

# Glenn Groundwater Authority

## Groundwater Sustainability Agency

225 N. Tehama Street, Willows, CA 95988 | 530.934.6540

### Meeting Minutes

#### Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

October 11, 2021 | 1:30 pm

LOCATION: 225 N. Tehama Street, Willows, CA. 95988

The meeting was also conducted via teleconference; accessible via telephone, computer, smartphone or tablet.

Director Members Present:	Alternate/2 <sup>nd</sup> Alternate Directors	Agency Representing:
X Grant Carmon	Tom Arnold	County of Glenn
X Bruce Roundy	Pete Carr	City of Orland
	Ed Vonasek (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	City of Orland
X Gary Hansen (Vice Chair)	X Evan Markey	City of Willows
George Nerli	X Leslie Nerli	Glide Water District
X John Amaro (Chair)	Thad Bettner	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X Charles Schonauer	Emil Cavagnolo	Orland-Artois Water District
X Randy Hansen	Wade Danley	Kanawha Water District
	Michael Alves (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	Kanawha Water District
X Mark Lohse	Seth Fiack	Monroeville Water District
X Gary Enos	Lance Boyd	Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District/ Provident Irrigation District

#### Others in attendance:

Lisa Hunter (GGA/Glenn County), Valerie Kincaid (GGA Counsel), Donald Rust (Glenn County, Planning Director), Holly Dawley (GCID), Ashlee Veneman (Glenn County), Donald J. Bills (GGA TAC), Holly Reimers, Jenny Scheer (Water & Land Solutions), Grant Davids (Davids Engineering), Jaime Lely (landowner), Marc Frelier, Alex Van Roekel, Ken Loy (West Yost Associates), Brandon Davison (CA DWR), Emil Cavagnolo (GGA Alternate attending virtually)

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Amaro called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

#### 2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken as indicated above.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. \*Approval of meeting minutes from September 14, 2021.

**On motion by Director Gary Hansen, seconded by Director Randy Hansen, the meeting minutes of September 14, 2021 were unanimously approved as presented.**

#### 4. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were presented or heard.

#### 5. STAFF UPDATES

- Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA) Program Manager, Lisa Hunter, directed participants to the Program Manager Report and highlighted a printout of possible future grant funding from DWR's website.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. \*Review and accept Monthly Activities Report.
- b. \*Review and consider approval of claims.

No discussion was held on item 6.a.

**On motion by Director Enos, seconded by Director Carmon, it was unanimously ordered to approve the Monthly Activities Report as presented by members present.**

No discussion was held on item 6.b

**On motion by Director Carmon, seconded by Director Lohse, it was unanimously ordered to approve the claims as presented by members present.**

7. DISCUSSION ON AB 361 OPEN MEETINGS: STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES: TELECONFERENCES

- GGA Counsel, Valerie Kincaid, stated the proclamation adopted in 2020, halting certain Brown Act requirements, expired September 30, 2021, and Assembly Bill 361 was passed in its place September 16, 2021. Ms. Kincaid further stated that the bill requires agencies wishing to continue teleconferencing public meetings to adopt a resolution every thirty days, stating the agency is following the recommended local mandates or in person meetings cause a harm to public safety.
- Director Nerli stated she was previously able to teleconference into GGA meetings prior to the pandemic, whereby Ms. Kincaid clarified that the prior to the pandemic members were required to attend in person to contributing to a quorum and have the ability to vote or could follow the requirements to post a meeting notice and have the alternative location open to the public to participate via teleconference.
- Director Carmon asked if the public could still teleconference into the meetings if no resolution was adopted, whereby Ms. Kincaid confirmed if the teleconference option is available, the public is always welcome to teleconference in and clarified that no teleconferencing member would be counted towards a quorum of members or be able to vote on action items if a resolution is not adopted, unless the Brown Act requirement are met.
- Chair Amaro stated the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District adopted a resolution.
- Director Carmon asked if this matter could be placed as a reoccurring agenda item, should the Board decide to adopt the resolution at a meeting, whereby Ms. Kincaid confirmed this could be done.
- Director Schonauer asked if the Technical Advisory Committees could be included in the resolution, whereby Ms. Kincaid stated they could and that this legislation expires in 2024.
- Director Carmon requested this item be brought back to the next meeting with a draft resolution.

8. \*DISCUSSION AND CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR POTENTIAL RECHARGE PILOT PROJECTS

- Ms. Hunter stated this will be a reoccurring agenda item after last meeting's discussion and several members' interest in recharge projects. Ms. Hunter suggested forming an ad hoc committee for discussing potential projects and processes and bringing back recommendations to the Board. Ms. Hunter further stated she visited the Tehama Colusa Canal Authority who seemed very supportive of this activity and open to collaboration in the future.

