

# Joint CGA/GGA Executive Committee Meeting

September 22, 2017 | 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room, 100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932

## MEETING MINUTES

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### **In Attendance:**

**CGA:** Denise Carter (Chair, County of Colusa), Hilary Reinhard (Vice Chair, RD 108), Lance Boyd (Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District and Provident Irrigation District), Bruce Rolon (Glenn Colusa Irrigation District), Dan Ruiz (Westside Water District and Maxwell Irrigation District), Knute Meyers (Colusa County Water District), Mary Fahey (CGA Program Manager)

**GGA:** John Viegas (Vice Chair, County of Glenn), Leslie Nerli (Glide Water District), Lisa Hunter (GGA Program Manager)

**Others in Attendance:** Bill Vanderwaal (RD 108), Roy Hull, (DWR NRO)

### **1. Call To Order**

Denise Carter, Chair of the Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA) opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

### **2. Approval Of Agenda**

Moved to approve by Dan Ruiz, seconded by John Viegas, passed unanimously

### **3. Period Of Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **4. General Updates**

#### **a. GGA Subcommittees**

Lisa Hunter provided an update on the Glenn Groundwater Authority Subcommittee activities. The GGA initially created an Executive Committee that has since been split into two groups: a Technical Committee to coordinate with CGA on SGMA Work Plans and Prop. 1 application, and an Executive Committee that will focus on policy and inter-GSA issues.

A Budget Subcommittee has met and finalized the GGA budget which has been approved by the Board.

The GGA also has a Legal Counsel Subcommittee which is working on finalizing an RFP for general legal counsel for the GGA. This Subcommittee has been authorized to issue the RFP and make a selection for recommendation to the GGA Board in November.

A joint meeting with the CGA and GGA Technical Committees was held on September 12 and a recommendation was made to sole source Davids Engineering, Inc. to write the Proposition 1 grant proposal for GSP development. This item has been approved by the GGA Board, not to exceed \$5,000 without prior approval.

b. CGA Subcommittees

Mary Fahey provided an update on the Colusa Groundwater Authority Subcommittee activities. The CGA has formed an Executive Committee that will work on policy issues, develop Board agendas and coordinate with Glenn County. A “Work Plan” Subcommittee was also formed that will act as a technical committee. The CGA has authorized this committee to develop and issue an RFP for a Water Budget, which will be discussed later in today’s agenda.

A Legal Review subcommittee was formed and this committee is working on an RFP for general legal counsel for the CGA. The RFP is scheduled to be issued on Oct. 11. They anticipate the CGA will have Counsel in place in early/mid-November.

The CGA also has an Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) Subcommittee to coordinate with EDF on their project to develop an open source ET Data platform. An initial phone meeting with EDF is scheduled for Oct. 5.

c. Facilitation Support Services

Ms. Fahey reported that the Contract/Work Order for facilitation support services for the Colusa Subbasin has been approved and signed off by DWR. She has not seen the final scope of work. The focus of this round of facilitation will be on work at the subcommittee level, coordination between the CGA and GGA, coordination with the surrounding counties of Butte and Yolo, and public outreach.

Ms. Hunter mentioned that she is trying to schedule Mr. Ceppos for a SGMA 101 presentation at the October 9 GGA Board meeting. He is confirmed to provide the same presentation at the CGA Board meeting on October 26. Ms. Fahey and Ms. Hunter will encourage Board members to attend presentation at either the GGA or the CGA Board meeting.

**5. Basin Wide Coordination, Colusa Subbasin**

**a. Proposition 1 Grant Application for GSP Development**

i. Recommendation for CGA and GGA Boards: Grant Writer – Lead Agency

Discussion was held regarding a recommendation from the joint CGA/GGA Technical Committees to hire a grant writer for Proposition 1 funding for GSP development for the Colusa Subbasin, and to sole source Davids Engineering, Inc. Davids Engineering, Inc. provided a proposal for the group’s

consideration. The group agreed that hiring a grant writer would be beneficial and that in order to meet the tight deadline of November 13 for submittal of the proposal, Davids Engineering, Inc. could be sole sourced to write the proposal. Davids Engineering has already completed a GSP Work Plan and Sustainability Indicator Risk Assessment for both Colusa and Glenn Counties which both tie into the grant proposal. By writing the proposal, Davids Engineering, Inc. will not be prohibited from responding to an RFP should the Colusa Subbasin receive grant funding for GSP development.

Ms. Fahey explained that Davids Engineering has asked that they contract with just one agency (CGA or GGA) and the other agency can reimburse for their share. A special meeting of the CGA Board will be held Monday, September 25. The group agreed, for efficiency, to place an item on the CGA Board agenda to approve the CGA contracting with Davids Engineering for grant writing services and the GGA will reimburse the CGA for half of the final cost.

