

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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

Meeting Minutes

Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

February 13, 2023 | 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: 225 North Tehama Street, Willows, CA 95988

Public participation was also offered 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	R Pete Carr (1:33)	City of Orland
	Ed Vonasek (2 nd)	City of Orland
X Gary Hansen (Vice Chair)	Evan Markey	City of Willows
X Matt Deadmond	R Leslie Nerli	Glide Water District
X John Amaro (Chair)	R Thad Bettner (1:33)	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X Charles Schonauer	X Emil Cavagnolo	Orland-Artois Water District
X Randy Hansen	Wade Danley	Kanawha Water District
X Mark Lohse	Seth Fiack	Monroeville Water District
X 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), Kaitlyn Murray (Glenn County), Valerie Kincaid (GGA Counsel), Jacques DeBra (Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers), Eddy Teasdale (Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers), Jenny Scheer (Water and Land Solutions), Ryan Fulton (Larry Walker Associates), Brandon Davison (DWR), Toni Longley, Jaime Lely, Arne Gustafson

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chair John Amaro called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

2. ROLL CALL

- Roll call was taken as indicated above.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- *Approval of the special meeting minutes from December 19, 2022.
- *Approval of the meeting minutes from January 9, 2023.

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

On motion by Director Gary Hansen, seconded by Director Enos, the special meeting minutes of the December 19, 2022 meeting and the meeting minutes of the January 9, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

4. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chair Amaro invited public comments; whereby, no public comments were heard.

5. STAFF UPDATES

- Ms. Hunter stated the 2021-2022 fiscal year audit is underway and she is working with CliftonLarsonAllen to complete the necessary work. The draft report is expected to be shared at the March 2023 Board meeting.
- Ms. Hunter stated in regards to Well Permit Acknowledgement Forms in compliance with Executive Order N-7-22, three forms were received between January 9, 2023 and February 13, 2023.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

On motion by Director Schonauer, seconded by Director Roundy, it was unanimously ordered to approve the Monthly Activities Report as presented.

- Relating to Item 6.b, Director Enos asked for clarification about the invoice dates. Ms. Kincaid responded there are several invoices from Paris Kincaid because there are two matter number, one for litigation activities and one for non-litigation activities. Some of the invoices for one of the matters had gotten held up and so several months of invoices are being brought forward at once.
- It was noted the invoice dates for 7/1/2023, 8/1/2023, and 9/1/2023 should have been listed as 7/1/2022, 8/1/2022, and 9/1/2022.

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

7. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILTY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- Ms. Hunter stated that Davids Engineering/Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LCSE) are preparing the Colusa Subbasin Water Year 2022 Annual Report. This is a joint effort with the Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA), who also holds the consultant contract. Team coordination is occurring regularly and the format of the report will be very similar to last year's report with the addition of the drought impacts section. The draft report will be discussed at the CGA/GGA Joint TAC meeting on March 10 and a final report will be produced in mid-late March and uploaded to the SGMA Portal by April 1. The CGA and GGA Boards will each receive a presentation on the outcomes of the report at their March meetings, with stakeholder presentations in early-mid April.
- Ms. Hunter stated a meeting is planned for February 16 to connect with CGA staff and Alternate Director Bettner to discuss the Colusa Subbasin GSP Administrator topic.
- Ms. Hunter further reported the phase 1 project site (Van Tol) is under review by counsel.

