

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

PO Box 351, Willows, CA 95988 | 530.934.6501

Meeting Minutes

Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

March 9, 2021 | 1:30 pm

LOCATION: 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.

Director Members Present:	Alternate/2 nd Alternate Directors	Agency Representing:
X Grant Carmon	X Tom Arnold	County of Glenn
X Bruce Roundy	Pete Carr	City of Orland
	Ed Vonasek (2 nd)	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 Andrea Jones (2 nd) (2:35)	Orland-Artois Water District
X Randy Hansen	Wade Danley	Kanawha Water District
	Michael Alves (2 nd)	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; Brandon Davison, DWR; Donald Rust, Glenn County; David Kehn, CalWater/GGA TAC; Del Reimers; Grant Davids, Davids Engineering, Inc.; Jaime Lely; Joshua Dowell; Mary Fahey, CGA; Byron Clark, Davids Engineering, Inc.; Michael Ward; Mike Parisio

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Amaro called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and indicated above.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. *Approval of meeting minutes from February 8, 2021.

The meeting minutes from February 8, 2021 were approved as presented.

Motion: Gary Enos, Second: Gary Hanson, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Carmon, Roundy, G. Hansen, Amaro, Schonauer, R. Hansen, Lohse, Enos, L. Nerli

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

4. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. STAFF UPDATES

Lisa Hunter indicated a Program Manger Report is included in the meeting packet. She highlighted the Golden State Risk Management Authority trainings. She has been in contact with GoTo Meeting Support to determine the cause of the technical issues that were experienced at the February meeting. The new member on-boarding materials were developed and distributed to the new Board members. She reminded Board members that Fair Political Practices Commission Form 700s are due April 1. Ms. Hunter mailed thirteen invoices for a total of \$7,828.74 to the self-bill parcels for tax year 2020/2021 which also includes the City of Orland and City of Willows agreed upon amounts for parcels within the cities. She has communicated with Provost & Pritchard and requested a proposal to prepare the direct charge list, similar to the efforts last year. The annual audit has been finalized. Hard copies will be mailed to the member agencies and the electronic version will also be emailed to Directors, the County Auditor, and posted to the website.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

There was a motion to approve the Monthly Activities Report as presented.

Motion: Chuck Schonauer, Second: Randy Hansen, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Carmon, Roundy, G. Hansen, Amaro, Schonauer, R. Hansen, Lohse, Enos, L. Nerli

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

There was a motion to approve the claims as submitted.

Motion: Gary Hansen, Second: Bruce Roundy, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Carmon, Roundy, G. Hansen, Amaro, Schonauer, R. Hansen, Lohse, Enos, L. Nerli

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

7. REQUEST EXTENSION TO GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN DEADLINE

- a. *Consider approving the draft letter to the Governor requesting an extension to the January 31, 2022 deadline to submit the Groundwater Sustainability Plans for medium and high priority subbasins.

Mr. Amaro stated this item was discussed at the last meeting. There were no questions or comments.

A motion was made to approve the draft letter to the Governor requesting an extension to the January 31, 2022 deadline to submit the Groundwater Sustainability Plans for medium and high priority subbasins.

Mr. Schonauer asked if Colusa County already sent their letter. Ms. Hunter confirmed the letter from the CGA had been sent.

Motion: Bruce Roundy, Second: Gary Enos, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Carmon, Roundy, G. Hansen, Amaro, Schonauer, R. Hansen, Lohse, Enos, L. Nerli

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

8. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

- a. Receive update on Plan development, activities, and outreach.
- b. Receive update on GSP Development Grants (Proposition 1 and Proposition 68).
- c. Receive update on Project Agreements.
- d. Well Monitoring Pilot Program.
 - i. *Consider approving or authorize the Program Manager to approve selection of program sites based on ranked application list.
 - ii. *Consider approving the CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) and all costs associated with filing the notice and authorize the Program Manager to submit the NOE.
- e. *Review and approve approach for distribution of GSP Chapters.
- f. Discussion on Management Areas.

Ms. Hunter mentioned updates can be found in the meeting packet and highlighted the Davids Engineering memo will be distributed once it has been finalized. She mentioned the GSP development schedule is being updated and will be shared in the near future. The updated schedule will also inform the outreach schedule. The first four chapters of the GSP will be available in early April. The GSP development team feels that releasing the four chapters at the same time will create a better overall picture. A Joint Board meeting will likely be scheduled to provide an overview of the four chapters and provide instructions on how to submit comments.

