there should be a draft out by late summer and a finalized version by the year end. Director Arnold suggesting pausing on developing and finalizing the County's guidelines until the State's are available for review. Discussion ensued on the moratorium timeline and legislation process.

21. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

22. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.