

# Glenn Groundwater Authority

## Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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

### Meeting Minutes

#### Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

July 11, 2022 | 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: 225 North 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	X 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)	R Evan Markey	City of Willows
X Matt Deadmond	Leslie Nerli	Glide Water District
X John Amaro (Chair)	R Thad Bettner	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X Charles Schonauer	R Emil Cavagnolo (2:01)	Orland-Artois Water District
X Randy Hansen	Wade Danley	Kanawha Water District
X Mark Lohse	Seth Fiack	Monroeville Water District
X Gary Enos	Lance Boyd	Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District/ Provident Irrigation District

Directors attending remotely are designated with "R" and are not counted toward a quorum, do not vote, and are considered members of the public.

#### Others in attendance:

Lisa Hunter (GGA/Glenn County), Valerie Kincaid (GGA Counsel), Dan Cummings, Ryan Aston, Jenny Scheer (Water and Land Solutions), Brandon Davison (DWR), Denise Carter (CGA), Carol Thomas-Keefer (CGA), Patricia Vellines (DWR), Grant Davids (Davids Engineering), Ben King (CGA TAC), Jaime Lely (landowner), Toni Longley (California Olive Ranch), Anjanette Shadley (Western Canal Water District)

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chair Amaro called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

#### 2. ROLL CALL

- Roll call was taken as indicated above.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- \* Approval of meeting minutes from June 14, 2022

- Chair Amaro invited comments or revisions on the aforementioned meeting minutes. No comments were heard.

**On motion by Director Schonauer, seconded by Director Gary Hansen, the meeting minutes of the June 14, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.**

#### 4. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ben King reviewed highlights from a recent California Water Commission meeting, stating the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion project has been approved for additional funding and a whitepaper on groundwater

trading has been released. Mr. King encouraged the Board to review both the Sites Reservoir and Los Vaqueros Reservoir together as potential connections to the State Water Project. Director Carmon asked where the Los Vaqueros Reservoir is located whereby Mr. King answered it is located in Contra Costa County, east of San Francisco. [Link to California Water Commission Presentation](#)

## 5. STAFF UPDATES

- Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA) Program Manager, Lisa Hunter, stated the acknowledgment form has been developed and approved in response to the well permitting executive order released in April. She is working the County's Environmental Health staff to implement the process to comply with the order.
- Ms. Hunter stated she will have a more comprehensive update on the County's staff recruitment at the next meeting.

## 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 Gary Hansen, seconded by Director Enos, it was unanimously ordered to accept the Monthly Activities Report as presented.**

- No discussion was held on item 6.b.

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

## 7. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

- a. GSP Development Grants (Proposition 1 and Proposition 68) and Project Agreements
  - b. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation
  - c. Discussion on upcoming Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant
  - d. Discussion on Water Year 2022 Annual Report
- Relating to item 7.a, Ms. Hunter stated the grant projects are winding down and all grant project work has been completed as of June 30, 2022. The remaining portion of the grant involves grant administration in the form of reporting, invoicing, and similar tasks which should be completed in August.
  - In relation to item 7.b, Ms. Hunter highlighted the Well Monitoring Pilot Program report, stating there are 16 participants, and though the agreements originally anticipated a 50% cost share for the program, there was enough grant funding to cover 100% of the costs. Ms. Hunter also highlighted the land subsidence benchmark report provided in the packet, stating there are 12 new benchmarks in the subbasin, five of which are in Glenn County.
  - Ms. Hunter further stated that the Hydrogeologic Investigation Work Plan should be expected by the next meeting which will assist in completing the next grant application. The Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Survey project data is expected to be available in May 2023.
  - In relation to item 7.c, Ms. Hunter reviewed the projected grant timeline, stating the grant solicitation is expected to open in October 2022; however, awards won't be announced until August 2023, and

agreements will be executed between September and November 2023. This schedule highlights that funding will not be available through this program until late 2023, at the earliest. Only one application is allowed per basin, so the CGA/GGA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will continue to work on prioritizing projects. Ms. Hunter recommended the Board consider hiring a grant writer, which could be executed as an independent task order with on call consultant Davids Engineering. Director Carmon spoke in favor of hiring a grant writer. Director Lohse also spoke in favor of hiring a grant writer, given the short time line. Director Arnold asked if the costs would be split with the CGA, whereby Ms. Hunter stated that arrangement has been done in the past, whereby GGA held the contract with the consultant and invoiced the CGA at the end of the project. CGA Chair, Denise Carter, stated the matter will be going to the next CGA Board meeting. Chair Amaro asked how competitive the funding is for the grant and what the criteria is for selection, whereby Ms. Hunter stated the funding is available to all high and medium priority basins, including the critically over drafted basins, and each award will be between \$1-20 million. Anjanette Shadley of the Western Canal Water District stated there are 73 medium and high priority basins in California and that the grant guidelines have not been released yet. Pat Vellines, DWR, clarified that the grant guidelines for Round 1 are available and should be the same or very similar to what is expected for Round 2. The consensus of the Board was to pursue a grant writer for assistance with the next grant. Ben King also spoke in favor.

