

# GLENN COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Glenn County Department of Agriculture  
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## MINUTES

Meeting Date: May 6, 2014

Time: 1:30 pm

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

### Water Advisory Committee Members Present:

Larry Domenighini	Glenn County Farm Bureau
Mark Lohse	BOS District 5 Private Pumpers
Bruce Roundy	Resource Conservation District
Mike Vereschagin	TC Canal Authority Districts
John Garner	At-large private pumper
Ken Sullivan	Orland Water Users Association

### Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

Roy Hull	Department of Water Resources
Ben Pennock	Central Area
Kevin Backus	Glenn County Env. Health
Jim Donnelly	Glenn Co. Ag Commissioner

### Water Advisory Committee Members Absent:

David Alves	Central River Irrigation Districts
Sandy Willard-Denn	GCID
Darin Titus	Private Pumper
Ted Trimble	Western Canal Water District
Mike Alves	TC Canal Authority Districts

### Others in Attendance:

Lisa Hunter	Glenn Co. Ag Dept.
Brian Taylor	Glenn Co. Ag Dept.
Rosanna Marino	Cal Water
Vickie Newlin	Butte County
Kevin Kibby	USBR
Matt Gomes	Glenn County P&PWA

- I. INTRODUCTIONS: Those in attendance introduced themselves.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Draft minutes from the previous meetings on June 11, 2013 and February 11, 2014 meetings were approved as submitted. The minutes from the July 2013 meeting were unavailable.
- III. AGENDA ITEMS:

**A. Public Comment:** None.

### **B. Discussion & Action Items:**

#### **1. Update on member vacancies**

Three applications for the vacancies were received, one from Robert Vlach for the at-large North Area TAC position, one from Ken Babbitt, for the North Area TAC (although he was also willing to consider the at-large WAC position), and one from John Brooks for the at-large North Area TAC as well. The committee resolved to recommend Mr. Brooks for the TAC due to his technical background as a geologist and Mr. Vlach for the at-large WAC position rather than the TAC position due to the availability of other candidates for the TAC.

## 2. Drought Conditions Update

The allotment for the TC irrigation district remains at 0% although some transfers are occurring to bring water in to the districts. The allotment for the Orland Unit is approximately 2 acre-feet per acre. About 3,000 acres are being fallowed or irrigated with well water. It is expected that many orchards will utilize groundwater in addition to surface water if possible, and that some growers may minimize water use by pre-emptively taking out their oldest orchards, mitigating the need for irrigation. Conversely, Western Canal will receive 100% allocation due to recent inflows. GCID is at 75% (4.1 AF/deeded acre), although delivery is proceeding slower than usual.

## 3. Spring 2014 Groundwater Level Measurements

Roy Hull distributed change maps for the 2014 groundwater levels in the Northern Sacramento Valley, using 2004 (a relatively normal year) as a reference point. The changes in levels varied according to location and depth, although the general county-wide trend was indicative of overall decline on groundwater levels. Lisa Hunter discussed 2014 BMO stage alert levels; maps of BMO wells within the county indicating the stage alert levels were included in the agenda packets.

There was some discussion of revising the BMO levels and the involvement of the WAC and the TAC in that process. It was determined that a county-wide review and/or revision utilizing cumulative frequency curves should be considered, with the TAC working on the specifics of the revisions using the ad hoc committee action list as a guide. The TAC will provide periodic updates prior to presenting their final suggestions to the WAC, which would subsequently make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, with a goal to be completed by the end of 2014.

There was also some discussion of whether adaptive management is necessitated by the current stage III alerts in several regions. Because of the general lack of confidence in the current BMO levels and actions associated with them, it was determined that overt regulation of groundwater use would be problematic and should be postponed until the BMO levels and management protocols are adequately reviewed. In the meantime, an emphasis should be placed on the use of voluntary cooperation among growers and water users.

## 4. Reports

The Technical Advisory Committee recommendations to the Water Advisory Committee included in the agenda packet were incorporated into the preceding sections.

The agenda packet also included a draft of the Ad Hoc Committee's report addressing Groundwater/Surface Water Modeling and the Water Budget, Cost Study Analysis, Recharge Activities, Surface Water Use, Coordination, Outreach, and Education, Mapping, Basin Management Objectives (overlapping to some extent with the preceding section) and County Governance Options. The WAC approved the report and recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt the report. Additionally, the WAC reviewed and approved the Ad Hoc Committee's "action list" and determined that the Ad Hoc Committee should continue to meet and address the issues discussed in the report.

**C. Communications:** None.

### **D. Member Reports:**

Rosana Marino, Cal Water, briefly updated the members on the problems regarding compliance with California's new hexavalent chromium standards.

## IV. NEXT MEETINGS:

The next WAC meeting was tentatively scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup>. There was no date set for the next TAC meeting.