

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

225 North Tehama Street, Willows, CA 95988 | 530.934.6540

Meeting Minutes

Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

September 12, 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:
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 (23/24 Chair)	R Evan Markey	City of Willows
Matt Deadmond	Michael Alves	Glide Water District
X John Amaro (23/24 Vice Chair)	Thad Bettner	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X Charles Schonauer	Emil Cavagnolo	Orland-Artois Water District
X Randy Hansen	Wade Danley	Kanawha Water District
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 (GGA/Glenn County), Valerie Kincaid (GGA Counsel), Jenny Scheer (Water and Land Solutions), Del Reimers, George Pendell, Ben King, Jered Shipley, Donald Bills, Holly Reimers, Ryan Fulton (Larry Walker Associates), Michelle Dooley (DWR), Eddy Teasdale (LSCE), Shasta Banchio (GCID), Evan Davis (LSCE), Lisa Porta (Montgomery & Associates), Jaime Lely

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Gary Hansen (Chairman Hansen) called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

- Roll Call was taken as indicated above.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- *Approval of the special meeting minutes from July 26, 2023.
- *Approval of the meeting minutes from August 14, 2023.

- The meeting minutes from July 26, 2023 and from August 14, 2023 were not available.

4. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ben King shared a historical perspective regarding surface water and referenced an excerpt from a document written by Will S. Green. He stated springs that were found throughout the foothills provided a significant benefit to the basin. Furthermore, he stated rangeland owners do not pump groundwater, but

supply the basin with great recharge. He suggested considering the benefits the rangeland owners provide to the basin when going through the assessment process.

- Del Reimers shared information from a letter written by the California Cattlemen’s Association, Butte County Cattlemen’s Association, Glenn-Colusa Cattlemen’s Association, and the Tehama County Cattlemen’s Association. The letter shares concerns that rangeland owners (non-extractors) will be charged fees to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Mr. Reimers requested the Board consider the letter and various options for fee collection as they continue their discussion on updating the GGA fees.

5. STAFF UPDATES

- Ms. Hunter stated three well permit acknowledgement forms have been received since August 15, 2023.
- Ms. Hunter stated Glenn County Resource Conservation District (RCD) was contacted for more information regarding the Glenn County Recharge Development Plan proposal. She stated RCD submitted the questionnaire with additional information and updates. She further stated the project could model an NRCS groundwater recharge pilot program occurring in the Fresno area which is testing two interim practice standards for groundwater recharge.
- Ms. Hunter noted the Cattlemen's letter referred to during public comment was emailed to the Directors on August 22, 2023 and printed copies were available.
- Regarding the DWR continuous subsidence monitoring program, Ms. Hunter stated DWR is interested in adding GPS sites in the Colusa Subbasin near Arbuckle and Orland/Artois.
- Ms. Hunter gave an update on the potential partnership with The Nature Conservancy regarding work relating to groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs), stating they have decided to partner with another basin; however, other opportunities may arise.
- Responding to a question from Director Schonauer, Ms. Hunter stated the well permit acknowledgement forms are consistent with the County’s new permit guidelines.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. *Review and accept Monthly Activities Report.
 - b. *Review and consider approval of claims.
- Ms. Hunter asked for feedback regarding the new report formatting. There was general consensus from the Board to move forward with the new format.

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

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

7. GSP IMPLEMENTATION FEE PROJECT

- a. Receive an update on the GGA Fee Project and timeline.
 - b. Discussion on example path forward to proceed with the Proposition 218 process through 2024.
 - c. *Consider approval of Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers Revised June 2023 Invoice dated August 31, 2023.
- Ms. Hunter stated Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) has provided a timeline regarding a path forward through the Proposition 218 process. She stated they provided a revised invoice removing the discrepancies that were of concern.
 - Eddy Teasdale (LSCE) stated the timeline in the packet identifies key dates that are critical to keep the process progressing. Ms. Hunter noted some of the assumptions and schedule may need to be revised. For example, if a user classification is added, this may affect the budgeted contract amount. She offered to work with LSCE to revise as appropriate. After discussion on schedule, tasks, and expectations, there was general consensus from the Board to move forward with the Proposition 218 process promptly and efficiently.
 - Regarding Item 7.c. Ms. Hunter stated both the original and revised invoices were included in the packet and identified the discrepancies that were removed.
 - Director Amaro updated the Board on the meeting with the Ad Hoc Committee regarding this matter. He stated he believed the revised invoice was fair.
 - Ben King stated the fee study should be addressed in a Brown Act Meeting versus an Ad Hoc meeting to provide the public with full transparency.
 - There was general consensus from the Board and staff that the revised invoice was equitable.

