

**GLENN COUNTY  
WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Glenn County Department of Agriculture  
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**MINUTES**

Meeting Date: September 14, 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
Thad Bettner	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Gene Clark	Reclamation Dist # 2106 & 1004
Ted Trimble	Western Canal Water District
Mike Vereschagin	Orland-Artois Water District
Jere Schmitke	City of Orland
Elwood Weller	Provident Irrigation District
Rosanna Marino	City of Willows
Del Reimers	W. Colusa Basin Private Pumpers
Leigh McDaniel	Glenn Co. Board of Supervisors
Joel Mann	Glide Water District
Larry Maben	BOS District 3 Private Pumpers

**Water Advisory Committee Members Absent:**

Larry Domenighini	Glenn County Farm Bureau
Wade Danley	Kanawha Water District
John Viegas	Glenn Co. Board of Supervisors
Bob Coruccini	Willow Creek Mutual Water Co
Mark Lohse	BOS District 5 Private Pumpers
Ken Sullivan	Orland Unit Water Users Assoc.

**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

**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
Eric Miller	MPM Engineering
Debbie Spangler	DWR
James Weber	E. Corning Basin Private Pumpers
Jeff Sutton	TCCA
Bruce Roundy	City of Orland

- I. INTRODUCTIONS: Those in attendance introduced themselves.
  
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for April 13, 2010 were approved as mailed.
  
- III. AGENDA ITEMS:

**A. Public Comment:** None.

**B. Discussion & Action Items:**

**1. CA Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program (CASGEM) – County Options for Participation**

- a) Debbie Spangler with DWR Northern District gave a power point presentation on the state mandated monitoring of groundwater levels based on the new legislation SBX7 6. DWR will continue monitoring that it currently does but local agencies need to organize themselves into a single monitoring entity, multiple monitoring entities, or an umbrella entity and submit their intent to DWR by the January 2011 deadline. The monitoring entity also needs to develop a monitoring program capable of representing their groundwater basin(s). DWR will assist in the development of the monitoring program. Debbie went over the requirements on becoming a monitoring entity and the basics on what would be necessary for a monitoring plan. If there is no interest, then the county will become ineligible for state loans and grants.

Glenn County intends to coordinate with others in the County in an effort to become a single monitoring entity and continue discussions with IRWM partners for the regional perspective.

- 2. **Update on the status of the draft ordinance**— With the focus being on budget the past couple of months, the draft ordinance has been delayed at the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Leigh McDaniel anticipated that a working document for internal review could be available at the end of September, at which time, the rest of the Board could see if they are all in favor of it, then the document can come to the WAC for further comments. With the WAC planning to meet again on October 12<sup>th</sup>, it might be a tight deadline. Leigh McDaniel will check with County Counsel.

**3. Summer Groundwater Measurements and Summer BMOs-**

- a. Kelly Staton provided tables of water levels of 5 Northern Sacramento counties comparing summer groundwater measurements from last year to this year (August to August). The overall groundwater elevation change by well use is up 4 ft from last year in Glenn County. Looking at all aquifer intervals at different well depths, Kelly concluded that water levels are up 10 feet in the mid-range and deep zones. Comparing this year to 2004 (which was considered as the last normal year in the Sacramento Valley hydrologic index), Glenn County was down 6 feet. While the water level declines have stabilized, they are still low.
- b. Lester reported that at the last TAC meeting in June, the TAC looked at several wells with the intent to convert these wells into Summer BMOs. The TAC decided to postpone that task and instead focus on how the current wells responded to more precipitation in an effort to evaluate the method used to establish the BMOs. As it is, some dedicated monitoring wells are adhering to the method, but in groundwater dependent areas in the county they are still falling below the established BMO. Lester also mentioned that a couple steel-cased dedicated monitoring wells used for summer BMO measurements need repair and have been taken off the monitoring grid for now.

- 4. **Annual Water Quality Monitoring** — For the past seven years, the Ag department collected data on temperature, pH, and EC from select group of domestic, agricultural, and industrial wells from different areas of the county for water quality. Currently only one well needs to be monitored for this year to be completed. The TAC previously decided to collect ten years worth of data so that two five-year averages can be compared to see if it will help establish a BMO for water quality.