8. GSP IMPLEMENTATION FEE PROJECT

- a. Receive report from GGA Fee Study Ad Hoc Committee.
 - b. Receive presentation from consultant team.
 - c. Provide input on the preliminary five-year revenue projection.
 - d. Provide input on outreach plan and public outreach meetings.
- Chair Amaro, Director Carmon, and Director Lohse provided comments on the ad hoc committee activities and emphasized the change from planning to implementation, the schedule, budget development, and public outreach. The committee suggested that public outreach should occur after the budget development is relatively set, but before options are finalized.
 - Jacques DeBra and Eddy Teasdale, with LSCE, provided a presentation on the GGA Long-Term Funding Project. The presentation covered SGMA timelines, funding strategies, an overview of what other GSAs what done for funding and examples of implemented fees, funding needs, project schedule and fee development process, review of the GGA fee history, draft five-year revenue projections and considerations, compliance considerations, public outreach, and options evaluation criteria.
 - Discussion ensued on various considerations and assumptions including project implementation, inflation rate, contingency, grant procurement, legal fees, acreage, and funding strategies. Outcomes of the discussion included changing legal services to \$150,000 for all five years, including \$100,000 for GSP implementation, and include the CPI for the inflation factor rather than three percent. There was consensus to bring the revenue projections with the noted changes for the public outreach and to develop talking points for board members.
 - Further discussion on the public outreach events and potential meeting topics took place. While the schedule is rather tight, there was agreement to hold three outreach events (Orland, Willows, Ord Bend) to hear ideas from stakeholders on how to fund GGA administration and GSP compliance for the next five years. It will be important to touch on data needs and cost for implementing particular options.
 - The Board agreed to cancel the March 14, 2023 Board meeting and hold a special Board meeting on March 22, 2023 in order to focus on public outreach and hear the outcomes of the meetings at the March Board meeting, if schedules align. It was clarified that public meeting summaries will be produced and the purpose of the meetings is to open the conversation about funding and potential options with stakeholders and hear comments, ideas, and brainstorming.
 - The Board directed the Fee Study Ad Hoc Committee to work with the consultants to finalize materials for the outreach meetings. Board members were encouraged to advertise to stakeholders using their agency's regular communication methods.

9. UPDATE ON 2022 URBAN COMMUNITY DROUGHT RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION STATUS

- Ms. Hunter reported the 2022 Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program application was submitted with a total request of \$3,676,322 which includes the cost of water for groundwater recharge. The DWR website stated 150 applications were received with a total request of nearly \$2 billion. There is approximately \$2 million available through the program, which highlights the intense competition for the funding opportunity.

- Ms. Hunter referred to the letters of support received for the project, which were included in the meeting packet and the grant application. She thanked the agencies that were able to provide the letters in such a short timeframe and noted the high level of support from potential partners.

10. *CONSIDER SPONSORING REGISTRATION FOR ATTENDANCE AT CALIFORNIA IRRIGATION INSTITUTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- Chair Amaro asked if there were any volunteers or if staff was interested in attending the California Irrigation Institute Annual Conference. Ms. Hunter indicated she would be interested in attending, but would need to check the calendars. She further noted she plans to bring other opportunities to the Board's attention in hopes that members may be able to attend events and bring information back to the Board. Director Carmon stated he was signed up to attend.

On motion by Director Carmon, seconded by Director Gary Hansen, it was unanimously approved to sponsor Ms. Hunter to attend the California Irrigation Institute Annual Conference if availability permits.

11. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Executive Committee
 - CGA/GGA Joint Executive Committee
- Fee Study Ad Hoc Committee
- Groundwater Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee
- Technical Advisory Committee

- There was nothing additional to report on Item 11.

12. FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION: FORM 700 REMINDER

- Chair Amaro reminded members to submit their Form 700s.

13. 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.

14. 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

15. CLOSED SESSION

Gov't Code §54956.9 (d)(2) Conference with Legal Counsel – Significant exposure to litigation – one matter.

- No public comments were presented or heard for Items 13, 14, or 15.
- The Board adjourned to closed session at 3:29 p.m.

16. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

- The Board returned from closed session at 4:08 p.m.

- In regards to Item 13, the Board received an update from counsel and provided direction. In regards to Items 14 and 15, the Board received an update from counsel.

17. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- Director Lohse stated he has received phone calls regarding the Board of Supervisors changing the groundwater transfer policy and requested the County representatives provide an update at the next meeting. Director Carmon mentioned the Board is planning to have a study session to bring draft documents forward and begin a dialogue and receive comments. Discussion ensued on the purpose of the potential change in policy, complexities of water transfers, and considerations.

18. NEXT MEETING

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.; however, it may be rescheduled to March 22, 2023 to accommodate the public workshops discussed during Item 8. Director Amaro encouraged members to attend as many of the public outreach workshops as possible.

19. ADJOURN

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.