

**GLENN COUNTY
WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Glenn County Department of Agriculture

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MINUTES

Meeting Date: February 18, 2009

Time: 1:30 pm

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

Water Advisory Committee Members Present:

Thad Bettner	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Gene Clark	Reclamation Dist # 2106 & 1004
Larry Domenighini	Glenn County Farm Bureau
Leigh McDaniel	Glenn County Supervisor
Mark Lohse	BOS District 5 P P
Larry Maben	BOS District 3 Private Pumpers
Del Reimers	West Colusa Basin P P
Jere Schmitke	City of Orland
Ted Trimble	Western Canal Water District
Mike Vereschagin	Orland-Artois Water District
James Weber	East Corning Basin P P
Elwood Weller	Provident Irrigation District

Water Advisory Committee Members Absent:

David Alves	PCGID
Donnan Arbuckle	Resource Conservation District
Jack Baber	Reclamation District No. 1004
Bob Coruccini	Willow Creek Mutual Water Co.
Wade Danley	Kanawha Water District
Joel Mann	Glide Water District
Rosanna Marino	City of Willows
Ken Sullivan	Ouwua

Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

Mark Black	Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture
Lance Boyd	PID/PCGID
Andrew Farrar	East Area
Kelly Staton	Department of Water Resources
Ben Pennock	Central Area
Kevin Backus	Glenn Co. Environmental Health

Others in Attendance:

Tina Brothers	WAC/TAC Secretary
Paul Gosselin	Butte County
Stacy Kavanaugh	USDA-NRCS
Eugene Massa Jr.	CBDD
Lester Messina	Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture
Bill Menke	GCID
Jeff Sutton	TCCA

- I. INTRODUCTIONS: Those in attendance introduced themselves.

- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from December 9, 2008 meeting were approved as mailed.

III. AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Public Comment:

1. Lester introduced Leigh McDaniel as the new Glenn County Board of Supervisor representative.
2. Jere Schmike mentioned that the consultant for the proposed bottled water facility is drilling a test well in the Orland area, west of the TC at Road 200 to a depth of about 600 feet.

B. Discussion & Action Items:

1. Continue Discussion on Strategic Planning for Water Resources

- 1) Fee Process Development- There was a short discussion on initiating an increase to well permit fees in an effort to support ongoing groundwater monitoring and/or data logger replacement. That discussion led to a continuation of water transfer fees as a component of the next agenda item.
- 2) Evaluate Water Transfer Guidelines – Prior to the meeting, the committee was provided with the most recent water transfer guidelines developed by the subcommittee. After a lengthy discussion a motion was made to provide an additional week for comments prior to the guidelines being forwarded to the TAC for a level of review. After a TAC review, the guidelines will come back to the WAC at the April 14, 2009 meeting for further discussion and/or recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration. All were in agreement.

2. Winter Groundwater Levels

- 1) January DWR Measurements - Kelly provided a handout with comparisons of January 2008 to January 2009 groundwater level measurements retrieved from continuous data logger readings of the 78 zones monitored in Glenn County. The overall average Countywide was 4.5 feet lower in 2009 vs. 2008.
- 2) Well Count by Section Maps-Four maps showing all wells, domestic and Ag by number per section and by depth per section in the County were developed by DWR Northern District. By seeing the counts and depths of the well types it was easier to determine how pumping interference can occur. There were a few graphs detailing the numbers of well completion reports filed with DWR over the years. One graph in particular shows the number of permits issued by the County in comparison to the number well completion reports submitted to DWR. The discrepancy of permits pulled and reports filed varies from year to year. Northern District is updating the process on how records are kept. There was some discussion on how the County can be more active with drillers in completing and submitting their reports.

3. **Groundwater Replenishment Discussion**-Eugene Massa, General Manager of the Colusa Basin Drainage District (CBDD) gave an update on their role in groundwater replenishment and to actively pursue groundwater recharge or subsidence projects. CBDD is looking at several projects, one being to utilize the gravel pit adjacent to the Orland/Artois Water District as a spreading pond for flood waters as a recharge facility. A feasibility study is needed and the CBDD Board approved \$250,000 of a pending Prop. 13 grant to complete that study. Another \$250,000 was approved for work in conjunction with the Glenn County Department of Agriculture to install a minimum of two multi-completion monitoring wells in support of groundwater replenishment in the district. CBDD has no intent to charge or manage the use of that water. CBDD is waiting for DWR to approve the budget and then they can move forward with their projects.

