



Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2023 | 3:30 p.m.
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Pump Station
7854 County Rd 203, Orland, CA 95963

Public participation was also offered via teleconference

1. Call to Order

- Mr. Arnold called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

	Party Representative	Member Agency
X	Tom Arnold (Chairman)	County of Glenn
X	Grant Carmon (Vice Chairman)	County of Glenn
X	John Amaro	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X	Pete Knight	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X	Julia Violich (3:32 p.m.)	Monroeville Water District
	Seth Fiack	Monroeville Water District

Roll call was taken as noted above. A quorum of members was present.

3. Meeting Minutes

- *Approval of August 8, 2023 special meeting minutes.
 - *Approval of August 24, 2023 meeting minutes.
- No corrections or comments were made to the August 8, 2023 special meeting minutes or to the August 24, 2023 meeting minutes.

On a motion by Mr. Amaro, seconded by Mr. Knight, the August 8, 2023 special meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Julia Violich entered the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Carmon, seconded by Mr. Amaro, the August 24, 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

4. Period of Public Comment

- No public comments were heard.

5. Staff Reports

- Ms. Hunter stated one well permit acknowledgement form has been reviewed by the CSGSA between August 24th and November 5th.
- Ms. Hunter stated the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) and staff has been meeting with Stantec relating to the operations plan and the communications and engagement plan updates. The operations plan is nearly complete and is intended to be a living document which will allow for revisions as needed.

6. Financial Report

- a. *Review and accept financial reports.
 - b. *Review and consider approval of claims.
- Ms. Hunter stated there are 3 months of financial statements included in the packet. There was discussion on the balance of the account. Ms. Hunter stated staff is working with LSCE for an updated July invoice as there were discrepancies relating to the charges. It was noted the first installment of fees would be received in January.

On motion by Mr. Carmon, seconded by Mr. Amaro, it was unanimously ordered to approve the financial reports as presented.

On motion by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Amaro, it was unanimously ordered to approve the claims as presented.

7. *Approve 2024 Meeting Schedule

- After discussion, there was consensus from the CSGSA to bring back the item with an addition option for scheduling the 3rd Thursdays of the month.

8. Insurance through Golden State Risk Management Authority

- a. *Authorize Chairman to sign Agreement for Admission of New Member to the Golden State Risk Management Authority.
 - b. *Authorize Chairman to sign letter of no known loss.
 - c. *Authorize purchase of insurance in an amount not to exceed \$1,800.
- Ms. Hunter stated the insurance application from Golden State Risk Management Authority (GSRMA) has been mostly completed with some questions regarding the cyber security portion. She reviewed the necessary documentation in order to proceed and stated the premium for this year is within budget.
 - Mr. Carmon questioned what the insurance is for as he felt board members are covered through their own agencies. There was some discussion on what the insurance would cover and arrangements within the agencies. There was general consensus that legal guidance would be beneficial to help navigate through this process. Ms. Violich

advised not to use entire premium budget on legal counsel. Mr. Arnold volunteered to reach out to GSRMA with the questions posed by the CSGSA.

9. Annual Audit Services for Fiscal Year 2022/2023

- a. *Authorize staff to request scope of work, quote, and sample contract from specific firms to bring for approval at a future meeting. OR
 - b. *Approve issuing Request for Proposals for Annual Audit Services for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 pending Counsel review.
 - c. *Appoint Audit Services Ad Hoc Committee and authorize the Committee to complete all tasks necessary to bring a consultant recommendation to the CSGSA.
- Ms. Hunter explained various options regarding the RFP process for the Audit Services for Fiscal year 2022/2023. There was general discussion regarding the short time frame remaining as audits are due in March. Mr. Carmon clarified he would prefer proposals from specific firms that would include a bid.

On motion by Mr. Carmon, seconded by Mr. Knight it was unanimously approved to appoint Mr. Amaro and Ms. Hunter to the Audit Services Ad Hoc Committee and authorize the committee to issue an RFP to specific firms, review proposals and select lowest responsive bid, and execute any agreements.

- There was clarification the agreement would be for one year with the option to extend for three additional years.

10. Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Determination

- a. Overview of Corning Subbasin GSP “incomplete” determination.
 - b. *Appoint Corning Subbasin GSP Determination Response Ad Hoc Committee Member(s).
- Ms. Hunter gave an overview of the contents of the determination letter received from Department of Water Resources (DWR) noting this process will be a joint effort between CSGSA and Tehama County. Ms. Hunter explained the resubmission process stating the deadline is April 23, 2024, and mentioned the re-adoption process includes posting of public notices and holding a public hearing.
 - Ms. Hunter read an excerpt from a DWR newsletter summarizing common deficiencies of GSPs. There was general discussion regarding the determinations which included domestic well issues, taking further action by implementing projects, and addressing minimum thresholds. There was further discussion on what the grant funding would cover and which consultants would help through this process. Answering a question from Jaime Lely, Ms. Hunter stated she believed the newly implemented well permitting requirements could help address some issues in the GSP.