- In relation to item 7.d, Ms. Hunter asked the Board to consider their approach to prepare the Water Year 2022 Annual Report, which is due April 1, 2023. The water year ends September 30, 2022 and that is when work could commence. Ms. Hunter stated there would be heavy collaboration with the CGA since the report is for the entire subbasin; she also suggested a technical consultant be hired to do the work. Director Carmon stated he prefers that a Request for Proposals (RFP) or Request for Qualifications (RFQ) be issued for any work to be done to remain competitive. Directors Roundy and Gary Hansen spoke in favor of hiring Davids Engineering for familiarity, consistency, and efficiency purposes, whereby Ben King spoke in favor of a competitive process. Chair Amaro inquired about the timeline for the RFP process, whereby Ms. Hunter answered a six-week solicitation issued in mid-August would award a contract by October or November. The Board consensus was to bring back this item as an action item at the next meeting to determine whether or not to issue an RFP.

## 8. WATER CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

- Ms. Hunter reviewed the aforesaid matter, stating the overall discussion at the last three meetings has led to consensus for an educational conservation campaign versus any mandatory actions due to the complexity of any potential enforcement. She then asked what option(s) the Board would like to move forward with for outreach and distribution and reviewed various ideas and options for the Board to choose from.
- Chair Amaro asked where the funding would come from whereby Ms. Hunter stated this project would be self-funded (not grant-funded) and there is funding in the budget. The amount would depend on what options the Board selected. Director Carmon spoke in favor of utilizing various online mediums to disseminate information to keep costs low. Director Gary Hansen spoke against mailers to be efficient with staff time and resources and spoke in favor of highlighting the agency's mission. Jaime Lely spoke in favor of cost-efficiency and suggested a newspaper article and social media posts. Chair Amaro asked what portion of the water users in the jurisdiction have supplied email addresses, whereby Ms. Hunter stated the exact number is not known but it is not very many of the total users. Discussion ensued.
- The Board consensus was to issue a press release and pursue as much online presence as possible in distributing educational conservation methods and information. If the press release is not widely addressed

by the press, the Board may consider publishing an article in the local newspapers. The Board provided direction for staff to work with the Executive Committee to finalize the water conservation campaign materials.

#### 9. GGA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

- a. \*Consider pursuing GGA Boundary adjustment with DWR and State Water Resources Control Board.
- b. \*Consider suspension of Prop 218 fees for lands that may qualify for boundary adjustment.

- Ms. Hunter stated a letter was received from Holly Reimers regarding comments on this item, which was distributed to the Board and will be made available on the website.
- GGA Counsel, Valerie Kincaid, reviewed the aforesaid matter, stating the memo enclosed in the packet provides background and boundary adjustment considerations. Ms. Kincaid further stated that a GGA boundary adjustment may be considered to move certain parcels under the jurisdiction of the State Board instead of the GGA. The parcels most likely to qualify would be parcels without wells or small domestic well users, and reviewed what the process would entail.
- Director Gary Hansen commented on the presence of irrigation wells in the basin. Jaime Lely asked if the parcels that would be removed from the District would also be removed entirely from the basin and all reporting would be done to the State, whereby Ms. Kincaid stated the parcels would be removed from the GGA jurisdiction, but not out of the basin. She further stated users would report to and pay fees to the State Water Resources Control Board and would have to comply with SGMA no matter the jurisdiction. Discussion ensued surrounding the differences in fees between the GGA and the State Water Board and the definition of de minimis users.
- Ben King asked if parcels with no wells are charged any fees whereby Ms. Kincaid stated the State Water Board charges are based on a well head fee and water extraction fee. Mr. King also asked how irrigated versus livestock parcels would be differentiated, Ms. Kincaid stated a determination would need to be made on a case-by-case basis.
- Jenny Scheer asked if the parcels with no wells are able to add wells or become mixed use parcels in the future, whereby Ms. Kincaid stated the County would remain the well permitting agency and the State Water Board would be the regulatory agency if parcels are excluded from the GGA. The GGA would not be involved in that decision; however, the State Water Board and County would communicate regarding that topic.
- Mr. King asked if the parcel could be reinstated with another boundary adjustment, whereby Ms. Kincaid stated this may be a possibility but the administrative costs of switching in and out of the basin is high. Director Arnold asked if the parcels being adjusted have no viable water available, whereby Ms. Kincaid stated there are some irrigated parcels included in this analysis so that may not be true.
- Holly Reimers spoke to the need to separate parcels by irrigated lands that only use surface water, those that use groundwater, and those that use both.
- Chair Amaro clarified this item is to consider the boundary adjustment, and this is not the final action.