CBDD, realizes the need to educate landowners and others in the area regarding how the conjunctive management purposes of the recharge facilities are going to work. Based on that, CBDD and UC Cooperative Extension are holding a public meeting on April 1, 2009 at the Maxwell Inn.

4. **Butte County Lower Tuscan Recharge Research Project** - Paul Gosselin, Butte County Director of Water and Resource Conservation informed the committee on the Prop. 50 grant project to do a recharge assessment and focusing on the different aspects of the Lower Tuscan aquifer system. There will also be a component for a 4 county effect for outreach and education. It took a while to get the contracting going, however in 2008 they were able to do an initial study to look at the scope of work and the preparation of a CEQA document. There is a lawsuit pending against Butte County filed by the Butte Environmental Counsel which has put everything on hold since January 21, 2009. This project was to take three years to complete and they will probably be able to install an additional 8 to 10 dedicated monitoring wells.
5. **Drought Water Bank-Comment letter to DWR** – A comment letter was prepared and submitted to DWR regarding the addendum to the Environmental Water Account for the 2009 Drought Water Bank.
6. **Water Supply Forecasts**- Regional water managers gave the committee this update:
 - a) Ted Trimble, General Manager for WCWD feels there is a good chance for a full supply under their agreement.
 - b) Thad Bettner, General Manager of GCID mentioned that their contract is based on the water in the Shasta reservoir of 3.2 million acre feet. The current allocation from USBR is 75%, which will require GCID to implement strict water conservation measures, tiered pricing, and some groundwater pumping to maintain full deliveries to its customers. If inflows into Shasta increase above projections, GCID's allocation could be increased to 100%.
 - c) Jeff Sutton, General Manager of the TCCA stated as of today the level of Shasta Reservoir is 1.55 million acre feet, last year at the end of March the reservoir level peaked at 2.99 million acre feet, resulting in a final allocation of 40% for the TC CVP contractors.
7. **Draft Salmon/Sturgeon Biological Opinion** - Jeff Sutton discussed the biological opinion on anadromous fish species (salmon, steelhead, and newly listed green sturgeon) that was supposed to be completed per court order by March 2, 2009; however a 90 day extension was requested by NMFS and the USBR, and granted by the court. Plaintiffs have requested more details about operations of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam that were proposed in the court documents that would remain in place until June 2, 2009 when the BO is produced. It has been proposed that the RBDD gates not go down until June 15th and be raised by September 1st, reducing recent operations that had been from May 15th to September 15th. This reduction in gate operations leaves the TCCA contractors unable to meet demand from May 15th to June 15th, as such, a temporary pumping plant and fish screen system is being installed to provide an additional 500 cfs of fish friendly water (when combined with the Research Pumping Plant, diversion capability equals 965 cfs after this installation for diversions of fish friendly water when the gates are not in). Peak irrigation during this time can reach as high as 1600 cfs. Jeff has great concerns with this extension relating to further requests by Plaintiffs for injunctive relief for interim remedies until such time as the biological opinion is completed. It is anticipated that the Plaintiffs major focus would likely be the Red Bluff Diversion Dam operations, Shasta operations related to coldwater carryover, and Delta exports.

C. Communications:

NRCS-Agricultural Water Enhancement Program - Stacy Kavanaugh, NRCS informed everyone this is a new program that was developed last year. The applications need to be turned in by March 2, 2009. There is \$58.4 million dollars available nationwide. It a ranking process similar to the EQUIP program.

D. Member Reports:

1. Mike Vereschagin mentioned that he has been re-working some of his wells and found they are down 30 feet from the historical levels. One well he is trying to take out of retirement was pumped for 5 minutes and it starting sucking air.

The next WAC Meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2009 at 1:30 pm.

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

Adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Sincerely submitted by,

Tina Brothers, WAC/TAC Secretary