- Director Roundy stated the City of Orland is very interested in recharge projects and volunteered to be a member of an ad hoc committee.
- Director Carmon asked how many Board members could be a part of the ad hoc, whereby Ms. Kincaid stated no more than four members.
- Directors Nerli, Cavagnolo, Schonauer and Enos showed interest in joining the proposed committee and discussion ensued regarding committee make-up and if all appropriate areas are represented. It was further noted that Director Schonauer and Alternate Director Cavagnolo count toward the same voting member seat and it would be acceptable to include both members on the ad hoc committee if desired.
- Ms. Hunter stated the ad hoc committee would likely need counsel's guidance and would need to be conscious of potential future costs.
- Ms. Kincaid reminded the Board that it is likely that no funding will be available for projects not listed in the GSP.

**On motion by Director Carmon, seconded by Director Gary Hansen, it was unanimously ordered to establish a Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee and appoint Directors Emil Cavagnolo, Leslie Nerli, Chuck Schonauer, Gary Enos, and Bruce Roundy to the committee effective immediately.**

#### 9. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

- Receive update on Plan development, activities, and outreach.
- Receive update on GSP Development Grants (Proposition 1 and Proposition 68).
- Receive update on Project Agreements.
- \*Consider selection of Davids Engineering, Inc. for the development of the Colusa subbasin GSP Annual Report, due April 1, 2022 pending DWR approval of a grant amendment and Colusa Groundwater Authority concurrence.
- \*Receive report and consider approval of amendment to the Land Subsidence Sustainable Management Criteria for the Colusa Subbasin GSP
- Discussion of Well Monitoring Pilot Program
- Discussion on next steps and timeline for reviewing and developing funding mechanisms for GSP implementation

##### **Item 9.a Receive update on Plan development, activities, and outreach.**

- Ms. Hunter stated the draft GSP was released September 13, 2021 for a public comment period ending October 31, 2021. She further noted that a preface was added to the GSP which provides context relating to the GSP and the current drought. A printed copy of the draft GSP is available at the Planning and Community Development Services Agency (PCDSA) office as well as online.
- Ms. Hunter announced two public workshops will be held October 13, 2021 and October 15, 2021. One meeting will be conducted in person and the other will be virtual/teleconference; both meetings will provide a broad overview of the GSP components and provide an opportunity for public comments and questions.
- Ms. Hunter reminded Board members to review the GSP with their respective agencies to address any potential issues, as the final GSP adoption hearing is tentatively scheduled for the December 14, 2021 GGA Board Meeting. She further stated the Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA) must also approve the GSP prior

to submission to the Department of Water Resources. The mandatory notices to the cities and counties have been sent. Ms. Hunter provided an informational presentation to the City of Orland at their October 5, 2021 Council meeting and will be providing the same presentation to the City of Willows at their October 26, 2021 Council meeting.

- Ms. Hunter drew attention to the Administrative Record included in the meeting packet and the link in which an up-to-date spreadsheet is kept. There were no new comments to consider since the last meeting.

**Item 9.b. Receive update on GSP Development Grants (Proposition 1 and Proposition 68).**

- Ms. Hunter stated there are no updates on the GSP Development Grants. Director Nerli asked if \$50,000 of the unallocated \$284,600 amount would be applied to the annual report process and noted the difference in the GGA's leaning toward pilot/recharge and the CGA's leaning toward subsidence projects. Ms. Hunter confirmed the annual report would be paid for from these funds and explained the balance in deciding between the two projects.

**Item 9.c. Receive update on Project Agreements.**

- Ms. Hunter provided an update on the project agreements, stating there is approximately \$400,000 remaining to be expended and Amendment 2 was finalized with the funds and project tasks updated.

**Item 9. d. \*Consider selection of Davids Engineering, Inc. for the development of the Colusa subbasin GSP Annual Report, due April 1, 2022 pending DWR approval of a grant amendment and Colusa Groundwater Authority concurrence.**

- Ms. Hunter stated the GSP is due January 31, 2022 and the first Annual Report is due April 1, 2022, which provides a short time frame to complete the reporting process, and staff is recommending the Board consider retaining Davids Engineering, Inc. for the development of the Annual Report. Ms. Kincaid stated the GGA adopted purchasing policies and sole source contracting is acceptable. Ms. Hunter further stated the draft scope of work is included on page 37 of the agenda packet with the cost totaling approximately \$50,000.

