

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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

Meeting Minutes

Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

August 8, 2022 | 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: 225 North Tehama Street, Willows, CA 95988

Public participation was also offered 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)	R Evan Markey	City of Willows
X Matt Deadmond	Leslie Nerli	Glide Water District
John Amaro (Chair)	Thad Bettner	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X Charles Schonauer	X Emil Cavagnolo	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), Ashlee Veneman (Glenn County), Valerie Kincaid (GGA Counsel), Jenny Scheer (Water and Land Solutions), Brandon Davison (DWR), Grant Davids (Davids Engineering), Ben King (CGA TAC), Jaime Lely (landowner), Gina Nicholls (Nossaman LLP), Joe Turner (Geosyntec Consultants), Del Reimers (landowner), Holly Reimers (landowner), Ryan Fulton, Arne Gustafson, Lisa Humphreys (Glenn County Farm Bureau).

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Vice Chair Gary Hansen called the meeting to order at 1:31 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 July 11, 2022

- Vice Chair Gary Hansen invited comments or revisions on the aforementioned meeting minutes. No comments were heard.

On motion by Director Carmon, seconded by Director Roundy, the meeting minutes of the July 11, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

4. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

- GGA landowners, Del and Holly Reimers, inquired about agenda item number 9 from the July 11, 2022 GGA Board meeting regarding boundary adjustments, asking if everyone identified on the map will be removed

from the GGA service area, whereby GGA Counsel, Valerie Kincaid, stated the properties on the map are being considered to possibly have the fee suspended as the boundary adjustment option is being researched. Ms. Kincaid further stated the GGA is reviewing what exact parcels would qualify and landowners will be consulted but no decisions have been made.

- Ben King highlighted IrriWatch program technology and discussed its benefits.
- Jaime Lely stated landowners on the west side do not want out of the GGA service area, but would like a per well charge similar to the State's structure, whereby Ms. Kincaid stated this is currently not allowable and is not aware of any other GSAs that have done this, but this idea could be brought up during the development of a new fee.
- Gina Nicholls stated she is an attorney representing a group of landowners and stated she nor other landowners have not been contacted about the proposed fee suspension and spoke against the Proposition 218 fee structure.

5. STAFF UPDATES

- Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA) Program Manager, Lisa Hunter, stated she has been working closely with the Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA)'s new staff.

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 Randy 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 Carmon, seconded by Director Roundy, it was unanimously ordered to approve the claims as presented.

7. GLENN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- a. *Approve cost share of recruitment, hiring and on-boarding costs for a new County employee that will support GGA Activities.
- b. Provide direction on recruitment preferences

- Ms. Hunter reviewed the aforesaid matter, stating the County requested the GGA Board provide direction and explicitly approve how the costs are to be shared for recruitment, hiring, and onboarding a new employee that will work closely with the GGA.
- Ben King asked if the GGA has by-laws, whereby Ms. Hunter confirmed they do.

On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Enos, it was unanimously ordered to approve cost share of recruitment, hiring and on-boarding costs for a new County employee that will support GGA activities.

- In relation to item 7.b, the Board discussed various advertisement options. Director Enos spoke in favor of advertising at local colleges. Director Roundy suggested contacting the City of Orland to use their social media outlets to advertise the position. The consensus of the Board was to advertise the position for three weeks using the local newspapers and colleges for advertising.
- Director Roundy asked if the pay for the position is competitive, whereby Ms. Hunter confirmed it is and reviewed the County's position, salary, range and step process as well as the various options.

8. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILTY PLAN

- GSP Development Grants (Proposition 1 and Proposition 68) and Project Agreements
- Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation
- Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan solicitation for Projects
 - *Authorize staff to coordinate with the Colusa Groundwater Authority and submit projects to the Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Group for consideration to include in the Plan.

- Relating to item 8.a, Ms. Hunter stated the updated grant figures are available in the meeting packet, and that staff is working on submitting invoices to the Department of Water Resources (DWR).
- In relation to item 8.b, Ms. Hunter stated staff is preparing for the upcoming grant solicitation and the Board will be notified when that information is ready.
- Ms. Hunter reviewed item 8.c, stating the Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management (NSV IRWM) group is comprised of six counties and that grant solicitations will be available to the IRWM groups soon. In order for a project to be eligible for potential funding, the project must be included in the NSV IRWM Plan. Projects must be submitted by September 2 to be considered. Staff would like to confer with the CGA to determine which GSP projects would be suitable to recommend to be included in the Plan. Director Lohse asked if the suggested projects can be in both the GSP and the NSV IRWM Plan, whereby Ms. Hunter confirmed they could. Director Carmon shared there is \$1.2 million in funding available for this region.

