

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

225 North Tehama Street, Willows, CA 95988 | 530.934.6540

Meeting Minutes

Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

January 8, 2024 | 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 (23/24 Chair)	R Tavis Beynon	City of Willows
X Matt Deadmond	Vacant	Glide Water District
X John Amaro (23/24 Vice Chair)	Vacant	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X Charles Schonauer	X Emil Cavagnolo (1:57)	Orland-Artois Water District
X Randy Hansen	Wade Danley	Kanawha Water District
X Mark Lohse	Seth Fiack	Monroeville Water District
X Gary Enos	R Jered Shipley	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), Joe Turner (Geosyntec), George Pendell, Ben King, Toni Longley, Rick Massa, Anne Gustafson, Brandon Davison (DWR), Ryan Brannon, Shasta Banchio, Katherine Klug (Davids Engineering), Jaime Lely, Evan Markey

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Hansen called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Director Amaro led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

- Roll call was taken as indicated above.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- *Approval of the meeting minutes from December 12, 2023.

- Chairman Hansen invited comments or revisions on the aforementioned meeting minutes; whereby, none were heard.

On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Amaro, the meeting minutes of the December 12, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

4. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jenny Scheer (Water and Land Solutions) stated the Orland-Artois Water District Annexation was approved by LAFCO. She stated the next step is approval from the Bureau of Reclamation and she is hoping the annexation

process is finalized by mid-2024. She mentioned it may be useful to include the annexation into the revised GSP to reflect the Board is working towards offsetting subsidence in the area by minimizing pumping.

- Director Roundy expressed appreciation for Jenny Scheer and Emil Cavagnolo’s hard work in the annexation process, stating it is positive progress.

5. STAFF UPDATES

- Lisa Hunter stated four well acknowledgement forms have been received since November 14, 2023. She stated the Statement of Economic Interests Forms (Form 700) are due on April 2nd. She further stated an email will be sent out to those whose Ethics Training is due in the near future.
- Ms. Hunter stated a standard GGA contract is being prepared to streamline the contracting process for future vendors. The draft contract mimics the Glenn County Standard Contract and it is currently under review by counsel. She stated there have been two scopes of works received for on call services. Once the standard contract is finalized, these will be brought to the GGA for consideration.
- Ms. Hunter stated the annual self-bill invoices for parcels in which fees are not placed on the tax bills are planned to be sent out in the near future.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. *Review and accept Monthly Activities Report.
 - b. *Review and consider approval of claims.
- Chairman Hansen invited comments or questions; whereby, none were heard.

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

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

7. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (GSP)

- a. Receive an update on Colusa Subbasin GSP implementation activities.
 - b. Receive an update on Colusa Subbasin GSP “Incomplete” Determination.
- Ms. Hunter stated the Annual Report is due on April 1st. She stated Davids Engineering and Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) are collecting the data necessary to complete the report. She stated the joint TAC will receive a presentation on the technical components of the report in February, and the Boards will each receive a presentation of the draft report in February or March. A public outreach meeting will be held following submittal of the report to share the results with the public. This meeting will likely be a webinar, which was more successful last year than the in-person meeting. She stated Department of Water Resources (DWR) recently provided guidance on annual reports, and the consulting team has adjusted the annual report template to align with their expectations. Staff and the Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Counsel of the GGA and CGA are meeting bi-weekly with the consulting team to review progress and provide guidance on the annual report as well as the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) revisions.
 - Ms. Hunter stated there has been one consultation meeting with Department of Water Resources (DWR) to address the GSP deficiencies. She stated DWR provided positive feedback. Valerie Kincaid stated DWR addressed the overdraft calculations not corresponding with the annual reporting. She believes DWR would like to see measured data rather than using modeling and projection data. She stated the two other issues are

groundwater levels and subsidence. She stated DWR expressed the importance of moving out of the planning phase and into implementation regarding the project and management actions (PMA). Chairman Hansen stated the meeting was very productive and positive and expressed gratitude towards counsel and Davids Engineering. He expressed concern that the data DWR is troubled with was not available at the time the GSP was submitted. Answering a question from Director Lohse, Chairman Hansen stated another consultation meeting is being planned for late January and DWR is willing to meet more than twice. Ms. Hunter stated DWR confirmed they want the GSA to focus on the specific deficiencies, without rewriting the entire GSP. There was general discussion on how to move forward by implementing specific criteria and real time data. Ms. Kincaid mentioned various potential approaches the Board could implement regarding demand management, including a broad basin-wide approach versus a more targeted approach focused on problems areas within the basin. Katherine Klug from Davids Engineering mentioned a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) approach that has been successful in another basin, which consists of a formal agreement between the GSAs with specific timelines, terms and conditions, and program details, without fully developing the program. This approach shows a firm commitment of the GSAs to develop and implement (if necessary) a program, while still allowing time for the necessary discussions to include stakeholder outreach, legal review, etc. She noted DWR seemed open to the MOU approach.