The outreach team is continuing to update social media. Member profiles and/or member agency profiles will be developed to share if the Board is not opposed. No opposition was heard.

The Administrative Record Spreadsheet containing comments that have been received is available in the meeting packet. It can also be accessed at any time by visiting the "Box" link:

<https://app.box.com/s/2w5ewrd7qmw3b8ngcslbg9wlsithey40>.

Ms. Hunter also noted she will be providing monthly reports to Farm Bureau and she also provides updates at the NCWA (Northern California Water Association) Groundwater Taskforce Meetings.

Ms. Hunter stated the **GSP Development Grants** are invoiced quarterly and the figures in the report are the same as last month.

The **Project Agreements** summaries have been updated and are included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Amaro introduced the **Well Monitoring Pilot Program** item. Ms. Hunter stated the prioritized application list was not yet available, but requested that if the Board is comfortable, to consider authorizing the Program Manger to finalize the list based on the selection criteria that was previously discussed and included in the meeting packet. If the Board prefers to see the ranked application list, a special meeting may be needed to keep the project on track.

A motion was made to authorize the Program Manager to approve selection of program sites based on ranked application list.

Motion: Bruce Roundy, Second: Gary Enos, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Carmon, Roundy, G. Hansen, Amaro, Schonauer, R. Hansen, Lohse, Enos, L. Nerli

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

A motion was made to approve the CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) and all costs associated with filing the notice and authorize the Program Manager to submit the NOE.

Motion: Bruce Roundy, Second: Gary Hansen, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Carmon, Roundy, G. Hansen, Amaro, Schonauer, R. Hansen, Lohse, Enos, L. Nerli

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Mr. Amaro introduced the approach for the distribution of GSP Chapters. He noted the information is contained in the meeting packet. Ms. Hunter recommended Option 3 as it is the most time efficient. Mr. Amaro asked if the TAC and the Board would look at the information at the same time in Option 3. Ms. Hunter indicated this review process is intended to be for the completed draft chapters. The TAC has already provided feedback on the components contained within the chapter and the Board has generally weighed in as well. The TAC, Board, and Public would receive the review opportunity at the same time in Option 3. Mr. Carmon asked if the Board selected Option 1, would the Plan be completed in a timely enough fashion? Ms. Hunter noted she would be less confident in that approach. It would likely mean additional special TAC and Board meetings to move the components along at a rate to complete the GSP on time. Mr. G. Hansen noted he would be in favor of Option 3. Byron Clark, Davids Engineering, shared that when the compiled GSP is released in August or September, that would initiate another round of public review, including these four chapters. Grant Davids, Davids Engineering, shared the plan it to have shorter review periods for chapters as they are developed and then another review period after the GSP is compiled into a final draft document.

A motion was made to approve Option 3 as the approach for distribution of the GSP Chapters.

Motion: Chuck Schonauer, Second: Grant Carmon, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Carmon, Roundy, G. Hansen, Amaro, Schonauer, R. Hansen, Lohse, Enos, L. Nerli

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

There was no discussion on the **Management Areas (MA)** item.

9. THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AND DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES FLOOD-MAR MULTI-BENEFIT RECHARGE PILOT PROJECT
- a. Receive update on project activities.
 - b. *Consider approving partnership to with The Nature Conservancy and Department of Water Resources on the Flood-MAR Multi-benefit Recharge Pilot Project.
 - c. *Consider appointing an ad hoc committee to develop a workplan with The Nature Conservancy on the Multi-benefit Recharge Pilot Project.

Ms. Hunter reviewed the synopsis in the meeting packet. Legal Counsel and staff met with DWR and TNC to better understand the program and the potential role of the GSA. It was also confirmed that only surface water would be utilized for recharge purposes; groundwater pumping would not occur under this program. She suggested that an ad hoc committee could be formed to help develop a workplan which would outline the program and the role of the GSA. Ms. Kincaid added the role of the GSA is essentially facilitation and to be the lead agency for the NOE (Notice of Exemption). The agreements are directly between TNC and the landowner. These types of projects could be included in the Projects and Management Actions chapter of the GSP. If the GGA chooses to move forward with a partnership, the ad hoc committee could oversee the process, develop the NOE, bring it back to the Board for approval, and do any necessary outreach to recruit landowners.

A motion was made to approve a partnership to with The Nature Conservancy and Department of Water Resources on the Flood-MAR Multi-benefit Recharge Pilot Project.

Motion: Gary Enos, Second: Bruce Roundy, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Carmon, Roundy, G. Hansen, Amaro, Schonauer, R. Hansen, Lohse, Enos, L. Nerli

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Mr. Amaro and Mr. Roundy stated their support for this program.

