

# Glenn Groundwater Authority

## Groundwater Sustainability Agency

PO Box 351, Willows, CA 95988 | 530.934.6501

### MINUTES

Glenn Groundwater Authority Executive Committee

March 25, 2020

9:30 AM

720 North Colusa Street, Willows, CA 95988

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-29-20 this meeting was conducted by teleconference with minimal in-person attendance. The meeting was accessible via telephone, computer, smartphone, or tablet and remote participation was highly encouraged.

Committee Members Present:	Agency Representing:
X John Viegas	County of Glenn
X Leslie Nerli (Phone-in)	Glide Water District
X John Amaro (Phone-in)	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District

Others in attendance:

Lisa Hunter, GGA/Glenn County; Valerie Kincaid, GGA Counsel; Sharla Stockton, Glenn County; Cork McIlsac; Pat Vellines, DWR

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Viegas (Vice Chair) called the meeting to order at 9:33 and reviewed meeting protocol.

2. ROLL CALL

Lisa Hunter took roll call which is indicated above.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of meeting minutes from June 26, 2019.

The June 26, 2019 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Motion: John Amaro, Second: Leslie Nerli, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

John Viegas: AYE

Leslie Nerli: AYE

John Amaro: AYE

4. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. STAFF UPDATES

Lisa Hunter mentioned the Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA) is working with the Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA) and consulting team to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) schedule. A joint board workshop is scheduled for April 13, 2020. Lisa Hunter requested guidance from the Executive Committee regarding the current meeting schedule. She indicated the CGA suggested to keep the schedule as is and move forward remotely given the current COVID-19 situation throughout the state. In general, members felt that there is limited time to conduct meetings and workshops and suggested activities move forward remotely in line with the current schedule. John Viegas commented that he has reached out to RCRC and CSAC regarding discussions with the state to provide GSP submittal deadline extensions due to the COVID-19 crisis. DWR staff was also on a call to hear these concerns at a meeting on March 24. Valerie Kincaid shared her opinion that it seems unlikely that DWR will extend the deadline because the submission date is written into legislation. However, DWR has addressed a similar issue with submittals of the Annual Reports by leaving the GSP portal open and accepting submissions after the April 1, 2020 deadline.

Valerie Kincaid noted there are two GSPs being legally challenged with the allegation that the GSPs did not comply with the requirements of SGMA. Many GSAs are watching these legal challenges very closely as they move forward.

6. APPROVE 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

Lisa Hunter stated the committee was previously scheduled to meet the fourth Wednesday of every month. Because the majority of items were handled at the GGA Board level, the Executive Committee did not have a need to meet as often as scheduled. There has been some concern received from members of the public regarding the cancellation of meetings without explanation. Ms. Hunter recommended bi-monthly or quarterly meetings to allow the committee to meet as often as necessary, but reduce the number of cancelled meetings. Special meetings can be called if needed. John Amaro commented that he would prefer an afternoon meeting time of 1:30 pm and supported bi-monthly meetings held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. A motion was made to finalize a bi-monthly meeting schedule on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1:30 pm.

Motion: Leslie Nerli, Second: John Amaro, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

John Viegas: AYE

Leslie Nerli: AYE

John Amaro: AYE

The Executive Committee 2020 Meeting Dates are:

May 27, 2020

July 22, 2020

September 23, 2020

November 25, 2020

7. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COLUSA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY AND GLENN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

- a. Review edits to draft MOU and provide direction to staff and legal counsel as needed.
- b. Consider recommendation to GGA Board for approval of the MOU.

Lisa Hunter explained the GGA and the CGA have worked on the MOU at length. Joint Executive Committee members have previously reviewed and made suggested edits. Lisa Hunter provided a tracked changes version of the document so committee members could easily view the changes made. Significant changes to the newest version include revising the references to a Joint Technical Advisory Committee to a Joint Committee which would give the GSAs more flexibility. Valerie Kincaid also updated the Proposition 1 section to include Proposition 68 components.

Valerie Kincaid added that with more than one GSA drafting a single GSP there needs to be clear guidance on what comes to the respective boards for decisions with the idea of having GSAs giving the consultants cohesive guidance. Lisa Hunter stated that the CGA reviewed the MOU and approved the document with the following changes:

- Minor formatting changes
- In the definition section for management area, basin was changed to subbasin
- Removal of Section 4.5 Advisory Committees

The CGA felt that committees should not be authorized to form additional advisory committees. Valerie Kincaid noted removal of the section limits the flexibility of having ad hoc committees work directly with the consulting team on specific components. A motion was made to recommend that the GGA Board approve the MOU with the changes discussed.

Motion: John Amaro, Second: Leslie Nerli, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

John Viegas: AYE

Leslie Nerli: AYE

John Amaro: AYE

8. DISCUSS AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON REMOTE MEETINGS IN RESPONSE TO STATE AND FEDERAL COVID-19 GUIDANCE

Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-29-20 was provided to the board members and will be made available on the website. Lisa Hunter asked Board members for guidance on holding remote meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. John Viegas suggested having the Chair and staff be present at the physical location to conduct the meeting or to have a complete remote option. John Amaro stated the current set-up of having staff, counsel, and one committee member present at the physical location while the rest of the committee members and public access the meeting remotely seems to work. Valerie Kincaid stated the concern with having a physical location is the possibility of having more than 10 people show up. She suggested turning people away if there is greater than 10 people. Cork Mclsaac (member of the public) also commented that remote meetings are preferred. Lisa Hunter stated the upcoming April 9, 2020 Special Board Meeting is currently listed with a physical location and remote access encouraged, but voluntary and those meetings tend to have higher attendance. Lisa Hunter expressed that there are concerns among Agricultural Department Staff regarding having additional people in the office to attend meetings. John Viegas suggested remote only meetings at this time. The general consensus of the Executive Committee is to move forward with entirely remote meetings with no physical location available to protect all involved. Staff will be available to assist people in connecting prior to the meeting if there are access issues and connection information is also available on the GoToMeeting platform.

9. CLOSED SESSION

Gov't Code §54956.9 - Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated or significant exposure to litigation (1)

John Viegas recessed the Board to Closed Session. The Board conferred with Legal Counsel. John Viegas reconvened the Board to Open Session. No reportable action was taken and staff was given direction.

10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

None

11. DISCUSS ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT GGA BOARD MEETING AGENDA

No additional items were added.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2020 at 1:30 PM.

13. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.