

# GLENN COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Glenn County Department of Agriculture

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## MINUTES

Meeting Date: January 10, 2012

Time: 1:30 pm

Place: Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District  
344 East Laurel Street  
Willows, CA 95988

### Water Advisory Committee Members Present:

Donnan Arbuckle	Resource Conservation District
Larry Domenighini	Glenn County Farm Bureau
Thad Bettner	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Ted Trimble	Western Canal Water District
Mike Vereschagin	Orland-Artois Water District
Rosanna Marino	City of Willow
Leigh McDaniel	Glenn Co. Board of Supervisors
Larry Maben	BOS District 3 Private Pumpers
James Weber	E. Corning Basin Private Pumpers
Ken Sullivan	Orland Unit Water Users Assoc.
Del Reimers	W. Colusa Basin Private Pumpers
Mark Lohse	BOS District 5 Private Pumpers
David Alves	Princeton Irrigation District
John Viegas	Glenn Co. Board of Supervisors
Mike Alves for Wade Danley	Kanawha & Glide Water District

### Water Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Jere Schmitke	City of Orland
Bob Coruccini	Willow Creek Mutual Water Co
Joel Mann	Glide Water District
Gene Clark	Reclamation Dist # 2106 & 1004
Elwood Weller	Provident Irrigation District

### Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

Lance Boyd	South Area
Andrew Farrar	East
Ben Pennock	Central Area
Jim Donnelly	Glenn Co. Dept. of Ag

### Others in Attendance:

John Ayres	Brown & Caldwell
Lester Messina	Glenn Co. Ag Dept.
Sandy Denn	GCID
Lisa Hunter	Glenn Co. Ag Dept.
Gaylee Curcio	Glenn Co. Ag Dept.
Anjanette Martin	WCWD
Ed Romano	private pumper
Tony St. Amant	Citizen
Jane Dolan	SRCAF
Jim Brobeck	Aqualliance
Roy Hull	DWR
Eric Miller	MPM Engineering
Zac Dickens	GCID
Ben Reische	Colusa County
Rick Longley	Willows Journal
Vickie Newlin	Butte County

- I. INTRODUCTIONS: Those in attendance introduced themselves.
  
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for June 4, 2011 were approved as mailed.
  
- III. AGENDA ITEMS:

**A. Public Comment:** None.

**B. Discussion & Action Items:**

**1. Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Study-E. Corning Basin**

John Ayres with Brown & Caldwell (B&C) provided a presentation on the latest information available and update on the progress of the project. As part of his preliminary field study, B&C gathered well infrastructure data, crop types, irrigation methods, geology, soil types, and depth to water to pinpoint areas of need. Currently, B&C is finishing up field surveys of canal and ditches.

Mailings for the upcoming January 25<sup>th</sup> public meeting will go out tomorrow. For dates and location of other meetings, or more information on the project, visit the website [www.glennwac-eastcorning-recharge.org](http://www.glennwac-eastcorning-recharge.org)

- 2. Fall Groundwater Levels DWR Northern Region**—Roy Hull with DWR presented two sets of color contour change maps comparing 2004 to 2011's groundwater levels in the shallow, intermediate, and deep aquifers. Using the Sacramento River Drainage Basin Index showing 2004 as the last normal year of groundwater levels, he compared 2004 groundwater levels against current fall, spring, and summer measurements. In the shallow zone, most wells were around 1-2 feet below or above 2004 measurements except for two "pockets". These pockets of decrease are more noticeable in the intermediate zone south and west of Orland. A comparable draw down can be seen in the deep zone to the east of Orland, but this could be attributed to the recent pumping related to the Stony Creek Fan aquifer performance tests.

Between fall 2004 and fall 2011 Glenn and Colusa Counties groundwater levels are showing the most significant decreases. In Glenn County from fall 2010 to fall 2011 the shallow and intermediate zones are up 2 feet and the deep zone is down 9 feet. Basin-wide groundwater levels are up overall but with the significant decrease in the deep wells, we are averaging 8 feet below 2004.

