

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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

Meeting Minutes

Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

May 8, 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	City of Orland
	Ed Vonasek (2 nd)	City of Orland
X Gary Hansen (Vice Chair)	Evan Markey	City of Willows
X Matt Deadmond	Michael Alves	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
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), Jacques DeBra (Luhdorff & Scalmanini), Eddy Teasdale (Luhdorff & Scalmanini), Joe Turner (Geosyntec Consultants), Jenny Scheer (Water and Land Solutions), Ryan Fulton (Larry Walker Associates), Jaime Lely, Donald Bills (GGA TAC), Gina Nicholls (Nossaman), Wes Battson, Toni Longley, Pat Vellines (Department of Water Resources), Holly Reimers, Del Reimers, Gwynn Turnbull-Weaver, Pete Dennehy (Montgomery & Associates)

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 meeting minutes from April 10, 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 Roundy, the meeting minutes of the April 10, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

4. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chair Amaro invited public comments; whereby, Mr. Del Reimers commented there is about 1500 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water going down Stony Creek and he would like this water to be used for recharge. He noted there is storage space on his ranch to implement the project. Director Schonauer agreed the GGA is interested, but noted it is a complicated process that takes time and coordination with several entities.
- Ms. Gwynn Turnbull-Weaver reminded the Board the 218 process is still pending and she does not agree with it currently. She asked why options such as metering water usage have been excluded.
- Ms. Gina Nicholls inquired about the process for obtaining a copy of the recording of today's meeting. Ms. Hunter informed her to send an e-mail and she would send a link of the meeting recording.
- Ms. Holly Reimers questioned why the Board was voting on the 218 process when the deadline is not until next year. Ms. Hunter explained it was the commitment of the Board to revisit the fees when moving from the planning phase to the implementation phase. Ms. Kincaid stated the Board could use the current 218 fee structure for another year; however, it was their agreement to revisit the fees to determine if a different fee structure was more applicable.

5. STAFF UPDATES

- Ms. Hunter stated between April 11, 2023 and May 8, 2023, there have been zero Well Permit Acknowledgement forms received.
- Ms. Hunter further stated the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 hard copy audit reports are now available. She requested the Board members to distribute those copies to their respective agencies or return to her and she would distribute to the appropriate parties.
- Ms. Hunter stated the Resource Conservation District (RCD) submitted the Glenn County Groundwater Recharge Development Plan Grant Application through Congressman Doug La Malfa's office in April 2022. The RCD was contacted for some follow up information, therefore the process is still moving forward.

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

- No discussion was heard on Item 6.b.

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

7. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- Ms. Hunter stated there were two public outreach meetings to share the outcome of the Water Year 2022 Annual Report. A lunchtime webinar was held April 21, 2023, with 11 people in attendance, and an in-person

meeting was held April 22, 2023, with 13 people in attendance. The webinar is available on the website for people to view at any time.

8. GGA GROUNDWATER RECHARGE SERVICES

- a. Receive an update on groundwater recharge services and pilot project implementation activities.
 - b. *Review and consider approval of agreements with Rick Martin and City of Orland for pilot project implementation.
 - c. Discuss opportunities for outreach and/or showcasing groundwater recharge pilot project.
 - d. *Approve Letter of Appreciation for Orland-Artois Water District groundwater recharge pilot activities.
- Ms. Hunter stated there is continued coordination and planning with the consultant team particularly related to the Phase I implementation monitoring and reporting task. She stated counsel is reviewing the proposed path forward and drafting landowner agreements and is hoping to bring draft agreements forward at the next meeting. Furthermore, ad hoc committee members attended the Orland Unit Water Users Association (OUWUA) meeting of April 13, 2023 to discuss the proposal for phase 1 implementation at the two sites that are within the OUWUA boundaries during the irrigation season following the regular irrigation rotation schedule. She stated there was general support from the OUWUA Board and is pleased to move forward on a positive note.
 - Ms. Hunter stated they reached out to Department of Water Resources (DWR), Northern Region Office to inform them of the recharge pilot projects currently in progress. She stated Director Cavagnolo took them on a tour of some sites within the Orland-Artois Water District, where they discussed monitoring and potential support DWR may be able to provide.
 - Ms. Hunter stated the consultant team and staff visited three primary monitoring sites for the Phase 1 implementation monitoring planning which included the Martin gravel pit, Lely Park, and the Vereschagin sump, while also visiting additional sites including Van Tol, Lely sump and Erickson's. She stated the monitoring equipment has been ordered; however, landowner agreements for the sites within OUWUA will need to be fully executed before any equipment is installed.
 - Director Cavagnolo stated OAWD has been delivering water as the Board has given him an amount not to exceed of \$50,000. They have delivered over 1,300 acre-feet of water to three different sites with a total cost of \$30,000. He stated he has been working with Don Rust from Glenn County Public Works to hopefully implement a recharge pilot project at the Orland Airport.
 - Ms. Reimers commented on the lack of new water storage facilities in the last 50 years and spoke in favor of diverting water to Sites Reservoir or raising Shasta. Discussion ensued on the complexities of these projects.
 - Ms. Turnbull-Weaver asked for clarification on where the water was coming from for the recharge projects. Director Cavagnolo clarified the water has been Section 215 water (high flow water) which is \$12.17 per acre-foot and has been spread over gravelly areas, sumps, and other suitable areas for groundwater recharge. Ms. Turnbull-Weaver stated her concerns about injecting water into aquifers. Director Cavagnolo explained there is currently no plan to inject directly into the aquifers as it is expensive and permitting regulations are required.
 - In relation to Item 8.b., Ms. Hunter asked the GGA to table the item as the agreements are not yet prepared.

