

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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

Meeting Minutes

Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

January 10, 2022 | 1:30 p.m.

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 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
John Amaro (Chair)	Thad Bettner	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X Charles Schonauer	X Emil Cavagnolo	Orland-Artois Water District
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), Ashlee Veneman (Glenn County), Donald J. Bills (GGA TAC), Jenny Scheer (Water & Land Solutions).

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Gary Hansen called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken as indicated above.

3. AB 361 OPEN MEETINGS: STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES: TELECONFERENCES

- a. *Consider approval of Resolution 2022-001 Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings in Accordance with Government Code Section 54953 (e)

- Vice Chair Gary Hansen introduced the item. No further discussion was heard.

On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Enos, it was unanimously approved by members present to adopt Resolution 2022-001 "Authorizing Teleconference Meetings in Accordance with Government Code Section 54953 (e)".

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. *Approval of Colusa Groundwater Authority/Glenn Groundwater Authority joint meeting minutes from October 7, 2021

- Vice Chair Gary Hansen stated though he was not present at the aforementioned meeting, he has reviewed the minutes. No further discussion was heard.

On motion by Director Carmon, seconded by Director Roundy, the meeting minutes of the Colusa Groundwater Authority/Glenn Groundwater Authority joint meeting October 7, 2021 were unanimously approved as presented by members present.

- b. *Approve the meeting minutes from December 14, 2021

On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Enos, the meeting minutes of December 14, 2021 were unanimously approved as presented by members present.

5. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

- No comments were presented or heard.
- Director Nerli entered the meeting via teleconference at 1:38 PM.

6. STAFF UPDATES

- Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA) Program Manager, Lisa Hunter, stated round 1 solicitation for Department of Water Resources funding opportunities for critically over drafted basins is open from December 17, 2021 – February 18, 2022. The GGA is not eligible to apply for round 1 funding. She further stated the second round is expected to open in September 2022.
- Ms. Hunter further stated she has been working with Denise Carter of the Colusa Groundwater Authority, who will be taking the lead in the grant’s administration in the absence of Mary Fahey (prior CGA Program Manager).
- Ms. Hunter announced that the County has hired a Public Service Employee to assist the Water Resources Department and the GGA.
- Ms. Hunter stated the annual audit is underway and both the staff and director interviews have been completed. A draft is expected in February 2022.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

No discussion was held on item 7.a.

On motion by Director Schonauer, 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 7.b

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

8. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

- a. Receive update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan submittal process
- b. Discussion on Groundwater Sustainability Plan implementation and next steps
- Ms. Hunter introduced Item 8.a., stating the GSP submittal process is going well and is on track to be completed before the January 31, 2022 deadline. No further discussion was had.

- Ms. Hunter introduced Item 8.b highlighting the GSP adoption by the CGA and GGA and referenced the Davids Engineering memos provided in the meeting packet. The memos included descriptions of some of the changes that were made to the final GSP based on comments received from member agencies as well as highlights of work during November and December. She then invited suggestions and comments from the Board regarding what the priorities are for the Board so the next steps can be identified. Director Carmon stated funding mechanisms for the implementation process should be evaluated to determine if they should stay the same or change. Director Carmon further stated the north end of the County and the Orland area is a critical priority for a management action to help with the well issues. Director Carmon also mentioned that recharge projects should be pursued as well as invasive weed removal, such as Arundo in Stony Creek. Director Enos agreed priorities should remain focused on the areas impacted most heavily by the drought, such as the Orland area.
 - Director Schonauer stated water from Stony Creek has reached the Sacramento River, and that groundwater levels remain a concern. Director Carmon added that Black Butte Lake is still rather low.
 - Director Arnold stated the long-term aquifer trend has been a steady decline over the past several years and that recharge remains an area of interest but lack of water and lack of funding remain obstacles.
 - Ms. Scheer suggested the GGA coordinate with the agency maintaining Black Butte Lake and Stony Creek (U.S. Army Corps) to plan ahead for recharge projects and water release to avoid water going directly to the Sacramento River.
 - Director Nerli stated the extra funding available has to be spent by April 2022 and suggested the Board solicit two other participants for the well monitoring program identified in the data gaps on the well maps. Ms. Hunter stated the program agreements with landowners need to be updated for round 2 with new cost share terms based on how Ranch Systems software and data packages are built.
 - Director Gary Hansen asked if discussions had been held in regards to monitoring the pending new well in the City of Orland; whereby, Director Roundy stated discussions have begun but the state Department of Water Resources will need to be contacted to determine if that is allowable. Director Roundy spoke against the Board members soliciting directly for well monitoring program participants and suggested staff coordinate the outreach.
 - Ms. Hunter encouraged the Board to review the potential topics list provided at the meeting.
9. *APPROVE 2022 DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC. LABOR RATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGREEMENT 1178.03 AND 1178.04
- Ms. Hunter introduced the item, stating any fee increases above 3% require Board approval and this rate adjustment is approximately 6%.
 - Director Carmon asked if there has been a Request for Proposal (RFP) conducted to see if there are cheaper vendors; whereby, Ms. Hunter stated the vendor has been contracted for this work but an RFP can be completed for future projects.
 - Director Nerli spoke in favor of approving the labor rates, stating the contractor is already knowledgeable of the basin and the GGA and there may be a cost associated with onboarding a new contractor. Discussion ensued regarding the benefits of moving forward with the amended rates and praise toward the working relationship with the contractor thus far.

