

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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

Meeting Minutes

Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

July 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	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 (1:34)	Michael Alves	Glide Water District
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), Kaitlyn Murray (GGA/Glenn County), Eddy Teasdale (Luhdorff & Scalmanini), Jenny Scheer (Water and Land Solutions), Del Reimers, Denise Carter, Patti Nolen, Don Bills, Michael Ward, George Pendell, Shasta Banchio, Carol Thomas-Keefer

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Vice Chair Gary Hansen 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 May 8, 2023.
- *Approval of the meeting minutes from June 13, 2023.

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

On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Randy Hansen, the meeting minutes of the May 8, 2023 and June 13, 2023 meetings were unanimously approved as presented.

4. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

- Vice Chair Hansen invited public comments; whereby, Mr. Del Reimers stated he received his proposition 218 notice in the mail. He was concerned that over 700 acres of his dry land was classified as irrigated

groundwater. Ms. Hunter stated she has maps and notes from Ms. Reimers regarding this issue. Vice Chair Hansen noted corrections will be considered.

5. STAFF UPDATES

- Ms. Hunter stated between June 13, 2023 and July 10, 2023 there have been six Well Permit Acknowledgement forms received, two of which were returned for corrections. Five additional forms are awaiting review, some of which may be for the GGA.
- Ms. Hunter reported she received an email from The Nature Conservancy who is interested in partnering on work related to Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems. They have received funding through DWR and think Colusa Subbasin may be a good fit for the opportunity.
- Ms. Hunter also reported she received an email from the California Rice Commission with information on an updated memo regarding groundwater recharge.

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. or 6.b.

On motion by Director Carmon, seconded by Director Schonauer, it was unanimously ordered to approve the Monthly Activities Report and the claims.

7. *CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024 GLENN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY BUDGET

- Ms. Hunter stated the revenue needs projections from the fee report were used to develop the draft budget; however, since the fee has yet to be established, the revenue section is unclear. The budget may need to be adjusted following the outcomes of the public hearing in August. Ms. Hunter stated this is presented as a deficit budget and there is funding in the reserve to cover the shortfall. Director Carmon agreed with the proposed budget. Director Lohse asked how much it will cost the GGA to respond to Department of Water Resources (DWR) after review of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). There was discussion on the draft budget, timelines, and how the GSP review response could impact the proposed budget. Vice Chair Hansen agreed with the methodology of the proposed budget.

On motion by Director Schonauer, seconded by Director Enos, it was unanimously ordered to approve the fiscal year 2023/2024 Glenn Groundwater Authority budget.

8. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- Ms. Hunter stated there was nothing further to report.

9. GGA GROUNDWATER RECHARGE SERVICES

- a. Receive an update on groundwater recharge services and pilot project implementation activities.
- Ms. Hunter stated the two land owner agreements for potential recharge sites in the Orland Unit Water Users Association are (OUWUA) have been sent out for landowner review.

- Jenny Scheer from Water and Land Solutions stated they are shifting into phase two of long-term planning for the recharge projects. She stated they have shaped about 14 or 15 projects where some critical details will need to be discussed including costs, water supply sources, permitting, water right issues, etc. She recommended bringing this forward to the Ad Hoc Committee for these discussions which will guide prioritization of projects. Following the Ad Hoc Committee discussions, recommendations will be brought to the Board.
- Ms. Hunter stated they received a response from DWR on the CEQA suspension self-certification that was submitted. DWR is requesting additional site-specific information. She stated this was forwarded to counsel for review and it will be brought to the Ad Hoc Committee.

10. GSP IMPLEMENTATION FEE PROJECT

- Receive an update on the GGA Fee Project and timeline.
 - Discuss Irrigated/Non-Irrigated long-term Fee Policy.
- Ms. Hunter stated the fee notices have been sent out. She further stated Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) has sent the final draft fee report which is currently being reviewed and will be posted and distributed after finalization. She further stated the fee notices sent out on June 15 have an incorrect phone number on the Spanish notification section of the notice and requested any calls should be forwarded to 530-934-6540. She continued that there have been about 50 individuals whom have called regarding corrections and general questions regarding the fee notices. Ms. Hunter confirmed the public hearing will be on August 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Willows City Council Chambers. She reported the public hearing notice for the newspaper is being reviewed with a target publication date of July 19, 2023 and July 26, 2023.
 - Vice Chair Hansen announced Director Deadmond entered the meeting shortly after it began, and was present for these discussions.
 - Vice Chair Hansen asked if there were a lot of concerns from the public regarding the irrigated versus non-irrigated classifications. Ms. Hunter stated there are quite a few questions and each one is being entered into a call log where the consultants can review the concerns and address as many corrections as possible prior to files being sent to Department of Finance for inclusion on the tax bills. Director Carmon had concerns regarding corrections that are not able to be made prior to the release of tax bills. Ms. Kincaid stated she is aware of a correction charge from the Assessor's office that may need to be utilized, but this process will need to be confirmed with the County. She further discussed there would be an appeal section within the irrigated/non-irrigated policy that should address these issues. Discussion ensued on complications of incorrect classifications and timelines.
 - Discussion ensued on the draft fee policy that LSCE provided, the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, and available data. Vice Chair Hansen noted Director Randy Hansen pointed out a typo on page 5 of the policy where a paragraph that starts mid-sentence. The draft policy will be brought to the Ad Hoc committee for discussion and a recommendation for the Board to consider. Ms. Kincaid noted the fee policy will need to be adopted at the August 7, 2023 public hearing. Director Markey asked how urban areas that are served by a public water service are classified. Vice Chair Hansen clarified they are considered irrigated groundwater, with few exceptions.
 - Mr. Michael Ward asked what data was used to establish how each parcel was classified. Mr. Teasdale (LSCE) stated they used water budget areas from the GSP, land use data (Land IQ), and other data. Mr. Ward asked when notices will be sent out; whereby, it was clarified the notices have already been sent to landowners.

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

- In relation to Items 11.a. through 11.d. there was nothing additional to report.

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

14. 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 12, 13, or 14.
- The Board adjourned to closed session at 2:13 p.m.

15. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

- The Board returned from closed session at 3:07 p.m.
- Vice Chair Hansen stated there were no reportable actions for Items 12, 13, or 14.

16. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- Vice Chair Hansen invited member reports or comment; whereby, none were heard.

17. NEXT MEETING

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. and a special meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Willows City Council Chambers.

16. ADJOURN

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.