

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 10, 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	Tom Arnold	County of Glenn
X Bruce Roundy	R Pete Carr (1:38)	City of Orland
	Ed Vonasek (2 nd)	City of Orland
X Gary Hansen (Vice Chair)	R Evan Markey	City of Willows
X Matt Deadmond	Michael Alves	Glide Water District
X John Amaro (Chair)	Thad Bettner	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), Valerie Kincaid (GGA Counsel), Joe Turner (Geosyntec Consultants), Ryan Fulton (Larry Walker Associates), Jaime Lely, Donald Bills (GGA TAC), George Pendell, Gina Nicholls (Nossaman), Wes Battson, Rick Massa (Orland Unit Water Users Association), Leslie Nerli

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chair John Amaro called the meeting to order at 1:31 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 March 22, 2023.

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

On motion by Director Carmon, seconded by Director Roundy, the meeting minutes of the March 22, 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 between March 23, 2023 and April 10, 2023, there have been zero Well Permit Acknowledgement forms received.
- Ms. Hunter further stated the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 audit report is ready to be issued with the change discussed at the March 22, 2023 meeting. She will send in the management representation letter. The finalized audit report will be posted to the website once it is received and hard copies will be brought to the next meeting for the member agencies.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

- No discussion was heard on Item 6.a.

On motion by Director Gary Hansen, seconded by Director Randy Hansen, it was unanimously ordered to approve the Monthly Activities Report.

- Responding to a question from Director Enos, Ms. Hunter clarified the Geosyntec invoice listed on the claims summary is not part of the \$40,000 that was approved for Task 6 (monitoring and reporting).

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

7. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- Ms. Hunter stated there are no updates on the SGM Round 2 grant application. Draft awards are expected to be announced this summer. In regards to the Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program (UCDRGP), she stated there is approximately \$200 million available with 150 applications requesting close to \$2 billion dollars. She further stated the updated grant website indicates an initial phase of awards released on February 2, 2023, and subsequent awards were released on April 6, 2023 totaling over \$47.6 million. There was some discussion on the grant funding requests and if grants will become more specific in how funds are used.
- Ms. Hunter stated the Water Year 2022 Annual Report was submitted by the April 1, 2023 deadline and can be found on the SGMA portal and will be added to the GGA website. She stated there will be two public meetings to share the outcomes of the Annual Report. There will be one lunchtime webinar scheduled for April 21, 2023 and one in person meeting, scheduled for April 22, 2023.
- Director Roundy suggested providing a letter of support for Senate Bill 366 relating to the California State Water Plan, which hopes to improve water supplies within the State.

8. GGA GROUNDWATER RECHARGE PILOT PROJECT

- a. Receive an update on groundwater recharge pilot project implementation activities.
- b. *Consider approval to fund water costs not to exceed \$10,000 to implement pilot projects in Orland Unit Water Users Association boundaries during the 2023 irrigation season pending legal counsel review.
- c. *Direction to legal counsel to prepare draft agreements with specified landowners for pilot project implementation within the Orland Unit Water Users Association boundaries.

- d. *Consider approving Task Order 6 Monitoring and Reporting, Short-Term Groundwater Recharge Projects Colusa Groundwater Subbasin, Glenn County, California with Geosyntec Consultants in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 without prior approval.
- e. Discuss opportunities for outreach and/or showcasing groundwater recharge pilot project.

- Joe Turner from Geosyntec Consultants gave a presentation regarding the GGA Groundwater Recharge Pilot for Water Year 2023. There was discussion on water deliveries, monitoring and reporting, cost estimates, long term versus short term assessments, and the three proposed sites for the more detailed monitoring. Director Carmon supported having an educational component at Lely Pond site to use as public outreach. Discussion ensued on what agencies would be responsible for different components of the project. It was stated the current proposal would include Orland Unit Water Users Association (OUWUA) delivering water to current customers on their regular rotations; however, the City of Orland mentioned they would welcome additional deliveries if it was possible. The proposal will be shared at the OUWUA meeting later in the week.
- Chair Amaro invited any questions or additional comments relating to Item 8.b.; whereby, none were heard.

On motion by Director Schonauer, seconded by Director Enos, it was unanimously ordered to approve funding for water costs not to exceed \$10,000 to implement pilot projects in Orland Unit Water Users Association boundaries during the 2023 irrigation season pending legal counsel review.