**On motion by Director Gary Hansen, seconded by Director Roundy, it was unanimously ordered to select Davids Engineering, Inc. for the development of the Colusa Subbasin GSP Annual Report, due April 1, 2022 pending DWR approval of a grant amendment and Colusa Groundwater Authority concurrence.**

**Item 9.e. \*Receive report and consider approval of amendment to the Land Subsidence Sustainable Management Criteria for the Colusa Subbasin GSP**

- Principal Hydrogeologist, Ken Loy, West Yost Associates, provided a presentation to the Board on the proposed amendment to the Land Subsidence Sustainable Management Criteria for the Colusa Subbasin GSP. He stated the recommended changes are consistent with the adjacent basins and he highlighted the need for a re-survey to have a better understanding of current conditions.
- Director Nerli indicated that currently four sites are out of compliance and asked if nine sites (15% of the benchmarks) would be over the threshold in the next five years, whereby discussion ensued about the process of remeasuring, the frequency of resurveying, and DWR's role in the process. Discussion continued to ensue about subsidence levels across the basins and potential costs. There was further

discussion on whether the 0.5 feet per five years baseline begins in 2015 or when the GSP is submitted in 2022.

- Grant Davids, Davids Engineering, stated he endorses the recommendations and reminded members that subsidence is one of various indicators, further encouraging the Board to begin discussions about project implementation and cost allocations as soon as able.
- Director Gary Hansen asked if the approved amendment would be immediately included in the GSP, whereby Mr. Davids stated it would and that an addendum would be prepared promptly.
- Director Carmon stated his hesitancy in having potentially nine sites below minimum thresholds by the time the basin is resurveyed and suggested more flexibility (buffer), and discussion ensued about potential minimum threshold options. It was noted a similar discussion took place at the CGA meeting prior to approving the SMC as it is currently presented (undesirable result at 15%).
- Alternate Director Markey asked if it was possible to write into the GSP that the baseline in the 2022 level, whereby it was mentioned that the question could be raised to DWR and the approach could be compared to see what other plans have included.

**On motion by Director Carmon, seconded by Director Nerli, it was unanimously ordered to adopt the Minimum Threshold rate of subsidence at all 63 land subsidence benchmarks at 0.5 feet per five years, the Measurable Objective rate of subsidence at all 63 land subsidence benchmarks at 0.25 feet per five years, and the criteria that an undesirable result is considered to occur when the Minimum Threshold is exceeded at 20 percent of the land subsidence monitoring benchmarks.**

#### **Item 9. f. Discussion of Well Monitoring Pilot Program**

- Ms. Hunter provided an update on the Well Monitoring Pilot Program, stating there are currently six wells in the program, with two still awaiting agreement signature. Ranch Systems, the data collector platform, provided a demonstration at the Joint CGA/GGA Board Meeting held on October 7, 2021 and the meeting recording and slides are available on the website for review. She requested the Board provide any initial feedback on the level of detail on program reporting.
- Ms. Hunter provided an update on the WMPP expansion utilizing the uncontracted grant funds which will fill in current funding shortages and expand the number of monitoring well locations in the program.
- Director Nerli stated the purpose of the monitoring would be to measure how many acre feet each commodity uses, which could be used to assist in developing assessments in the future. Chair Amaro asked if the information provided by the well owners was private, whereby Ms. Hunter stated her understanding is the information collected is public, as the landowners were made aware and as required by the grant. Discussion ensued on potential TAC involvement and the level of information to provide when the reports are generated, the frequency in which the reports would be provided, and the permissions for user/viewer type (well owner, staff, public).

#### **Item 9. g. Discussion on next steps and timeline for reviewing and developing funding mechanisms for GSP implementation**

- Ms. Kincaid noted that how GSP development is funded versus GSP implementation can be different. There will be a need for discussion on project implementation and determining which projects move forward and

partner arrangements including funding the projects. She suggested to begin those discussions in earnest immediately following GSP adoption. Discussion on funding will involve engaging stakeholders and understanding administrative costs versus implementation and project costs.

#### 10. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. Executive Committee
  - i. CGA/GGA Joint Executive Committee
- b. Multi-Benefit Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee
- c. Technical Advisory Committee

- There were no committee updates provided.

#### 11. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- Director Carmon stated there are approximately 210-215 well incident reports submitted and related to drought relief actions, despite the low demonstrated public interest in shower vouchers, all vouchers were distributed within the first twenty minutes of the bottled water distribution event held October 6, 2021 at the Orland Fire Department and the County is working on additional solutions.
- Director Carmon further announced that the next Drought Task Force meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2021 at 3:00 pm and a community meeting being held at 6:00 pm at the same location in Orland (131 E. Walker Street; Orland, CA. 95963) relating to the Orland grant and possibility to hook up to city water at no charge.

#### 12. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2021 at 1:30 pm.

#### 13. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 pm.