

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

PO Box 351, Willows, CA 95988 | 530.934.6501

MINUTES

Glenn Groundwater Authority Executive Committee

January 27, 2021

1:30 PM

Teleconference

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-29-20 this meeting was conducted by teleconference. The meeting was accessible via telephone, computer, smartphone, or tablet and remote participation was highly encouraged.

Committee Members Present:	Agency Representing:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Amaro	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Hansen	City of Willows
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leslie Nerli	Glide Water District

Others in attendance:

Lisa Hunter, GGA/Glenn County; Valerie Kincaid, GGA Counsel; David Kehn, CalWater/GGA TAC; John Campbell; Julia Violich

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Amaro called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Lisa Hunter took roll call which is indicated above.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Approval of meeting minutes from December 3, 2020

A motion was made to approve the December 3, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted.

Motion: Leslie Nerli, Second: Gary Hansen, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

John Amaro: AYE

Gary Hansen: AYE

Leslie Nerli: AYE

4. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. STAFF UPDATES

Ms. Hunter stated the annual audit is being reviewed by CliftonLarsonAllen and should be ready for the February GGA Board meeting. She noted that inter-basin coordination is continuing and reports will be given when there are updates. Ms. Hunter and David Kehn, TAC representative, will be working together to tee up discussion and recommendation items from the TAC to the GGA Board to facilitate education, discussion, and direction from the Board to the TAC. She mentioned that Management Areas (MA) continues to be a topic of interest and the

topic will be brought to the Board for discussion. Ms. Hunter also stated that she is working on gathering the on-boarding materials for the new members and hopes to have packets to them next week.

There were questions and additional discussion regarding MAs. It was clarified that the Board item would likely be a discussion item potentially with direction to the TAC rather than an action item. Ms. Nerli suggested having materials prepared for the Board to walk them through the pros and cons of MAs. Ms. Hunter shared Davids Engineering is preparing a memo and potentially other materials to facilitate Board discussion. A draft of the memo was shared at the January 26, 2020 Colusa Groundwater Authority Board meeting.

Ms. Hunter shared some common themes of support for MAs such as a desire for local control and protection and there is concern with future pressure on surface water allocations that may necessitate an area to pump groundwater that did not historically use groundwater. Ms. Kincaid suggested it would be helpful to understand the conditions in the basin in relation to the physical attributes of the basin. She also mentioned that DWR requires a significant amount of information if MAs are developed and the rationale for selecting the MAs. Ms. Hunter also mentioned some think of MAs as a way to more efficiently fund projects and management actions. Mr. Amaro noted that some districts are feeling pressure on surface water supplies and they may need to use groundwater. There is a lot of groundwater development in the “white areas”. The districts want to protect what they are recharging. Ms. Kincaid also noted that if a district decides to create an MA, it does create, by default, an area outside of the MA, which is its own MA. Discussions would need to take place to work through that.

Ms. Nerli asked if MAs could be developed later through an amendment process. Ms. Kincaid stated GSPs can be amended at any time. There are also five year required updates for GSPs and MAs could be added to that process. Ms. Nerli suggested if MA delineation is unclear, table the discussion and continue with completing the GSP and revisit the topic in order to submit the GSP on time.

6. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILTY PLAN

- a. Discuss GSP development, activities, and outreach**
- b. Receive update on GSP Development Grants (Proposition 1 and Proposition 68)**
- c. Receive update on Project Agreements**

Ms. Hunter mentioned the Well Monitoring Pilot Program workshop was held January 25, 2021. Applications are due February 26, 2021. This program is expected to fund approximately six projects. The Projects and Management Actions (PMA) solicitation form is available on the website. The consultant team will compile responses received and use these submittals to inform the PMA section of the GSP. All the projects will be included in an Appendix in the GSP. The consulting team has also developed an “Administrative Record” tracking sheet. All comments related to GSP development will be included in this spreadsheet which will be available for the Board members and the public to view. Regular updates will be provided at Board meetings. Comments may be discussed further if warranted. Ms. Hunter notes she did not have significant updates on the **grants and Project Agreements**. The grant invoice and progress report will be submitted to DWR this month (January) by the CGA and she coordinates with Mary Fahey on this.

7. THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AND DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES MULTI-BENEFIT RECHARGE PROJECT

- a. *Discussion and possible recommendation to the GGA Board on TNC/DWR Multi-benefit Recharge Project partnership.**

Mr. Amaro mentioned a presentation on this topic was given at the last GGA Board meeting.

Ms. Hunter met with the team yesterday to narrow down potential focus areas by reviewing particular criteria. The most promising areas for inclusion in the pilot project are in the Orland-Artois Water District, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Glide Water District, and Kanawha Water District areas. She sent emails to the managers of the districts to facilitate an initial conversation.

Valerie Kincaid concurred the potential project sounds promising and could be a win-win situation. She indicated she had two main questions that should be clarified. The first relating to CEQA compliance and the second regarding water ownership. She elaborated that recharge is only considered a beneficial use of water if it is extracted and put to beneficial use and that recharge is not by itself considered a beneficial use of water in California. There was additional discussion on beneficial uses of water and the complexity of water rights in California. There was agreement that there is a lot to consider when thinking about projects such as this.

Ms. Nerli made a motion to ask the Board for permission for Valerie Kincaid to reach out to TNC and DWR to ask questions in order to better evaluate this opportunity. After further discussion, there was general agreement to direct Ms. Kincaid and Ms. Hunter to reach out to TNC and DWR staff to address questions that have been raised and to bring the topic back to the Board for further discussion. Ms. Nerli rescinded her previous motion.

There was also agreement that if the GGA were to participate in this program the Board needs to have a thorough understanding of the program, but a formal agreement between TNC and the GGA was probably not necessary.

8. DISCUSS 2021 GOALS AND PRIORITIES

Ms. Hunter encouraged the Board members to share any thoughts they have on priorities for this year. The GSP is the top priority, but any guidance on other items to help support the needs of the GGA is appreciated. She noted this could be a discussion for today or for a later meeting.

Ms. Nerli suggested re-addressing this topic at the next meeting with materials to support the discussion, such as a schedule and update on the status of the various budgets and agreements. Mr. Hansen agreed that the GSP is number one priority and needs to remain the top priority. Other items can be brought forward as needed, but stick with the simple list of GSP completion. He cautioned about spreading everyone too thin with so much going on and suggested focusing on the GSP and working on other tasks down the road. Mr. Amaro agreed that the GSP is the priority and we need to keep on top of it. Once the GSP is complete, the other items can be discussed.

9. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Hansen said he was new to the committee and looks forward to working with everyone.

Mr. Amaro noted the dry conditions this year and he is concerned with drought impacts and the pressure on the groundwater this year.

10. DISCUSS ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT GGA BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Hansen asked if there was anything needed to help the TAC move forward. Ms. Hunter stated she will be working with David Kehn to add potential items to the Board agenda and frame up the relevant discussions.

No additional items were added.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2021 at 1:30 PM.

12. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 PM.