- 3. BMO Revisions for Sub-areas 4 and 5 (OUWUA and O/A WD)** –At the previous WAC meeting, Lester Messina discussed the changes proposed to Sub-areas 4 & 5 to make them similar to Sub-areas 8, 9, 10 modified in 2010, that is, extended the period of record from 1976-2009, methodology changed to 1-2 standard deviation, and the alert stage definitions and compliance evaluation procedures defined using the same wells (some may have been discontinued). With the start of CASGEM and the shift to dedicated monitoring wells, monitoring may cease in these sub-areas so the question was posed to WAC to see how they wanted to proceed. The WAC moved and all were in favor that the matter be referred to the TAC for study and recommendation.

- 4. Well Infrastructure update-** Glenn County's TAC is reviewing the well infrastructure with original BMO wells to see how they would be affected by the number of wells and the frequency of wells in a nine-square mile radius of dedicated monitoring wells. Lester Messina mentioned that Allan Fulton has prepared a newsletter explaining the process currently underway in Tehama County. With water crossing hydrologic and political boundaries, it would greatly benefit our county to pursue this method as well. Some of the potential advantages listed in Allan's newsletter include community and individual private landowner benefits: understanding the unique makeup of well infrastructures to promote better groundwater management, including risk assessment of such wells due to dewatering or drought, and influencing how deep to drill new wells, setting pump bowls to secure reliable source, and "influencing the design and construction of new groundwater wells to lessen interference and competition with pre-existing groundwater wells". More discussion will follow at the next TAC meeting. The committee requested that any written TAC recommendation be sent to the WAC prior to its next meeting.

5. **NSV IRWMP Process Update and outreach**—Lester Messina informed the committee that the IRWM group is holding three public meetings this month: January 18<sup>th</sup> at Red Bluff and Oroville and January 19<sup>th</sup> in Colusa. Specific times and locations are available on the fact sheet previously mailed out. The Colusa County meeting will also be webcast. A survey was passed out during the meeting in hopes of obtaining feedback and ideas to help the group with the planning process. Vickie Newlin reiterated the importance of filling out and returning the surveys as it will be used by governing board to develop their goals and objectives. The completed surveys can be returned to Lester Messina at the Department of Agriculture or be taken on the website [www.nsvwaterplan.org](http://www.nsvwaterplan.org)
6. **Presentation on draft Groundwater Ordinance revisions:** Larry Domenighini handed out the following Ordinance documents at the meeting and later also had them emailed to the committee:
  - a. Ordinance Presentation: Proposed Revisions to Glenn County Ordinance 1115
  - b. Summary of changes in Ordinance 1115 version January 10, 2012.
  - c. Ordinance 1115 Revision draft version January 10, 2012.
  - d. Glenn County Ordinance 1115.
  - e. Exhibit C/ Glenn County Water Transfer Guidelines version January 10, 2012.

Larry discussed the chronology leading up to the revision and summarized the changes to the original document such as the new make-up of the TAC and the WAC, their new responsibilities, addition of some terms (language), among others. Since the formation of the Ordinance sub-committee, the group has been meeting and has made several changes to the ordinance, all of which have been incorporated into the draft.

With the Ordinance revisions and the water transfer guidelines still needing to be seen by the individual water district boards and their attorneys, Larry does not think the WAC would be able to have the final revisions available for the Board of Supervisors by March. He hopes to have a clean draft available for the Board by February 21<sup>st</sup> however, and a vote to be scheduled at the WAC meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Draft Water Transfer Guidelines-**With this latest version, the fee structure and the language discussed previously, have been incorporated into Ordinance 1115. Larry requested that the first initial comments be given to him by January 20<sup>th</sup> and then the sub-committee could meet the following week to look at the first round of proposed changes before the next WAC meeting.

**D. Member Reports:** Vickie Newlin reported that in response to letters of intent, Butte County's Department of Water and Resource Conservation has been approved for a lease of their Table A excess state water project allocation. The transfer may involve up to 24,000 acre feet of water. Added to the cost of the lease is \$50 per acre foot which would go towards the Butte County's water program.

The next WAC meeting has been scheduled tentatively for March 13th.

The next TAC meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Gaylee Curcio