**On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Carmon, it was unanimously ordered to pursue a GGA Boundary Adjustment with DWR and State Water Resources Control Board.**

- Ms. Kincaid stated that parcel analysis as well as outreach to the landowners will be crucial, and that the fee suspension is not final but an act of a good faith effort while research is being conducted on the matter.

**On motion by Director Carmon, seconded by Director Enos, it was unanimously ordered to suspend the Prop 218 fees for lands that may qualify for boundary adjustment.**

10. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ANNUAL AUDIT SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022

- a. \*Approve issuing Request for Proposals for Annual Audit Services for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 pending Counsel review.
- b. \*Appoint Audit Services Ad Hoc Committee and authorize the Committee to complete all tasks necessary to bring a consultant selection recommendation to the GGA Board.

- Ms. Hunter reviewed the matter, stating the GGA has reached the end of their contract extension with the current provider and so issuing an RFP is recommended. Ms. Hunter stated the option to extend the contract for an additional three years will be included in the RFP.

**On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Gary Hansen, it was unanimously ordered to issue a Request for Proposals for Annual Audit Services for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 pending Counsel review.**

- Director Gary Hansen volunteered for the Ad Hoc Committee proposed in item 10.b, as well as Director Roundy.

**On motion by Director Randy Hansen, seconded by Director Roundy, it was unanimously ordered to appoint Directors Gary Hansen and Roundy to the Audit Services Ad Hoc Committee and authorize the Committee to complete all tasks necessary to bring a consultant selection recommendation to the GGA Board.**

11. REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY DATA REVIEW, FEE ANALYSIS AND RATE SETTING SERVICES

- a. \*Approve issuing Request for Qualifications for Groundwater Sustainability Agency Data Review, Fee Analysis and Rate Setting Services pending Counsel review.
- b. \*Appoint Funding Ad Hoc Committee and authorize the Committee to complete all tasks necessary to bring a consultant selection recommendation to the GGA Board and to coordinate with the Colusa Groundwater Authority as needed.

- Ms. Hunter reviewed the aforesaid matter. Ms. Hunter stated the CGA is interested in collaborating which may result in cost efficiencies and consistency across the basin.
- Director Carmon suggested the GGA and CGA Ad Hoc Committees meet prior to releasing the RFQ, whereby Ms. Hunter stated releasing the RFQ is no guarantee of a consultant selection and that if the GGA decides to collaborate and select the same consultant as CGA, this could be negotiated in the contract scope of work.

**On motion by Director Gary Hansen, seconded by Director Roundy, it was unanimously ordered to issue a Request for Qualifications for Groundwater Sustainability Agency Data Review, Fee Analysis and Rate Setting Services pending Counsel review.**

- Director Gary Hansen recommended the Executive Committee serve as the committee responsible for tasks outlined in item 11.b. Upon further discussion, he rescinded the recommendation and instead recommended an ad hoc committee formed.
- Directors Gary Hansen and Carmon volunteered to be on the Funding Ad Hoc Committee.

**On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Enos, it was unanimously ordered to create a Funding Ad Hoc Committee and authorize the Committee to complete all tasks necessary to bring a consultant selection recommendation to the GGA Board and to coordinate with the Colusa Groundwater Authority as needed.**

**By consensus the Board appointed Directors Gary Hansen, Carmon, and Amaro to serve on the committee.**

## 12. 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
  - e. Water Well Drilling Permits and Standards Ad Hoc Committee.
- Ms. Hunter reviewed the timeline for the Recharge Services RFQ and stated the Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee will meet following the deadline for submittals.
  - Toni Longley, of California Olive Ranch, stated their organization is in support of the Recharge Pilot Project Program and looks forward to tracking the status and results. Mr. King spoke regarding winter water rights, permits, and fees.
  - Ms. Hunter stated the TAC is working closely with the CGA TAC to prioritize projects for the upcoming grant application. Mr. Lohse added one of the questions the TAC was asked to consider is what happens if the drought conditions persist. Mr. King, CGA TAC member, spoke about the new subsidence benchmarks and potential locations for additional benchmarks.

## 13. 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.

## 14. CLOSED SESSION

Gov't Code §54956.9 – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation  
 Aqualliance, California Water Impact Network, and California Sportfishing Alliance vs. Colusa Groundwater Authority, Glenn Groundwater Authority  
 Colusa County Superior Court - Case Number CV24584

- No public comments were presented or heard for agenda items 13 or 14.
- The Board adjourned to closed session at 3:11 p.m.

15. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

- The Board returned from closed session at 3:35 p.m.; counsel provided updates on both agenda items 13 and 14.

16. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- No comments were reported or heard.

17. NEXT MEETING

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 8, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

18. ADJOURN

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.