

GLENN COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Glenn County Department of Agriculture

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MINUTES

Meeting Date: March 13, 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 Willows
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-Codora-Glenn ID
Joel Mann	Glide Water District
Elwood Weller	Provident Irrigation District

Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

Kevin Backus	Glenn Co. Environmental Health
Andrew Farrar	East Area
Ben Pennock	Central Area

Others in Attendance:

Lester Messina	Glenn Co. Ag Dept.
Lisa Hunter	Glenn Co. Ag Dept.
Gaylee Curcio	Glenn Co. Ag Dept.
Ed Romano	Private Pumper
Roy Hull	DWR
Rick Massa	Orland Unit Water User's Assoc.
David Schmidt	Orland Artois Water District

Water Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Jere Schmitke	City of Orland
Bob Coruccini	Willow Creek Mutual Water Co
Gene Clark	Reclamation Dist. # 2106 & 1004
Wade Danley	Kanawha Water District

- I. INTRODUCTIONS: Those in attendance introduced themselves.

- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for January 10, 2012 were approved as mailed.

III. AGENDA ITEMS:

A. **Public Comment:** None.

B. **Discussion & Action Items:**

1. **BMO Revisions-sub-areas 4 & 5- TAC Recommendations**

At the February 15th meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee, the TAC discussed the comments of the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) for revisions to BMOs for Sub-areas 4&5. The TAC recommended to accept the changes as they were presented and also for Orland Artois Irrigation District to review the wells for their relevance as BMO wells and make modifications as needed.

The WAC moved to accept the revisions and to forward their recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for inclusion to Exhibit A.

2. **Report of Abnormal Groundwater Level**— The TAC received a verbal report of abnormal groundwater in the west end of Road 22. The WAC members were notified following the procedure set forth in the current groundwater ordinance. At a meeting with the individual, the names of five other people in the area who were experiencing similar problems were given. The five were contacted but decided not to follow up with filing reports.

The TAC asked the WAC for direction and after some discussion, the WAC directed the TAC to investigate further and follow-up with affected landowners.

3. **Short Year Water Outlook**

GCID reported settlement contractors will receive a 25% cut in their allocation, which may mean 10% of rice being fallowed, some pasture could be short on deliveries, growers may have to pump from their own wells, find a substitute supply, or fallow other ground if they have common land. They will know more by April 15th.

Orland Project is also short. East Park is full at a little over 40,000 acre feet. Stony Gorge is at 44,000 acre feet. Black Butte Reservoir is still less than 40,000 acre feet.

Western Canal is not as easily subject to cuts but if it was to happen, it would be half of their allocation. Their supply is dependent on the inflow to Lake Oroville, and a cut back could mean more idling in their area, more groundwater usage, or withholding irrigation on 50% of each landowner's property. They will get an update on or before April 10th.

4. **Discussion on draft Groundwater Ordinance revisions prior to referring to County**

Counsel- Since the last WAC meeting, the sub-committee has met and discussed the following revisions on:

- a. **Section 20.03.120 Action by Water Advisory Committee-** changes were suggested to streamline the language to give the WAC flexibility in responding to problems without being tied to a short time-line. With some situations needing to be resolved quickly and others needing to be investigated further, the sub-committee recommended that the change be adopted as proposed. All were in favor.
- b. **Chairmanship of the TAC-**the language in the draft ordinance stated that a member of the Board of Supervisor serve as an ex-officio member and shall be the chair. The sub-committee was concerned that the language "shall chair" implies it be mandatory which could be an issue if the Board of Supervisor appointee lacked the required experience. The Water Advisory Committee moved and all were in favor that the language be changed to "A Board member shall be appointed as an ex-officio member and may act as TAC chairman.

- c. **Change in export definition**-In the definition of export it was suggested that the following language also be included: “For the purpose of this ordinance and the Glenn County Water Export Transfer Guidelines, water agencies served by the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority are deemed to be agencies located within the County” to provide the Tehama Colusa Canal greater operational flexibility. The matter was discussed by the Orland Artois Water District Board and was also discussed at the Glenn County Farm Bureau and they are opposed to a change in definition of Export. GCID and Western Canal Water District have varying opinions on this proposal. The sub-committee recommended not moving forward with the suggested change. It was agreed to forward the document County Counsel for review.

5. **Discussion on draft Water Transfer Guidelines (or Exhibit C) revisions prior to referring to County Counsel** —only one change was proposed to the document which referred to Propositions 26 and 218 was changed to say “The County is considering the development and adoption of water transfer fees, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the County Code, and any applicable laws”. All were in agreement. It was agreed to forward the document to County Counsel for review.

C. Communications: Western Canal Water District Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration for 2012 Transfer. The district has been approached by state water contractors for 85, 000 acre feet of water through crop idling. Their Board has approved the Notice of Intent and it is now in its public review process which will end on March 20th. Other districts participating in meeting the 85,000 acre feet goal are Richvale WD, Butte WD, and Biggs-West Gridley WD under their own programs. The price for transferred water is estimated to be is \$200 per acre feet.

D. Member Reports:

- Many settlement contractors have received a public information requests from California Water Impact Network (C-WIN) for any documents that pertain to riparian or pre-1914 water rights. Over 100 requests have been made to this side of the delta. While the request will take some time to fulfill, a response from the districts is needed within 10 days to comply with the Public Records Act.
- Rick Massa reported that the Orland Project Reoperation Reservoir funded by Prop. 50 is just about completed and will be up and running this month. Automated gates will be utilized that will put excess flows back in the reservoir which will save the district 5,000 acre feet per year.
- Supervisor McDaniel invited the WAC to a hearing hosted by Congressman Logue about the Delta Plan in Chico on March 23rd from 2pm-4pm at the Chico City Hall. Congressman Logue is planning on having dignitaries from the State Water Resources Board and the Delta Stewardship Council as well as a panel of people to get feedback from the public before the 6th draft of the plan comes out. Supervisor McDaniel will be participating on the panel and would appreciate any feedback from WAC members. He also thanked the WAC for their assistance with the Ordinance revisions and Export Water Transfer Guidelines. . The NSV IRWMP Board is now reviewing its preliminary goals and objectives which may be finalized in June. The next meeting of that Board will be on May 7th at 9:00 am in Willows.

The next WAC meeting has been scheduled tentatively for June 12, 2012.

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Gaylee Curcio