# **GLENN COUNTY** WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Glenn County Department of Agriculture

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#### **MINUTES**

Meeting Date: April 13, 2010

Time: 1:30 pm

Place: Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District

> 344 East Laurel Street Willows, CA 95988

## **Water Advisory Committee Members Present:**

David Alves Princeton-Codora-Glenn ID Donnan Arbuckle Resource Conservation District Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Thad Bettner Reclamation Dist # 2106 & 1004 Gene Clark Larry Domenighini Glenn County Farm Bureau Mark Lohse **BOS** District 5 Private Pumpers Ken Sullivan Orland Unit Water Users Assoc. Western Canal Water District Ted Trimble Mike Vereschagin Orland-Artois Water District James Weber E. Corning Basin Private Pumpers

City of Orland Jere Schmitke

Elwood Weller **Provident Irrigation District** 

City of Willows Rosanna Marino

**Del Reimers** W. Colusa Basin Private Pumpers Leigh McDaniel Glenn Co. Board of Supervisors John Viegas Glenn Co. Board of Supervisors Bob Coruccini Willow Creek Mutual Water Co.

**Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:** 

Mark Black Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture

Lance Boyd South Area Ben Pennock Central Area Allan Fulton **UCCE** Andrew Farrar East

# **Water Advisory Committee Members Absent:**

Larry Maben **BOS** District 3 Private Pumpers Wade Danley Kanawha Water District

#### Others in Attendance:

Eugene Massa Jr. Colusa Basin Drainage District

Rick Massa **OUWA** Rachelle Valverde **GCID** 

Mark Atlas **PCGID & PID** 

Lester Messina Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture Lisa Hunter Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture

Don Parisio Glide Water District

Mike Alves Kanawha & Glide Water District

Gaylee Curcio Glenn Co. Ag Dept.

Vickie Newlin **Butte County** 

INTRODUCTIONS: Those in attendance introduced

themselves.

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for March 9, 2010 were approved as mailed.
- III. **AGENDA ITEMS:** 
  - A. Public Comment: None.

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

- 1. Continue Discussion on Strategic Planning for Water Resources
  - a) Update on Ordinance 1115: The Board of Supervisors is working on a draft of revisions of the original ordinance adding export guidelines information with additional suggestions from water district counsel to provide an updated ordinance. The draft will be complete in the next few weeks. The Board of Supervisors hopes to have the draft available for WAC's review in May and possible adoption by 2011 irrigation season.

Mark Atlas, speaking on behalf of clients he represents in the water districts, said that there is no crisis to solve and that the current ordinance has worked well in the past so there is no need for an updated ordinance. Supervisor McDaniel replied that the updated ordinance is in response to the public sentiment that the County is not doing enough to protect its groundwater resources. The Board of Supervisors would like to take a proactive approach and prevent state control of our groundwater. The existing ordinance does not currently have course of action in place in the event of reaching critical monitoring levels. Additionally, the Board wants to ensure that there is enough groundwater in our area for the use by local citizens before water is exported outside the area.

- b) Legislative Analyst Report March 24, 2010: The LAO has put together a report discussing possible changes to some of our water laws. Some of the highlights of this report are: the need to establish active management areas (AMA) while still having some local control, the current legal distinction between percolating groundwater and subterranean streams is removed, and groundwater permitting from a region or statewide basis. Committee members believe that the recommendations presented in the report are indications of things to come down the road and we should be prepared.
- 2. **Spring Groundwater Measurements** Established BMO wells in Sub-areas 8, 9, and 10 have been modified recently to a more uniform method of evaluation for spring groundwater level measurements. In Sub-area 10, the spring elevations on the three wells are at a BMO stage 1-2 and one is very close to BMO level 3. In Sub-area 9 one well is below the BMO stage 1-2 and all wells in Sub-area 8 are above Stage 1-2. In Sub-area 5 (Orland-Artois) six of the wells are below BMO stage 1-2 and two are below BMO stage 3. Some of the wells have come up from last year but not enough to take them out of the stage alert. Supervisor McDaniel suggested that maybe affordable surface water might help this area. There were no recommendations forwarded by the WAC, but the discussion will be continued at the TAC later in the month.