Ms. Fahey will obtain a complete contract packet from Davids Engineering, Inc. for presentation at the CGA Special Board meeting on September 25. Ms. Hunter will place an item on the GGA agenda on October 9 to amend the cost of grant writing services to match to the proposal.

ii. Recommendation for CGA and GGA Boards: Prop. 1 Lead Agency/Applicant

Ms. Fahey and Ms. Hunter agreed that the grant Applicant and Grant Administrator should be one and the same. Ms. Fahey explained that DWR requires Applicants to have 3 years of financial history. She had heard that DWR might waive this requirement since mostly newly formed GSAs will be applying. If one of the GSAs is the initial applicant, there should be an agency identified as a back-up applicant in case DWR does not waive the financial history requirement.

iii. Recommendation for CGA and GGA Boards: Prop. 1 Grant Administrator

Ms. Carter mentioned that Colusa County has the capacity to administer the Prop. 1 grant. Ms. Fahey said that the County Auditor could likely handle the financial reporting and staff could provide the other reporting requirements, but it will be a lot of work. Ms. Carter suggested that Colusa County takes on grant administration. Ms. Hunter said that there will still be coordination between the two GSAs.

It was decided to recommend the CGA as the applicant with the County of Colusa as the backup applicant, and the County of Colusa as Administrator of the grant. This could be changed at a later time if needed.

iv. Cost share tracking – standardized reporting method

This item was a reminder to the CGA and GGA Executive Committees that JPA members should be tracking their efforts towards GSP development back to January 1, 2015 for Proposition 1 grant

match. Ms. Fahey has developed a draft reporting form that she will share with Ms. Hunter for comment/edits.

b. Discussion: Single Point of Contact in the Colusa Subbasin

This item was mentioned as something that will need to be determined in the future, but the group will need to start these conversations.

c. Discussion: Water Budget RFP

Ms. Hunter said that the GGA has not had detailed discussions about a water budget as the CGA has and asked if Ms. Fahey could summarize CGA work in this area. Ms. Fahey reported that the Colusa GSA Workgroup had previously decided to put out an RFP for a Water Budget for the Colusa County portions of the basins. After DWR announced that it would be providing land use and water budget information, the Colusa group decided to hold off. It was later determined that the CGA would need more detailed data than what DWR was offering, and that a basin-wide water budget makes more sense than a county-wide effort.

Ms. Fahey explained that a water budget is a foundational study that will give the CGA and GGA a good idea of conditions in the basin and the level of effort that will be needed in developing the GSP. It is also a useful tool for determining Management Areas. The CGA has already given approval to their technical subcommittee to develop and issue an RFP for a water budget. The Colusa and Glenn technical committees have met and discussed this item. Mr. Vanderwaal explained that he has already begun drafting the RFP and it is in rough draft form. Ms. Carter said that there is funding in the CGA budget for a water budget and this is something that the CGA wants to move forward on.

Ms. Hunter said that the GGA also has a line item in their budget for a water budget and some of the work is already being done in their current Proposition 1 grant. That work should be done by the end of the current year, with some details possibly being wrapped up by March, 2018.

Ms. Fahey mentioned that the water budget work can either be used as in-kind match for the upcoming Proposition 1 grant, or it can be written into the grant proposal and DWR can reimburse those costs.

d. Discussion: Proposition 218

Ms. Fahey said that the CGA has been discussing Proposition 218. Colusa County has retained an attorney, Michael Colontuano, who specializes in Prop. 218 and other local government issues. He has a lot of ideas about Prop. 218, and is also a proponent of using Prop. 26 for funding SGMA activities. The Colusa group has discussed doing a broad county-wide Prop. 218 to cover administrative items that would essentially keep the CGA running. When special projects need to be done, there would be smaller targeted Prop. 218 efforts. Regarding Proposition 26, there is question

as to whether a 2/3rds vote is required. Another option to fund a GSA is to charge a regulatory fee. Hilary Reinhard said that we could charge a regulatory fee which would not require a vote, but it is difficult to enforce. There will need to be a huge outreach/advertising effort so landowners understand that this is not optional. Mr. Viegas said that he thinks a Prop. 218 is cleaner, but it takes time. Ms. Carter mentioned that this is something we need to start working on because the JPA agencies are only funding the effort for the first two years. It was agreed to wait until legal counsel is on board and then appoint a joint Colusa-Glenn subcommittee to address this issue. It was also agreed that a separate Prop. 218 for each county should be administered. Mr. Viegas said that the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) has attorneys on staff that we can utilize.

## **6. Member Reports and Comments**

Mr. Rolen (GCID) discussed a proposal from The Nature Conservancy (TNC). TNC is considering applying for Proposition 1 Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC) funding for a pilot project for groundwater recharge and habitat creation and they are seeking a partnership with the Colusa Subbasin. The SDAC funding is a separate pot of funding that will not affect the Colusa Subbasin Prop. 1 grant proposal for GSP development. GCID sees this project as an opportunity to evaluate groundwater recharge and to contribute information for our water budgets. It was agreed that TNC's proposal is very vague, but there is potential for this project to provide the JPAs with some good data. It was mentioned there is an interactive map on DWR's website outlining SDAC areas. Ms. Hunter will forward the link to the committee. The CGA will discuss further at their Special Meeting on September 25. The GGA will discuss this at their meeting October 9.

## **7. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.

**8. Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Respectfully submitted;



Mary Fahey

Secretary, Colusa Groundwater Authority