Mr. Amaro asked if there were any volunteers that would like to serve on the ad hoc committee. Mr. Roundy asked if there is a need for the ad hoc committee now or should it be a committee in the future. Ms. Kincaid indicated she expects the committee would not need to meet immediately and estimates the committee would likely meet only once or twice and guide the outreach process, develop the scope of work for the program, and develop the NOE, which would be brought to the Board for approval.

Mr. Schonauer suggested that Emil Cavagnolo would be a good fit for the committee. Mr. Enos volunteered to be on the committee. Ms. Nerli asked if membership could only be Board members. Ms. Kincaid indicated the committee could be up to three Board members. It could also be opened up to others if the Board desires. Mr. Roundy and Mr. Amaro volunteered to participate.

A motion was made to appoint Gary Enos, Bruce Roundy, and John Amaro to serve on an ad hoc committee to develop a workplan with The Nature Conservancy on the Multi-benefit Recharge Pilot Project.

Mr. G. Hansen (Vice Chair) assumed responsibilities to run the meeting in Mr. Amaro's absence.

Motion: Gary Hansen, Second: Bruce Roundy, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Carmon, Roundy, G. Hansen, Amaro, Schonauer, R. Hansen, Lohse, Enos, L. Nerli

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

(Mr. Amaro returned at the end of the Roll Call Vote). Mr. G. Hansen passed the Chair responsibilities to Mr. Amaro.

10. *CONSIDER APPOINTING AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022 DRAFT BUDGET
Ms. Hunter noted past practice has been to have an ad hoc committee to help develop a draft budget. The responsibility would also include reviewing and recommending the property-related fee for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Roundy asked if the Executive Committee was involved in this process last year. Mr. G. Hansen stated John Viegas, Leslie Nerli, and Gary Hansen were the committee members last year and he would be happy to serve again. Ms. Nerli and Grant Carmon also volunteered to participate.

A motion was made to appoint Grant Carmon, Leslie Nerli, and Gary Hansen to serve on the budget ad hoc committee.

Motion: Bruce Roundy, Second: Randy Hansen, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Carmon, Roundy, G. Hansen, Amaro, Schonauer, R. Hansen, Lohse, Enos, L. Nerli

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

11. COMMITTEE UPDATES
- a. Executive Committee
 - i. CGA/GGA Joint Executive Committee
 - b. Stakeholder Engagement Committee
 - c. Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. Amaro stated the **Executive Committee** and the **Stakeholder Engagement Committee** have not met since the last meeting and have nothing to report.

David Kehn, the TAC representative to the GGA Board, provided the **Technical Advisory Committee** report. The two main topics at the Joint TAC meeting were sub-area water budgets and Minimum Thresholds and Measurable Objectives. The TAC meeting slides are included in the packet and he highlighted slides 7 through 9. These slides capture the modeling process and portfolio of water uses in the water budgets. The Sustainable Management Criteria discussion included Minimum Thresholds, which is the level you do not want to cross or you are in violation of the GSP, and the Measurable Objective, which is intended to be a reasonable goal of where the basin should be. One way to choose thresholds is to look at the actual groundwater levels. Another way is to consider well infrastructure, independent of the water levels. The consultants are proposing a hybrid approach. The Undesirable Result would be a certain percentage of wells that fall below that level, which will be brought to the Board in the form of a recommendation at a later date.

Ms. Nerli also noted that the percentage of wells also includes a time component. For instance, 10% over two years. She stated sometimes a greater percentage may dip below, but for a shorter time. Mr. Kehn concurred that the proposal is to include particular number of wells over a period of time.

Mr. Amaro encouraged all to review the TAC meeting materials to become familiar with the topics and discussions. Mr. Roundy asked for the handout of the presentation slides to be larger. Ms. Hunter noted the full-page slides are posted to the website and she will forward them. Mr. Clark also noted there is a map of the sub-area water budgets that could be made available as well.

12. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Schonauer stated this year we might be facing domestic wells going dry, and perhaps even some ag wells. Many streams and reservoirs are dry. Orland Unit Water Users are estimating only 2-3 irrigations this year. Ms. Nerli said that once the thresholds are set, there may be grant funding to help domestic wells that need to be fixed or replaced. Mr. Clark indicated it is possible funds may be available for that purpose.

Mr. Amaro noted that these comments will be an important part of Plan development. GCID water is dictated by inflow to Shasta, which is just above the 76-77 drought.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2021 at 1:30 pm.

14. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.