- Ben King stated he believed the Board needs to focus on subsidence. He mentioned the correlation between groundwater pumping and subsidence. His concerns focused on worst case scenarios and costs landowners could be subjected to if not handled.
- Ms. Hunter stated the second consultation meeting with DWR is scheduled. There was discussion on setting a meeting schedule for joint Board meetings and TAC meetings on a rotating schedule every two weeks. There was general consensus from the Board to have in person joint Board meetings on Friday mornings at the Sites office location in Maxwell or to alternate between GSA locations if necessary.
- Answering a question from Director Roundy, Ms. Hunter and Ms. Klug clarified the TACs will provide recommendations to the Boards on the technical information provided by Davids Engineering. Ms. Hunter noted the TAC meeting agenda materials will be available online if any Board members are interested in reviewing the additional technical details.
- Ms. Hunter stated there is a requirement to notify the cities and counties at least 90 days prior to the public hearing to adopt the GSP. She noted those notices will be sent out this week.
- Ben King recommended the Sites Maxwell office to hold the Joint Board meetings in person. He stated his concerns with getting a quorum from the TAC and believes it is of the best interest to handle these issues at the Board level.

8. GGA GROUNDWATER RECHARGE SERVICES

- a. Receive an update on groundwater recharge services and pilot project implementation activities.
 - b. Receive presentation on initial Groundwater Recharge Pilot Test results.
- Ms. Hunter stated the GGA has been working with Geosyntec and Water and Land Solutions on potential projects to include in the report on options for long-term groundwater recharge. She stated at the last Board meeting, six of those projects were selected to be analyzed in greater detail and included in the report.
 - Joe Turner from Geosyntec conducted a presentation on the Groundwater Recharge Pilot Test results. Test results included data from Rick Martin's gravel pit, Lely Park Pond, and Vereschagin's Pond. Topics of the presentation included results of water volumes, infiltration rates, and flow pathways. There was a discussion

on ways to improve infiltration rates at Lely Park such as scraping off and removing fines or scraping off plugs and replacing with sand to ensure more permeability. Mr. Turner concluded the presentation with suggestions on potential improvements for upcoming projects, such as more extensive monitoring of groundwater levels, water qualities, and geophysical data.

- Ms. Scheer made a clarifying point in regards to Vereschagin’s Pond, stating the water that was infiltrated into the pond did not affect the well on site, but does not mean the water was wasted. She further stated land subsidence is probably not greatly affected by these groundwater recharge projects. Discussion ensued on possible causes and solutions regarding land subsidence, water levels, and other outcomes of the data presented.
- Ben King encouraged the Board to conduct water quality testing for mercury and chromium.
- Regarding Item 8.a. Ms. Hunter stated there was discussion at an earlier meeting to possibly amend the contract with Geosyntec to assist in recharge projects through the winter. She reviewed details of the current contract including remaining funding which is expected to be expended on groundwater recharge reporting. She also stated the Board approved \$10,000 for water costs and discussed the details of expenditures. There was general consensus from the Board to put an item on the next agenda to extend the contract with Geosyntec.

9. DISCUSSION ON GSP IMPLEMENTATION FEE PROJECT

- Ms. Hunter stated the Ad Hoc committee met with Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) in November and the committee is working on refining user classes, definitions and policies. She stated it would be helpful for the City Representatives to address their councils regarding the current billing process, in which the city is paying the fees directly on behalf of the landowners within its jurisdiction, and whether the cities would be willing to maintain the same commitment for the future fees. She stated the budget may need to be revised to reflect the GSP revisions and related actions associated with the revisions. She further stated there was discussion on potentially developing a survey to landowners regarding the classification process.
- Director Amaro stated since the GGA was not awarded any grant funding, the Board may need to consider raising fees to implement projects and monitoring. Discussion ensued on issues that may arise regarding the budget and ideas on how to responsibly fund projects in the future.
- Responding to a question from Director Carmon, Ms. Kincaid shared different water allocation practices and strategies used in other basin GSPs, which was followed by additional discussion on the topic.

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
- There was nothing additional to report in relation to Items 10.a.-10.d.

11. 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.

12. 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

- Chairman Hansen invited public comment on Items 11 or 12; whereby, no public comments were presented or heard.
- The Board adjourned to closed session at 3:31 p.m.

13. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

- The Board returned from closed session at 3:42 p.m.
- Chairman Hansen stated there were no reportable actions in relation to Items 11 or 12.

14. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- Chairman Hansen stated Evan Markey with California Water Service has served as the City of Willows alternate Director for many years and has stepped down from the Board. Tavis Beynon from California Water Service replaced Mr. Markey as alternate Director.

15. NEXT MEETING

- The next regular scheduled meeting is for February 12, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

16. ADJOURN

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.