- Relating to Item 10.b. Ms. Hunter stated Tehama County put together an ad hoc committee consisting of members that were part of the original GSP process to help with the communications with DWR and consultants through the GSP revision process. She stated the importance of having an ad hoc committee for the Glenn County portion of the basin as well. She further stated Brian Mori, CSAB member for the CSGSA, has expressed interest in participating on the ad hoc committee.

On motion by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Carmon, it was unanimously approved to appoint Tom Arnold, Brian Mori, and staff to the Corning Subbasin GSP Determination Response Ad Hoc Committee.

- Mr. Arnold stated Ms. Violich had left the meeting (4:04 p.m.).

11. Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Professional Services for Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Annual Reports, DWR GSP Review Response to Comments, and Implementation Activities for the Bowman, Red Bluff, Antelope, Los Molinos, and Corning Subbasins.

- a. Receive update on RFQ process and recommendation from the evaluation team.
 - b. *Approve recommendation from evaluation team to select Lohdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers to provide Professional Services for Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Annual Reports, DWR GSP Review Response to Comments, and Implementation Activities for the Bowman, Red Bluff, Antelope, Los Molinos, and Corning Subbasins pending concurrence with the Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.
- Ms. Hunter stated Tehama County will manage the contract with the consultant which is wrapped up into a larger contract with other Tehama County basins. She stated work will be itemized by basin.
 - Ms. Hunter stated there was a selection committee which consisted of members from both Tehama and Glenn Counties. She stated three proposals were reviewed and interviews were conducted with all three teams, and all selection committee members ranked Lohdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) first.
 - Mr. Carmon expressed concerns regarding the issues that took place with LSCE through the CSGSA fee study.
 - Mr. Knight gave a brief summary of the interviews stating LSCE was very professional, prepared, and were the best out of the three interviews.
 - Responding to a question from Mr. Carmon, Ms. Hunter stated Tehama County approved the recommendation and the CSGSA would need to enter into negotiations if the recommendation was not approved by the CSGSA.

A motion was made to approve Item 11.b. as presented, which passed by the following vote:

Motion: John Amaro, Second: Pete Knight

AYES: John Amaro, Pete Knight, Tom Arnold

NOES: Grant Carmon

ABSENT: Julia Violich, Seth Fiack

12. *Approve Recommendation from Corning Subbasin Advisory Board to Approve Changes to the Corning Subbasin Monitoring Network and Include Updates in the Annual Report

- Ms. Hunter stated this item is regarding notification from DWR stating they will no longer measure the wells referenced due to a number of reasons. The wells will need to be formally removed from the monitoring network and the changes should be reflected in the annual report. Ms. Hunter stated this may result in data gaps which will be evaluated, and if a data gap exists, it could be resolved by adding more monitoring wells within that same area. She noted grant funding may also help with these issues.
- Answering a question from Ms. Lely, Ms. Hunter stated there is a process to add volunteers into the monitoring network, and she is willing to take any information from land owners interested in this process.
- Discussion ensued on different components the grant funding would cover.

On motion by Mr. Carmon, seconded by Mr. Amaro it was unanimously ordered to approve the recommendation from Corning Subbasin Advisory Board to approve changes to the Corning Subbasin Monitoring Network and include updates in the Annual Report.

13. Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CSGSA) Operations and GSP Implementation Fee Project

- a. Receive an update on the CSGSA Fee Project activities.
 - b. Discussion on User Classification Change Request process
- Ms. Hunter stated the tax bills have been mailed out to residents, and staff has been fielding phone calls regarding calculations, classifications and other concerns from the public.
 - Ms. Hunter gave a presentation on the user classification change request process focusing on the draft application and examples of hypothetical parcels that may go through the re-classification process. She shared an online application showing the information the public would need to complete on the application. Discussion ensued on various issues land owners may encounter during the completion of the application. There was a discussion on possibly implementing a minimum acreage or minimum percentage value on parcels to better classify land that may have a multi-classification request. There was general consensus to seek counsels' advice regarding this issue.

There was a short discussion on the process Department of Finance would go through if a reclassification was needed.

- Discussion ensued on the timeline regarding the re-classification and application process. The CSGSA was pleased with the format of the application and gave direction to move forward with it. Ms. Hunter noted the application would be available online as well as in hard copy form.

14. Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

a. Receive update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation.

- No additional updates were provided.

15. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Report

- Mr. Carmon stated the CSAB discussed setting up an ad hoc committee to discuss with Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers the incomplete determinations regarding the GSP.
- Mr. Carmon stated a presentation on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) regarding techniques used to eradicate Arundo had been planned; however, it was rescheduled for the next meeting.
- It was noted appointments for some CSGSA CSAB members expire in March 2024.

16. Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee Member Reports and Comments

- No reports or comments were heard.

17. Next Meeting

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

18. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.