

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

720 North Colusa St., P.O. Box 351, Willows, CA 95988

Phone: (530) 934-6501 Fax: (530) 934-6503

E-mail: wateradv@countyofglenn.net Web Page: www.glenncountywater.org

MINUTES

Meeting Date: January 12, 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
Thad Bettner	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Gene Clark	Reclamation Dist # 2106 & 1004
Larry Domenighini	Glenn County Farm Bureau
Mark Lohse	BOS Dist. 5 Private Pumpers
Larry Maben	BOS Dist. 3 Private Pumpers
Leigh McDaniel	Glenn County Supervisor
Ken Sullivan	Orland Unit Water Users Assoc.
Ted Trimble	Western Canal Water District
Mike Vereschagin	Orland-Artois Water District
James Weber	E. Corning Basin Private Pumpers
Joel Mann	Glide Water District
Jere Schmitke	City of Orland
Elwood Weller	Provident Irrigation District
Del Reimers	W. Colusa Basin Private Pumpers

Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

Mark Black	Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture
Lance Boyd	South Area
Ben Pennock	Central Area
George Wilson	North Area
Kelley Staton	DWR/ND
Allan Fulton	UC Coop. Extension

Others in Attendance:

John Viegas	Glenn Co. Supervisor
Lisa Hunter	Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture
Eugene Massa Jr.	Colusa Basin Drainage District
Lester Messina	Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture
Bruce Roundy	City of Orland
Rick Massa	Ouwua
Dan Kennedy	Grower
Eric Miller	MPM Engineering
Rachelle Valverde	GCID
Sue King	OAWD

Water Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Bob Coruccini	Willow Creek Mutual Water Co.
Wade Danley	Kanawha Water District
Rosanna Marino	City of Willows
Jack Baber	Reclamation District No. 1004

- I. INTRODUCTIONS: Those in attendance introduced themselves.

- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for October 13, 2009 were approved.

III. AGENDA ITEMS:

A. **Public Comment:** None.

B. **Discussion & Action Items:**

1. **Continue Discussion on Strategic Planning for Water Resources –**

- a) **Water Transfer Guidelines:** Thad Bettner brought up that in bringing the Draft Water Transfer Guidelines to their attorneys, some legal issues were identified which were addressed in a joint letter from GCID, PCGID, and PID brought to the committee that morning. Another concern is that the Draft Water Transfer Guidelines has gone beyond the original purpose of the ordinance and is causing discomfort to some of its members. Lance Boyd indicated that there is a need to get back into protecting groundwater which transfers are not part of. Larry Domenighini believes there is a link between the groundwater ordinance and water transfers since the original document that became the ordinance focuses on water transfers. The development of a funding mechanism is another concern. There was discussion on whether or not it would have to go through a Prop 218 process and be put before the voters. Lester pointed out that the Draft Water Transfer Guidelines addresses the Board of Supervisors requirement for the WAC to come up with a funding mechanism to support its activities without dependence on the general fund. If the fee component of the guidelines is removed, the members will consider it after additional review by County Counsel, Board of Supervisors and the WAC sub-committee. A motion was made and seconded and all members were in agreement that is the next action to take.

Supervisor Leigh Mc Daniel indicated that there is a need to show local ability in the management of groundwater to prevent further state involvement in the future; the development of Water Transfer Guidelines puts the County in that direction.

- b) **Board of Supervisors Meeting Discussions -** At the December 16th, 2009 meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved a position reallocation for the Ag Dept. for additional part-time staff for Water Resources. On January 5th, 2010 the Board also appointed another supervisor liaison for the Ag Dept. and Water Resources. John Viegas and Leigh McDaniel will now be liaisons to the Ag Dept.
2. **Capay Recharge Project -** Some administrative hurdles need to be overcome but the project has been approved by DWR and is being pursued aggressively by the Ag. Dept. on behalf of the WAC. The project tasks consist of outreach, landowner participation, land and water use surveys, benefit analysis, concept design, and funding identification. A block of water will be identified for the project; feasibility studies have not been done nor has a specific amount of water or infrastructure needs been identified.
3. **Private Pumper Organizational Outreach –** It has been recognized that there is a huge need for further outreach and a greater level of organization be developed in the private pumper districts of: East Corning Private Pumpers, Board of Supervisors District 5 Private Pumpers, and Board of Supervisors District 3 Private Pumpers. The outreach will involve meetings providing a forum for discussion, and other activities that will allow private pumpers to be better informed on local, regional, and state wide issues of importance relating to water.
4. **BMO Revisions: Recommendations for TAC -** The following changes were made to provide more clarity to the original BMOs established for Sub-areas 8, 9, & 10. The BMOs are now