### 3. 2010 Water Transfers

a. Thad Bettner gave a power point presentation on GCID's upcoming water transfer to south of Delta Ag contractors for the purchase of around 20,000 acre feet. The transferred water would be replaced with landowner wells in the district thus making it a groundwater substitution program. Sixteen wells have been selected for continuous pumping in a three-month period (July-September) but are still being evaluated to see if they meet approved criteria. The draft initial study and negative declaration documents are available on the GCID website. GCID is still awaiting approvals from USBR, Glenn County APCD, and GCID Board. Thad also discussed how GCID would allocate revenue from the water transfer. Landowners would receive \$100 per acre foot to pay for all their pumping cost, well maintenance, etc. GCID would also allocate \$100 per acre foot towards district operational costs, district reserves, and more recently, towards a new monitoring/ mitigating fund to offset third party impacts and regional sustainability. GCID has set this fund aside for further research, more monitoring wells, more data loggers and the like, investing in the protection and enhancement of groundwater to ensure its availability for years to come.

- **b.** RD 1004 was not able to attend the meeting so they were not able to provide a presentation however they did submit a letter stating their intent to participate in south of Delta substitution program involving 10,000 acre feet for water transfer.
- **4. Sub-area 8 (Capay) Recharge Project** —Lester Messina gave a quick update on this project; he has been working with Kelly of DWR in her new role as Chief of the groundwater section in the northern district. The contract is intended to begin July 1<sup>st</sup> and will probably be an 18-month project spread out over two fiscal years.
- **5. Private Pumper Organizational Outreach** –In connection with the Sub-area 8 project, Lester asked the WAC if a sub-committee of private pumpers be formed to help private pumpers in their area develop a level of organization. Those called out to be part of the sub-committee were: Del Reimers, Mark Lohse, James Weber, and Larry Maben. None declined.
- **6. Prop. 84 Regional Water Management Group** A steering committee composed of Thad Bettner, Jeff Sutton, Lance Boyd, Kandi Manhart, Mark Black, Gene Massa, Rick Massa, Sue King, and Mike Alves met with West Yost to discuss the options for governance. Lester asked that members of the WAC review the technical memo submitted by West Yost and forward any comments to him.

#### 7. AB 303 Ideas

- a. Aquifer Performance Tests in Tehama formation-a grant document to perform aquifer performance testing in the Tehama formation was developed previously but the work was not performed. In hindsight, Lester feels this would have allowed better monitoring of all wells that have gone in and made predicting consequences easier. Vickie Newlin mentioned that the PSP draft will be released in November of the fiscal year so money from AB 303 will not be available until 2011.
- b. Water Filtration along TC Canal: Grants or low interest loans may be available where local water districts may be able to improve water filtration along the TC Canal. There are times in the year when the water quality in the TC Canal is so poor that growers are not using the surface water and resorting to groundwater pumping instead of using their full allocations. Filtration of the canal water could help reduce algae in the water increasing the quality of the water for irrigation. Combined with education on the impact of groundwater pumping, growers could be more acceptable of canal water and be encouraged to turn off their pumps. In a related issue it was suggested that Ag Department may provide some assistance for anyone wanting to apply for AWEP funds through the NRCS.

#### C. Communications:

- a) GCID has completed their CEQA Document and Notice of Completion for 2010 SLDMWA Transfer
- b) RD 1004 has submitted a letter of intent from proposing to participate in 2010 SLDMWA Transfer

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

- 1. Western Canal Water District will be participating in a rice idling water transfer this year, about 17,000 acre feet which is just 10% of rice acreages in their district similar to other idling programs. They do not have a groundwater component.
- 2. Mike Vereschagin reported that the Tehama Colusa Canal had a ribbon cutting ceremony for their Red Bluff plant about three weeks ago. About 200 people turned out including the Governor.

3. Supervisor McDaniel reported that Glenn County voted to withdraw from NCWA. The Board of Supervisors felt that the Northern Sacramento Valley Regional Water Management Group was a better format for regional planning and GCID along with TCCA effectively express our local concerns in water rights discussions in other arenas. Budget constraints were also a reason for withdrawing from membership.

The next WAC Meeting was scheduled for June 8th at 1:30 pm.

The next TAC Meeting has not been scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 3:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted by, Gaylee Curcio