## 5. TAC Memo

- a. **Modeling Request** –Lester has requested a cost estimate for modeling based on TAC recommendations but funding still needs to be identified. The TAC feels it is necessary to get modeling done by early next year at the latest. Despite a good rain year, some BMOs may still end up in a stage 3 alert. If modeling is performed, a regulatory approach could be avoided to address the stage alert issue and at the same time answer the question of whether or not the BMOs are too restrictive.
  - b. **District Water Use Request** - At the last TAC meeting, the group has discussed the need to obtain copies of water use information they provide to DWR and/or the Bureau of Reclamation detailing the amount of water used on crops and acreage. A memo requesting the information will be re-sent to WAC members.
6. **Subsidence Survey Update**– The data from the March 2008 subsidence survey has been submitted to and accepted by the National Geodetic Survey. In comparing the data set from 2004 with 2008, there does not appear to be any measurable subsidence. A complete report is due out soon.
7. **Sites Reservoir JPA**—Glenn and Colusa Counties along with Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Reclamation District 108, Tehama Colusa Canal Authority, Maxwell Irrigation District, and Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District have joined to form a Joint Exercise Powers Agreement to act as the overseeing administrative group relating to the Sites Reservoir project. Supervisor Leigh McDaniel expressed his regret that some interested groups were not allowed to participate due to legal restrictions barring non-government agencies from active participation, but will continue to keep these groups involved as they move along in the process. Thad Bettner announced that the next JPA meeting will be next Monday at the Glenn County BOS Chambers. The agenda will be posted at their website [www.sitesjpa.net](http://www.sitesjpa.net).
8. **Prop 84-Regional Water Management Group**—The Regional Water Management Group is moving forward with submitting an IRWMP grant proposal to DWR. The counties of Butte, Glenn, Colusa, Tehama, Sutter, and Shasta have contributed funds to retain West Yost to provide consulting services to help with preparation and submittal. Lester has previously provided the committee the West Yost technical memorandum with suggested governing options for the region. Counties have started in the process of selecting representatives for appointment by their Boards of Supervisors to serve on the governing board. Once accepted, this will be a two-year process capped at \$ 1 million with a 25% cost share by local entities. The proposal is due September 28, 2010 and by January 2011, it will be determined if our region is funded.
9. **Delta Flow Criteria-Draft Criteria adopted by SWRCB** – Thad Bettner gave an update on the State Water Resources Board’s Draft Delta Flow Criteria released last month. The draft calls for taking about 75% of unimpaired flow from the Sacramento Valley watershed from November to June would have to go out as Delta outflow leaving only 25% available for diversion, which alone is not enough to cover the Sacramento Valley much less south of Sacramento diversions. The report is very problematic, for one, Delta smelt is the driver and not salmon. The draft report will now go to Department of Fish and Game and from there, the Delta Stewardship Council for further review. Thad feels that the county needs to really weigh heavily into this due to the economic impact and other domino effects it will create, for example more groundwater pumping and the effect it may have on streams, and so on. After tossing around a few ideas, the WAC recommended that the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the WAC and all irrigation districts, send a letter to the Stewardship Council expressing their concerns on the draft delta flow criteria report. All were in favor.

**C. Communications:**

**RD 1004 report of participation in the 2009 SLDMWA Transfer** - RD 1004 entered into a groundwater substitution program last year for the drought water bank. The report provided by MBK engineers for RD 1004 was very comprehensive and was only missing weekly extraction amount required by the Glenn County Groundwater Ordinance.

**D. Member Reports:**

a) Thad Bettner reported that the state's Little Hoover Commission came out with new governance restructuring proposals which include renaming Department of Water Resources to Department of Water Management, taking state water projects out of DWR, splitting up DWR with a division for water planning, water measurement and water diversion and having water rights under the division of water management with the goal of having the sole responsibility of overseeing water use and letting entities like the State Water Resource Board make policy decisions. Thad thought the recommendations were good.

b) Rick Massa reported that after a year and a half delay the Orland Unit Water Users Association will proceed with building the proposed regulating reservoir in their district.

c) Mike Vereschagin announced the retirement of Mark Black, Agricultural Commissioner. He expressed his appreciation of Mark and wished him well on his retirement.

The next WAC Meeting was scheduled tentatively for October 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm.

The next TAC Meeting has been scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 2:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Gaylee Curcio