- In relation to Item 8.c., Ms. Hunter stated Jenny Scheer will be presenting at the Groundwater Resources Association, Northern Sacramento Branch meeting on May 25, 2023. Ms. Hunter invited discussion on potential avenues of public outreach.
- There was no discussion on Item 8.d.

On Motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Carmon it was unanimously ordered to approve the Letter of Appreciation for Orland-Artois Water District groundwater recharge pilot activities.

9. USBR WATERSMART GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- Receive an overview and hold discussion on WaterSMART Grant Opportunities.
 - *Adopt Resolution authorizing the WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects Grant application, acceptance, and execution for the Glenn Groundwater Authority Groundwater Recharge Project.
 - *Approve agreement with Larry Walker Associates to provide grant writing services in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 and authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement pending counsel review.
- Ryan Fulton with Larry Walker Associates gave a presentation on WaterSMART grant opportunities. There was a lengthy discussion on examples of projects, the competitiveness of the grant, cost share, regulatory aspects, and possible benefits. There were some concerns on the details of what the grant would cover, the specific project that could be included, the tight application deadline, and if current projects were eligible. Mr. Fulton emphasized that this application could serve as a foundation for future grant applications.

Director Roundy moved to approve Items 9.b and 9.c as presented. The motion failed due to lack of second.

10. GSP IMPLEMENTATION FEE PROJECT

- Receive update on the GSP Implementation Fee Project.
 - *Discuss and consider approval of Funding Options Evaluation Technical Memorandum.
 - Provide direction on Charge Report development.
- Jacques DeBra from Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) gave a presentation on the long-term funding project including an overview of the different fee options that were presented at the March Board meeting and the Technical Memorandum. Ms. Nicholls expressed her concerns with some inconsistencies in terms of the timeline and legalities of the proposed fee structure. There was some discussion on whether or not state lands are able to be assessed as well as private lands. Ms. Lely spoke about dry land parcels in other basins that have been left out of the assessment process altogether. Discussion ensued on land use types and related potential fees. There was some discussion on basin boundaries and the timeline in which it could be changed. There was general consensus to meet with the Ad Hoc committee to refine some options that would suit the GGA. Ms. Kincaid asked Mr. DeBra about the timeline needed in order to properly compose a fee study that reflects the benefits of the preferred fee option. Mr. DeBra responded direction by the week of June 5th would suffice. Many members favored the irrigated/non-irrigated (option 2), which includes three tiers (non-irrigated, irrigated-surface water, irrigated-groundwater). It was agreed that the Ad Hoc Committee would meet in the near future and bring back a recommendation.

11. GLENN COUNTY WATER WELL DRILLING STANDARDS

- a. Discussion on the draft Glenn County Water Well Drilling Standards.
 - b. *Authorize Chairman to submit comments relating to the draft standards.
- Director Carmon provided an update on the Glenn County Water Well Drilling Standards and stated the topic would be discussed at the May 9, 2023 Glenn County Board of Supervisors meeting. The County is developing a tiered process by which the well permits would be evaluated, which would consider groundwater levels, subsidence, groundwater storage, groundwater quality, and the public trust. A significant portion of the permits would likely fall under tier 1 or tier 2 evaluation, which is less costly than tier 3. The current draft includes requirements that a domestic well would also have a minimum depth of 50 feet below the GSP minimum threshold, and there is a “like for like” replacement review exemption. Director Bettner stated he agrees with the spirit of the standards but has concerns with the requirements for constructing wells that might prohibit well installation creating an access to groundwater issue. Director Carmon agreed with the fundamental right to access groundwater. Director Lohse asked if the polygons matched the SGMA polygons; whereby, Mr. Teasdale (LSCE) stated in concept, yes, the polygon are intended to match SGMA. Director Gary Hansen thanked Director Carmon for the attention given to the change in the definition of abandoned wells. Director Roundy stated his support and emphasized the need to start somewhere and adjust as needed.
 - Regarding Item 11.b, Chair Amaro stated he had spoken at the previous Board of Supervisors meeting, as an individual, and shared some concerns, but is generally supportive of having some regulations in some areas. Discussion ensued on general support for continuing to revise the current draft standards and an appeals process is important. Chair Amaro encouraged members to put this item on their respective agency agendas and the item will be brought to the next GGA meeting. Director Roundy stated the City of Orland sent a letter of support to the County. Director Carmon reviewed next steps for the County, which includes review by special counsel.

Director Schonauer moved that the GGA support the concept of the standards and tie into the GGA and encourage the County to continue moving forward with the process. The motion was seconded by Director Roundy and passed unanimously.

12. *DISCUSSION ON SENATE BILL 366 AND AUTHORIZE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE A LETTER OF SUPPORT

- At the April 10, 2023 meeting, it was suggested to bring an item to consider providing a letter of support for Senate Bill 366. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

13. 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
- Chair Amaro stated the GGA Executive Committee, Fee Study Ad Hoc Committee, and Technical Advisory Committee had nothing further to report. Members of the Groundwater Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee stated several members, consultants, and staff attended the Orland Unit Water Users Association meeting on April 13, 2023 and site visits were conducted.

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 Item 14 or Item 15.
- The Board adjourned to closed session at 4:06 p.m.

16. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

- The Board returned from closed session at 4:28 p.m.
- In regards to Items 14 and 15, the Board received updates from counsel.

17. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- Chair Amaro invited member reports and comments; whereby, none were heard.

18. NEXT MEETING

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

19. ADJOURN

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.