



Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee
Teleconference
January 13, 2021
9:30 am

Pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20 this meeting was conducted by teleconference.

1. Call to Order

John Amaro called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

2. Roll Call

	Party Representative	Member Agency
	Vacant	County of Glenn
	Vacant	County of Glenn
X	John Amaro	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X	Pete Knight	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X	Julia Violich	Monroeville Water District
	Seth Flack	Monroeville Water District

Lisa Hunter conducted roll call and confirmed a quorum of members were present, which is noted above. Ms. Hunter reviewed the meeting protocol for virtual participation.

3. *Consider taking an action to elect Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Julia Violich self-nominated herself for the position of Vice-Chair. John Amaro self-nominated himself for the position of Chair. John Amaro seconded the nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair. No other nominations were made. John Amaro was elected as Chair and Julia Violich as Vice-Chair by the following roll call vote.

Nomination: John Amaro (for Chair) and Julia Violich (for Vice-Chair); Second: John Amaro;
Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote:

John Amaro: Aye
Pete Knight: Aye
Julia Violich: Aye

4. *Approval of November 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the November 10, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion: Pete Knight; Second: Julia Violich; Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote:

John Amaro: Aye

Pete Knight: Aye

Julia Violich: Aye

5. Period of Public Comment

No comment

6. The Nature Conservancy (TNC)/Department of Water Resources (DWR) Multi-Benefit Recharge Project

- a. Receive information on The Nature Conservancy/Department of Water Resources Multi-Benefit Recharge Project

Jenny Marr (DWR) and Ryan Luster (TNC) gave a presentation to share information about a proposed groundwater multi-benefit recharge pilot project, called Flood-MAR. Similar efforts have been implemented in the Colusa Subbasin by partnering with the Colusa Groundwater Authority. Ms. Marr and Mr. Luster explained the program and the process Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) could follow if they are interested in participating.

Flood-Mar is a water resource management strategy using high flows from (or in anticipation of) rainfall or snowmelt for managed aquifer recharge on agricultural lands, working landscapes, and natural managed lands. Flood-MAR is a scalable resource management strategy, which can be as small as one landowner diverting flows for groundwater recharge or it can be part of a larger, holistic approach to encourage conjunctive water management throughout the system. Some of Flood-Mar's benefits include flood risk reduction, ecosystem enhancement, aquifer replenishment, drought preparedness, and climate adaptation. This effort is a pilot project, emerging from a partnership between TNC & DWR. Ms. Marr and Mr. Luster are reaching out to multiple GSAs, including agencies within Yolo, Tehama, Colusa, and Glenn Counties to take a regional approach and maximize benefits for habitat, groundwater recharge, and flood risk reduction.

Interested GSAs can reach out to willing landowners. To participate in the pilot, landowners must have open fields (row crop or rice, but not orchards or vineyards), access to a water source, and flood their fields at a particular time of the year (between July 15-October 15 and March 15-April 30). Projects will take place over two years (2021 and 2022). The project includes managed field flooding at 4 inches for a 30-day period or more. The challenge is finding sources of water, which could be obtained from early reservoir releases or by taking water out of the system when rivers and streams are at their high stages. Landowners will be compensated for all the costs to prepare the land through a direct contract with the TNC. No out-of-pocket expenses are needed. Interested landowners can contact Julia Barfield at jbarfield@tnc.org – 916-449-285.

Ms. Violich asked how the project would benefit groundwater recharge. Mr. Luster explained the goal is to select fields with groundwater deficit. By applying the water on the field, the landowner would increase percolation. TNC/DWR contracted Davids Engineering to analyze and monitor the project to quantify the precise amount of water recharged. Mr.

Knight shared not many flat row crop fields would be available in the area. Mr. Luster shared that rice crops would also apply.

7. Staff Reports

Ms. Hunter provided a brief overview related to the Technical Support Services (TSS) multi-completion monitoring well. The well is planning to explore to a depth of approximately 1200 feet and would comprise of four wells nested together. Screening is estimated to be at 440-460 feet, 640-660 feet, 840-860 feet, and 1040-1060 feet. Initial drilling and completion will include groundwater sampling. The well permit application has been submitted, received initial approval, and is moving forward. The well is located in the northern part of the county, north of Stony Creek and close to the Tehama County-Glenn County border.

8. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Report

Ms. Hunter provided an update from the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) meetings on December 2, 2020 and January 6, 2021. During the December 2nd meeting, CSAB members received an overview of GSP section content, had an opportunity to ask clarifying questions for the draft Introduction and Plan Area GSP sections, and reviewed the GSP Timeline and Next Steps. On January 6th, the technical team centered discussion on the Basin Setting, including preliminary findings from the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model and Groundwater Conditions GSP draft sections. An overall GSP development timeline including key meeting topics and objectives is included in each CSAB agenda packet. The schedule is attached for reference. The meeting materials are available on the website at: <https://www.corningsubbasingsp.org>. The next online meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2021 at 1:30 pm. Ms. Violich and Mr. Amaro emphasized the CSAB meetings are helpful outlining key topics, communicating relevant information, and fostering discussion.

9. Receive update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan development

Ms. Hunter replied to earlier questions posed at past CSGSA meetings related to GSP development.

Single Principal Aquifer designation:

Some committee members expressed concern related to the single Principal Aquifer designation. Ms. Hunter encouraged committee members to review the draft Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (HCM) chapter, which outlines the rationale behind such designation. The draft chapter can be found on the project website. While the chapter does not deny differences in the aquifer system, the HCM shows an interconnected aquifer system where impacts to one unit could potentially impact the larger network and did not find regionally continuous impervious layers (aquitard). The technical team did not find enough information to defensibly designate more than one aquifer, which would require designating a specific monitoring network and targets per principal aquifer. Mr. Amaro suggested more monitoring wells perforated at certain depths will be needed to better understand the system.

Funding mechanism task:

Ms. Hunter clarified that funding has to be addressed in GSP. Although this task listed as optional in the contract with Montgomery and Associates (M&A), there are components that have to be included in the GSP. The task deliverable includes a list of optional funding mechanisms for implementing the GSP, including day-to day operations, Projects and Management Actions (PMAs), financial reserves, and other economic factors to consider. The total estimated cost for this task is \$81,300.00. Ms. Hunter met with West Water, a subcontractor with experience doing this type of work, to explore what the task might look like.

GSP Development agreements:

Overall, the GSP development grant is on track. So far, the Glenn County has billed DWR about \$460,000 and has roughly \$540,000 remaining through October 2020. Invoicing for work done October through December 2020 is in progress. Regarding the contract with M&A, they have invoiced approximately \$406,000 and have about \$400,000 remaining. Examples of current work has been preparing the CSAB meetings, participating in inter-basin coordination meetings, reaching out to stakeholders and agencies, drafting GSP chapters, and reviewing comments and revisions received from the public, as well as continued technical work. Ms. Hunter will provide an update for the period between October and December 2020 during the next meeting.

10. Inter-basin Coordination Update

- a. Receive update on Inter-basin Coordination efforts in the Northern Sacramento Valley

Mariana Rivera-Torres from the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) gave a presentation on inter-basin coordination efforts in the Northern Sacramento Valley (NSV) which includes staff and consulting teams from 11 subbasins (Antelope, Bowman, Butte, Colusa, Corning, Los Molinos, Red Bluff, Sutter, Vina, Wyandotte Creek, and Yolo). Efforts have focused on creating tools to foster general and technical information exchange. CBI presented a series of documents developed through inter-basin coordination efforts, including a document describing modeling tools used for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation in the NSV and a flyer describing inter-basin coordination efforts. Staff and consultants plan to reconvene in Spring 2021 to discuss appropriate ways to compare and communicate information on model assumptions, cross-boundary flows, and stream-aquifer interactions at boundaries. Key findings will be presented when available for public input. More information can be found on a website hosted by Butte County at: <https://www.buttecounty.net/waterresourceconservation/Sustainable-Groundwater-Management-Act/Inter-basin-Coordination>.

11. *Review and Consider Appointing Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Members

Ms. Hunter shared that John Viegas' retirement leaves one seat open in the CSAB. Further, the CSGSA previously appointed Ms. Hunter as a member of the CSAB. While she appreciates the opportunity, she is already able to provide input as a staff member. She encouraged the committee to appoint committee members rather staff if they are comfortable with that option. She also recommended waiting until Glenn County members are seated in the CSGSA to elect new representation. The CSGSA members agreed with

Ms. Hunter. It was noted that John Viegas' name will be removed from the website. No action was taken.

12. Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee Member Reports and Comments

No comments.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2021 at 9:30 am.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 am.