On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Amaro, it was unanimously ordered to approve the LSCE revised June 2023 invoice dated August 31, 2023.

8. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- a. *Authorize use of existing on-call consultant services contract with Davids Engineering, Inc for GSP implementation support.
 - b. *Authorize Program Manager to initiate development of USBR WaterSMART grant application in coordination with Colusa Groundwater Authority.
 - c. *Authorize Program Manager to solicit additional on-call services to be considered at a future meeting.
- Ms. Hunter stated she has not yet reached out to Davids Engineering regarding GSP implementation support. She stated it would be helpful to have the on-call consultant available for phasing of tasks, costs, and prioritization regarding the GSP implementation and upcoming grant opportunities. She also noted budget is available for this service. The Board agreed it would be appropriate to utilize the current on-call consultant support for these services.

On motion by Director Amaro, seconded by Director Enos, it was unanimously ordered to authorize the use of existing on-call consultant services contract with Davids Engineering, Inc for GSP implementation support.

- Ms. Hunter reviewed the item noting the WaterSMART grants are due in October. There was discussion on specific components of the grant that would need to be completed. It was mentioned the grants are highly competitive.

- Don Bills (TAC, Retired Hydrologist) stated he has had success in developing and reviewing WaterSMART grants. He offered his expertise in moving forward with this process.

On motion by Director Schonauer, seconded by Director Roundy, it was unanimously ordered to authorize the Program Manager to initiate the development of the USBR WaterSMART grant application in coordination with Colusa Groundwater Authority.

- Ms. Hunter stated additional on-call consultant(s) may be useful to avoid time restraints or limitations on areas of specialization.
- Ben King stated he was in favor of an additional on-call consultant.

On motion by Director Amaro, seconded by Director Randy Hansen, it was unanimously ordered to authorize the Program Manager to solicit additional on-call services to be considered at a future meeting.

9. GGA GROUNDWATER RECHARGE SERVICES

- a. Receive an update on groundwater recharge services and pilot project implementation activities.
 - b. Discuss opportunities for outreach and/or showcasing groundwater recharge pilot project.
- Relating to Item 9.a., Ms. Hunter stated the recharge pilot project is continuing as there is water at both Lely Park and Rick Martin’s Pond.
 - Jenny Scheer (WLS) stated there are operational changes occurring at Orland Unit in October. A meeting is planned to address these changes. She mentioned the partnership has been a success and the pilot project has provided a significant amount of information about operations and technical components that can be used in long-term planning.
 - In relation to Item 9.b., Ms. Hunter stated Ms. Scheer had presented on the recharge projects at Butte County’s Brown Bag webinar, which can be accessed online. Ms. Hunter presented a draft version of the informational signage that will be posted at Lely Park. Discussion ensued on comments relating to the sign and public outreach, including moving forward with the signage at Lely Park, issuing a press release, and providing signage at Orland City Hall. The Board was supportive of the composition of the sign.
 - Responding to a question from Director Schonauer, Ms. Hunter stated the Glenn County Board of Supervisors gave authorization to the Public Works Director to move forward with drafting contracts in order to prepare the Orland Airport Site for a potential recharge project.
 - Ben King spoke regarding mercury levels at East Park Reservoir and encouraged the GGA to consider taking water samples and address the issue if needed. Ms. Scheer responded that water samples are not being taken through this project; however, a city supply well is located near the site and is monitored regularly.

10. 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 10.a. and 10.b., there was nothing additional to report.
 - In relation to Item 10.c. Ms. Hunter stated a meeting is being scheduled.

- In relation to Item 10.d. Ms. Hunter stated the next meeting is October 13, 2023.

11. DISCUSSION ON TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPOSITION, VACANCY AND RECRUITMENT, AND DIRECTION ON TASKS

- Ms. Hunter stated there is a vacancy on the Technical Advisory Committee and reviewed the history of the TAC appointments and recruitment processes. She stated it was at the Boards discretion to maintain a 5-member status or fill the vacancy. Discussion ensued on current TAC membership and desired representation. Ms. Hunter stated there was interest from Shasta Banchio who is an Engineer at Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID).
- Ben King spoke regarding concerns with TAC attendance and membership.
- There was general consensus to move forward with filling the vacancy.
- Ms. Hunter stated she would reach out to Ms. Banchio regarding the letter of interest and process.

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.

- Chairman Hansen invited public comment on Items 12, 13, or 14; whereby, no public comments were presented or heard.
- The Board adjourned to closed session at 2:46 p.m.

15. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

- The Board returned from closed session at 2:54 p.m.
- Chairman Hansen stated there were no reportable actions for Items 12, 13, or 14.

16. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

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

17. NEXT MEETING

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

18. ADJOURN

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.