standardized and utilize spring measurements and the average/standard deviation method similar to the majority of other Sub-area BMOs. The period of record was changed from 1976-1997 to 1976-2009 and actions were identified at alert stages. At Stage 1 the action taken will be informational to the WAC and by press release or other means of public notification. At Stage 2 the action taken will be informational as previously described and investigational by the TAC. At Stage 3 alert the action will be similar to Stage 2, but additional action taken will which may include voluntary conservation measures, redistribution, or reduction of groundwater extraction and/or other measure(s) referred to or identified in Ordinance 1115 as recommended by the WAC and approved by the Board of Supervisors.

5. **Prop. 84 Regional Acceptance Process** - Butte County has diverted \$50,000 of its grant money for the Lower Tuscan Recharge Project to hire a consultant to assist with the development of components necessary to comply with Prop. 84. West Yost Associates of Davis has been hired and will be working with all members of the Regional Water Management Group to discuss initial ideas for a regional governing structure.
6. **SB 6 Groundwater** - The legislature has passed a bill (SB6) requiring groundwater monitoring and reporting. With the network of dedicated wells we have in our county, we are in a very good position to provide what is necessary. This is the first legislation that addresses groundwater monitoring in where the county could be responsible for providing what is required. The bill prioritizes the most critical groundwater basins first and it involves looking at existing monitoring grids for adequacy. Kelly Staton will be going to Sacramento to obtain information on this bill and will come back to the committee with updates.
7. **Fall Groundwater Measurements** - Kelly Staton compared the groundwater statistics from this fall with last fall and this fall with the fall of 2004 which was close to a normal year. Considering static groundwater measurements and not including wells pumped recently, she reported that the whole northern Sacramento Valley was down 0.7 feet. Glenn County was down 2 feet this year compared to last year and down 5 feet from 2004. If anyone wants the specific data, it is available by request from Kelly or online at the DWR website.
8. **2010 Water Transfers** – Western Canal and GCID are considering a small scale water transfers during 2010. All required environmental documentation has not been completed and the specific amount of water to be transferred will depend on allocation, the price, and interest of landowners willing to participate. Thad mentioned that the Bureau of Reclamation has put out an EIR and FONSI for public review of water transfers by Sacramento River water diverters and contractors. Potential sellers were asked up to how much water they were willing to transfer in a given year. Response indicated 200,000 acre feet could be made available, half from fallowing and the other half from groundwater pumping. Interested districts will need to provide their own CEQA documents. Potential buyers from River contractors do not want water from land fallowing due to pumping restrictions, release timing, and temperature requirements. Last year buyers were not able to receive half of fallowed land water sold to them.

C. Communications: None.

D. Member Reports:

1. Leigh McDaniel reported that Lester will now be spending 100% of his time in Water and a part-time employee has been added on staff.
2. Leigh McDaniel also reported on a concept ordinance probably going to be titled “Well Proximity Ordinance”. New wells going in will undergo further review for possible impact to neighboring wells, which will not be a problem in areas of abundant groundwater but more

caution will be involved in sensitive areas that have seen a reduction in groundwater levels. This ordinance will not be prohibiting new wells from going in but will be restricting location or size of well, pump size, and amount of water to be extracted. Not a retroactive ordinance to affect existing wells, the ordinance will possibly be affecting new industrial wells coming into Glenn County. The ordinance will come to the WAC before final approval with the Board of Supervisors.

The next WAC Meeting was scheduled tentatively for March 9th at 1:30 pm.

The next TAC Meeting has not been scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 3:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Gaylee Curcio