On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Lohse, it was unanimously approved by members present to approve the 2022 Davids Engineering, Inc. labor rates in accordance with agreement 1178.03 and 1178.04.

10. *PROVIDE RESPONSE AND/OR CONSIDERATIONS TO GLENN COUNTY ON DRAFT GLENN COUNTY WATER WELL DRILLING PERMITS AND STANDARDS

- Director Carmon stated the Board of Supervisors is looking for input on the County’s draft well permitting ordinance recently shared with members. Director Carmon further stated the Board of Supervisors is hoping to educate the community as well as solicit as much public input as possible. The County is also considering forming a committee to review variance applications or appeals.
- Director Gary Hansen asked if there is a timeline for comments; whereby, Director Arnold stated the current well moratorium is set to expire June 22, 2022. Director Enos suggested contacting local well drillers as a possible resource, whereby Director Arnold agreed and stated the Board of Supervisors is looking for feedback on the current well moratorium as well.
- Director Schonauer stated his agency had some concerns about well spacing, whereby Director Cavagnolo agreed and spoke in favor of the proposed variance/appeal committee.
- Water and Land Solutions representative, Jenny Scheer, stated she had questions regarding the table that refers to screening depths and spacing requirements, whereby Director Carmon thanked her for her feedback and discussion ensued.
- GGA Counsel, Valerie Kincaid, stated some planning may need to be done to formalize an arrangement between the well permitting agency (Glenn County) and the GSA who adopts the GSP (the GGA) to assist with future processes. Discussion was had regarding when CEQA reports must be conducted.
- Director Carmon stated the State is updating its own well guidelines and those may be expected around June or July of this year.
- Director Gary Hansen stated the map that is referenced in the draft ordinance is not included and it would be helpful to see a map. He further stated he has concerns with the definition of “abandoned wells” indicating that several wells that are used as backup during times of surface water shortages may fall under this category and suggesting revising the language.
- Donald Bills provided commentary to the Board regarding well spacing, well capacity and abandoned wells.
- Vice Chair Hansen directed the Board to submit any commentary to Ms. Hunter and the Board will review at the next meeting.

11. COMMITTEE UPDATES

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

- There were no committee updates presented or heard though Ms. Hunter stated several of the aforementioned committees are expected to meet in the first quarter of 2022.

12. CLOSED SESSION

Gov’t Code §54956.9 – Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated or significant exposure to litigation regarding tax refund claims and challenges to previously adopted property related fees.

- No comments were presented or heard.
- The Board adjourned to closed session at 2:58 p.m.

13. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

- The Board returned from closed session at 3:05 p.m.; no reportable action was taken.

14. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- Director Carmon stated the next drought task force meeting will be March 17, 2022 at the Orland Success Square Conference Center.
- Director Roundy stated the City of Orland's water supply project is moving along and the engineering team has begun design work.

15. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

16. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 PM.