

GLENN COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Glenn County Department of Agriculture
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MINUTES

Meeting Date: November 10, 2010

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
Gene Clark	Reclamation Dist # 2106 & 1004
Ted Trimble	Western Canal Water District
Mike Vereschagin	Orland-Artois Water District
Rosanna Marino	City of Willows
Leigh McDaniel	Glenn Co. Board of Supervisors
Larry Maben	BOS District 3 Private Pumpers
James Weber	E. Corning Basin Private Pumpers
Mark Lohse	BOS District 5 Private Pumpers

Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

Mark Black	Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture
Lance Boyd	South Area
Ben Pennock	Central Area
Andrew Farrar	East
Kevin Backus	Glenn Co. Environmental Health
Kelly Staton	DWR

Water Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Wade Danley	Kanawha Water District
Bob Coruccini	Willow Creek Mutual Water Co
Ken Sullivan	Orland Unit Water Users Assoc.
Thad Bettner	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Elwood Weller	Provident Irrigation District
Del Reimers	W. Colusa Basin Private Pumpers
Joel Mann	Glide Water District
Jere Schmitke	City of Orland

Others in Attendance:

Eugene Massa Jr.	Colusa Basin Drainage District
Rick Massa	OUWA
Rachelle Valverde	GCID
Lester Messina	Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture
Mike Alves	Kanawha & Glide Water District
Gaylee Curcio	Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture
Sue King	OAWD
Jeff Sutton	TCCA
Doug Ross	Sacramento Valley Mirror
Dan Ramos	Citizen
Mary Randall	DWR
Lisa Hunter	Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture

- I. INTRODUCTIONS: Those in attendance introduced themselves.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for September 14, 2010 were approved as mailed.
- III. AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Public Comment: None.

B. Discussion & Action Items: (Revised agenda order)

1. Fall Groundwater Measurements

Kelly Staton, DWR Northern District, provided tables comparing groundwater measurements from fall 2004-2010 and from fall 2009-2010. For the fall period 2009 to 2010 groundwater levels for all wells monitored (150) show a maximum increase of 22.3 feet and a maximum decrease of 17.0 feet with an overall average increase of 1.8 feet. For the fall period 2004 to 2010 groundwater levels for all wells monitored (111) show a maximum increase of 2.5 feet and a maximum decrease of 36.3 feet with an overall average decrease of 6.9 feet.

The greatest decrease in groundwater levels is on the west side of the county where land and water use changes are prevalent.

2. TAC Memo— From previous discussions regarding information that can be gathered to investigate low groundwater levels, the TAC sent out a memo in July to WAC and TAC members requesting from their districts the same information they send to DWR and/or the BOR on the amount of water used, crop type, and acreage during the irrigation season and also an estimate on the amount of groundwater used to supplement any allocation shortages and/ or routine conjunctive use. This information can be put on ArcView system with the mapping system that the Ag Department is developing to see trends and water use overall for the county. The memo has not incited any enthusiastic response. A concern was brought up that perhaps the information could be used against the districts, but the notion was rejected and the information should be forthcoming.

3. Draft Revisions to the Ordinance-

- a.** Leigh McDaniel presented the first cut of the groundwater ordinance which was discussed at the Board of Supervisors the week previous. The Board was generally satisfied with the progress and is looking forward to input from the WAC, after which the ordinance will go through the standard adoption process.
- b.** Mike Vereschagin, WAC Chairman opened up the discussion to the public. These were the comments and Supervisor McDaniel's response:
 - i.** Jeff Sutton pointed out on section 20.09.090 discusses the requirements for a direct groundwater transfer where substitution is used and where straight surface water transfer is used does not seem to be jurisdictional.
 - ii.** Jeff Sutton also pointed out that on page 9, section 20.09.140 talks about infraction and offense but does not define the penance. He expressed his compliments that the wording on the ordinance was done in such a way that it does not impede normal course of business.
 - iii.** Lester Messina, thinking along the same lines as Jeff Sutton about surface water transfer when a fallowing program is in place, pumping groundwater could become competitive between neighbors and unenforceable by the County.
 - iv.** Mark Atlas, representing PID and PCGID, expressed the disappointment of these districts in the process that the draft ordinance took. It was their understanding that there was going to be dialogue between the County and these districts before the draft would go to the Board for its initial review and the WAC before its initial review but that did not happen. He remains unconvinced that there is a real need to change the existing ordinance. Leigh apologized for the miscommunication. He stated that it was a challenge to work on a document that is sensitive and a precursor to addressing issues should there be water shortage years. There were more discussions between Supervisor McDaniel and Mark Atlas regarding the impact of surface water transfer and what action will be taken in the ordinance if the transfer creates potential harm, what the definition of "harm" is, standardizing the BMOs, and clarifying the definition of "neighbors"

as defined by the draft ordinance. Supervisor McDaniel emphasized that the county does not want to impede any normal course of business unless there is technical and scientific data to show that a potential transfer is not going to cause harm.

- c. Mike Vereschagin also opened the discussion to members of the WAC. Those who provided comments focused mainly on the need to change the composition of the TAC to include at-large members, members who have personal stake, and who may not have the technical know-how but could provide background information that would be helpful to the Board. Ted Trimble with Western Canal Water District wanted a better definition of the Sacramento River since the current definition in the draft ordinance could be misconstrued as not applying to his district. He offered this modification instead: "...utilizing in part or in whole the Sacramento River and its tributaries" since the Feather River is considered as a tributary. Ted also commented on the lack of punishments where violations are discussed in the draft.
- d. A sub-committee has been formed to work in these comments. Supervisor McDaniel emphasized that this draft ordinance will stand parallel to the existing ordinance; certain sections of the existing ordinance may be repealed but the original ordinance will be retained as a written water management plan for our County which is a state requirement.

4. **CASGEM/Monitoring Entity Determination** — CASGEM was discussed at the last TAC and WAC meetings, and was on today's agenda to ask for input and clarification on how the County should proceed. The county intends to be a monitoring and reporting entity and it is up to individual districts to decide if they want to be a part of the County efforts or be their own. Lisa Hunter presented a map showing where DWR currently has monitoring and additional wells in other groundwater basins in the County that would need to be monitored. The deadline to submit the application is January 1st. In the spring, DWR will work with monitoring entities to help set up a monitoring plan. Glenn County has a great network of dedicated wells so it should not be hard to comply with this requirement.

The WAC moved that the County submit itself as a single monitoring and reporting entity with the option of being an umbrella entity. All were in favor.

5. **WAC Chairman Selection**—a nominating committee was formed to select the next chairman for the WAC. The committee is composed of: Ted Trimble, Larry Domenighini and Mike Alves.

C. Communications:

- a. Lester provided information from a newspaper article that a water rights sale is pending in Kings County where 2,000 acre feet of water rights will be permanently sold for \$11.7 million. There were two similar sales last year.
- b. Supervisor McDaniel announced the appointment of IRWMP governing board members for Glenn County, which include himself, John Erickson from the North area and Gary Enos from the South area.

D. Member Reports:

- a. Supervisor McDaniel also announced the withdrawal of the county from the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum.
- b. Upon the request of Rick Massa, Jeff Sutton reported that last scheduled meeting for the Sites JPA was cancelled. However at their last meeting, there was a small turn out. The budget committee did go over cost of legal expenses, travel expenses, audit, advertising, and other costs. Different proposals were presented at that meeting discussing optimization of the project, improving interaction with state and federal government, and outreach strategies.

The next WAC Meeting was scheduled tentatively for December 14th at 1:30 pm.

The next TAC Meeting has not been scheduled at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Gaylee Curcio