- Chair Amaro invited any questions or additional comments relating to Item 8.c.; whereby, none were heard.

On motion by Director Gary Hansen, seconded by Director Roundy, it was unanimously ordered to direct legal counsel to prepare draft agreements with specified landowners for pilot project implementation within the Orland Unit Water Users Association boundaries.

- Regarding Item 8.d., Chair Amaro invited any questions or additional comments; whereby, none were heard.

On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Enos, it was unanimously ordered to approve Task Order 6 Monitoring and Reporting, Short-Term Groundwater Recharge Projects Colusa Groundwater Subbasin, Glenn County, California with Geosyntec Consultants in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 without prior approval.

- There was a lengthy discussion on opportunities for public outreach including reaching out to DWR, Chico State, Cal Ag Network, and local agencies such as the Farm Bureau. There was also some discussion on funding for Master student projects. Ms. Hunter stated the primary consideration is deciding which outreach avenues the board would like to pursue. There was a general consensus among the board to focus on outreach at the local level and to bring back an item at a future board meeting regarding the educational component. There was no opposition to allow Jenny Scheer to share the project information at the next Groundwater Resources Association meeting.

9. GSP IMPLEMENTATION FEE PROJECT

- a. Receive an update on the GSP implementation Fee Project.
- Ms. Hunter shared the consultant team is currently developing the fee options technical memorandum and plans to meet with the Fee Study Ad Hoc Committee within the next week. She stated it may be necessary to hold a special board meeting prior to the regularly scheduled May 8, 2023 meeting to review the technical memorandum.

10. DISCUSSION ON DRAFT GLENN COUNTY WATER WELL DRILLING STANDARDS

- Director Carmon explained Glenn County is updating the water well drilling standards, which are currently in draft form. He provided a brief overview of the envisioned permitting process stating a consulting firm, Luthorff and Scalmanini (LSCE), would look at different components of each well application to ensure viability. He also stated the Farm Bureau suggested regulations on domestic wells. The draft ordinance includes language stating that a new domestic well will need to drill 50 feet below the minimum threshold of the nearest monitoring well. He further stated the draft ordinance will be reviewed during a study session at the Board of Supervisors meeting on April 17, 2023.
- Director Enos asked for clarification on who would be the decision maker for each application. Director Carmon stated LSCE would come back with a report of their findings. There was discussion on turn-around time for application review and an expedited process that would help in emergency situations. Discussion ensued on the concept of having a flexible standard so areas without issues could move forward without extensive review. Discussion continued on the current moratorium and timeline to have the new standards in place and general positive comments on the draft ordinance being proactive.
- Director Hansen suggested one revision regarding the definition of abandoned wells which defines abandonment as not being used for a period of one year, unless the owner declares otherwise in writing on a form provided by the County. He stated in the ag community, particularly in areas with surface water availability, there are wells that are not used some years, which does not make them abandoned. Director Hansen further stated if a well is properly maintained and in good working order, there is no need for more paper work to process as it becomes costly and a burden to the tax payer.
- Director Enos expressed concerns of taking the local agency out of the application process by using LSCE as decision makers. Director Carmon clarified LSCE would be making a recommendation and the process would continue at Glenn County Environmental Health, while also having an appeal process in place if needed. There was further discussion on the process to finalize the ordinance, the review process, and cost to implement.
- It was the general consensus to table the item until after the Board of Supervisors study session for further discussion and possible action.

11. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. CGA/GGA Joint Executive Committee
 - b. Fee Study Ad Hoc Committee
 - c. Groundwater Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee
 - d. Technical Advisory Committee
- There were no additional updates for Items 11.a-11.d.

12. 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.

13. 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 Item 12 or Item 13.
- The board adjourned to closed session at 2:53 p.m.

14. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

- The board returned from closed session at 2:57 p.m.
- In regards to Items 12 and 13 the board received an update from counsel.

15. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- Director Carmon recommended considering a letter of support or appreciation for the Orland-Artois Water District for all their work on the recharge projects.
- Director Schonauer commented that some households have backed out of hooking up to city water through the City of Orland expansion project; Director Roundy responded that 14 households have declined and 14 applicants from the waiting list have moved into those positions.
- Directors gave updates on surface water supplies and reservoir conditions.

16. NEXT MEETING

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

17. ADJOURN

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.