

GLENN COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Glenn County Department of Agriculture
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MINUTES

Meeting Date: February 8, 2011

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
Gene Clark	Reclamation Dist # 2106 & 1004
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
Elwood Weller	Provident Irrigation District
Joel Mann	Glide Water District
Mark Lohse	BOS District 5 Private Pumpers
David Alves	Princeton Irrigation District
Mike Alves for Wade Danley	Kanawha & Glide Water District
Ken Sullivan	Orland Unit Water Users Assoc.
Del Reimers	W. Colusa Basin Private Pumpers

Water Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Jere Schmitke	City of Orland
James Weber	E. Corning Basin Private Pumpers
Bob Coruccini	Willow Creek Mutual Water Co.
Thad Bettner	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
John Viegas	Glenn Co. Board of Supervisors

Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

Lance Boyd	South Area
Allan Fulton	UCCE
Andrew Farrar	East
Kevin Backus	Glenn Co. Environmental Health
Kelly Staton	DWR
George Wilson	North Area

Others in Attendance:

Bob Niblack	DWR
Judy Brown	Tehama County Flood Control
Lester Messina	Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture
Sandy Denn	GCID
Eric Miller	MPM Engineering
Dave Zuber	Brown & Caldwell
Gaylee Curcio	Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture
Lisa Hunter	Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture
Jean Miller	Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture
Mark Atlas	PCGID & PID
John Ayres	Brown & Caldwell

- I. INTRODUCTIONS: Those in attendance introduced themselves.

- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for November 10, 2010 were approved as mailed.

- III. AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Public Comment: None.

B. Discussion & Action Items: (Revised agenda order)

1. WAC Chairman Selection

The committee moved that Larry Domenighini be the new Chairman of the WAC and Thad Bettner remain as Vice Chairman. All were in favor.

Larry Domenighini will be presiding the meeting at the next gathering of the WAC.

- 2. Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Tehama County**—John Ayres with Brown & Caldwell gave a presentation on the work he has been doing with Tehama County for a “screening study” for groundwater recharge and identified areas of potential. John went over the methods he used and the data collected, and what he will be doing next with the results.
- 3. Groundwater Recharge Feasibility-E. Corning Basin** -Last month, DWR got the contract moving and the details dialed in. The contract with DWR has already been accepted by the Board of Supervisors. When the contract comes back from Sacramento, the Ag Department will begin assessing consultants for the project. Tasks for the project include: outreach, land and water use surveys, detailed well inventories, and canal surveys; analyze delivery options by comparing surface water cost versus groundwater pumping cost to get the benefits; perform administrative functions; and determine the cost of infrastructure and funding sources. If anyone is interested in viewing the contract details, it is available on the Glenn County website under the January 18th Board Agenda Item Transmittal.
- 4. Draft Revisions to Ordinance** —Supervisor McDaniel reported that the ordinance is still in the comment/feedback stage. A three phase approach is being taken on the ordinance: 1st phase will focus on the export component, 2nd phase will focus on issues internal to the county which include aquifer and water issues, and 3rd phase will focus on qualitative and quantitative discussion on water quality impacts and land subsidence. The WAC reiterated their concern over the lack of stakeholders in the make-up of the TAC and the new structure of the TAC reporting directly to the Board bypassing the WAC. Supervisor McDaniel responded that the structure is being changed to streamline the process and the ordinance is being revised to allow a better process and clear direction on what to do should groundwater issues come up in the county.

Mark Atlas feels that the irrigation districts would be less skeptical of the ordinance if they got a better sense of what the problems were and wants evidence that there is in fact a groundwater crisis. Supervisor McDaniel feels that there is a tremendous amount of dichotomy between water users and the irrigation districts in their perceptions of the state of groundwater in the county. There is also a lack of trust. The Board of Supervisors hopes to address these issues more extensively at the next meeting with the group of lawyers from the districts and County Counsel.

- 5. Cumulative Frequency and Depth Distribution of Wells in the County** —The TAC has been working on developing a level of risk analysis for the BMO wells currently being used with a concept based on some work being done in Tehama County by Allan Fulton. In addition to the risk analysis using the cumulative frequency and depth distribution, the TAC has also been comparing established BMO wells and the dedicated monitoring wells within approximately 2 miles of the BMO well to determine if the wells are comparable and can be used for BMOs.

Ted Trimble commented that this method could be problematic in areas with very little groundwater fluctuations. In his district for example, where the standard deviation is 1 foot, when the levels drop two feet, it would cause an alert stage which is hardly reasonable for a two-foot fluctuation. Lester responded that having a cumulative frequency graph which show how many wells are above or below the curve and how much deeper you have to go before you affect any wells, will provide a better analysis. The goal in doing this study is to come up with a BMO level

that is realistic so that levels actually tell people what is going on, avoiding an alert level when there is no problem or vice versa.

6. **NSV RWMG Update:** Lester Messina reported that all counties have seated their three governing board members. Supervisor McDaniel was appointed as interim chair. A sub-committee discussed how the governing board will move forward on developing a technical committee to assist them. Supervisor McDaniel hopes that the committee will become a group of cross-section people who will be holding a lot of open meetings and large public forums to get input from all walks of life. Butte County has set up a website for this group through the Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation. Their next governing board meeting is scheduled for March 7th in Redding.

D. Member Reports:

- a. Kelly Staton with DWR announced that her department has been divided into two departments: Groundwater Geologic section and Data Management section. She heads the Geologic Division and Bill Ehorn is the Data Collection manager. The WAC should expect to see Bill Ehorn at the meetings. Also a new face who will be coming is Debbie Spangler who will be taking Kelly's place.
- b. Supervisor McDaniel announced (at the early part of the meeting) that the Board of Supervisors will be holding a Water Workshop which be held on the March 1st Board of Supervisors meeting from 1:00 pm-3:00 pm.

The next WAC and TAC meetings have not been scheduled at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Gaylee Curcio