On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Schonauer, it was unanimously ordered to authorize staff to coordinate with the Colusa Groundwater Authority and submit projects to the Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Group for consideration to include in the Plan.

9. WATER 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

- *Approve approach to develop the Water Year 2022 Annual Report pending concurrence with the Colusa Groundwater Authority to:

- Issue a Request for Proposals to develop Water Year 2022 Annual Report, OR
- Request a proposal from Davids Engineering, Inc.

- Ms. Hunter reviewed the aforesaid matter. Director Lohse asked why the Colusa Subbasin Annual Report cost \$50,000 but the Corning Subbasin was only \$11,000, whereby Ms. Hunter confirmed the Corning Subbasin's cost was also \$50,000.
- Vice Chair Hansen spoke in favor of working with Davids Engineering and complimented the overall working relationship.
- Directors Carmon, Enos and Roundy spoke in favor of going out to bid and the desire to stay competitive.

On motion by Director Carmon, seconded by Director Deadmond, it was unanimously ordered to approve item 9a option to issue a request for proposals to develop the Water Year 2022 Annual Report.

10. RECHARGE PILOT PROJECT AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Receive report from Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee
 - b. *Approve recommendation to select Geosyntec Consultants to provide groundwater recharge consulting services pending agreement on a negotiated scope of work and budget.
 - c. *Authorize the Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee to negotiate a scope of work and budget for Task I not to exceed \$41,000 and authorize the Program Manager or Chair to execute the Geosyntec Consultants Standard Contract agreement pending Counsel review and input.
 - d. *Authorize the Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee to negotiate a scope of work and budget for remaining tasks to bring to the GGA Board for consideration at a future meeting.
- Director Schonauer provided a committee report, stating three proposals were received in response to the Request for Qualifications issued and the Committee met to discuss vendor selection. Director Roundy asked if one of the proposals submitted was from Davids Engineering, whereby Director Schonauer confirmed there was. Director Schonauer stated the committee met with the consultants, who gave an in-depth presentation on their services. Director Schonauer further stated the committee recommends selecting Geosyntec Consultants as the vendor, and assured they are familiar with the area. Directors Enos and Cavagnolo also spoke in favor of the suggested vendor.
 - Director Carmon asked what the size of the firm is and if they are working with other SGMA groups, whereby Joe Turner of Geosyntec Consultants stated the firm has between 12,000-15,000 total employees worldwide, and that the firm does a lot of work with critically over drafted basins, namely in Southern California, but they have worked extensively in the region including the Stony Creek area. Mr. Turner further stated Water and Land Solutions will be collaborating on the project.
 - Director Enos asked how collaboration with other GGA consultants works, whereby Mr. Turner stated Geosyntec has a familiar working relationship with all of the other contracted consultants and there should be no issues.
 - Ben King thanked the committee for their work and competitive process and asked for additional qualifications from Geosyntec and Water and Land Solutions, whereby Mr. Turner and Jenny Scheer of Water and Land Solutions provided additional information about their respective firms.

On motion by Director Randy Hansen, seconded by Director Carmon, it was unanimously ordered to approve the recommendation to select Geosyntec Consultants to provide groundwater recharge consulting services pending agreement on a negotiated scope of work and budget.

- Ms. Hunter stated that the Task I goal is to identify at least one project for implementation in 2022-2023 in order to start a project immediately.

On motion by Director Carmon, seconded by Director Enos, it was unanimously ordered to authorize the Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee to negotiate a scope of work and budget for Task I not to exceed \$41,000 and authorize the Program Manager or Chair to execute the Geosyntec Consultants Standard Contract agreement pending Counsel review and input.

- No discussion was held in reference to item 10.d.

On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Randy Hansen, it was unanimously ordered to authorize the Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee to negotiate a scope of work and budget for remaining tasks to bring to the GGA Board for consideration at a future meeting.

- Director Schonauer thanked the Board for passing the aforementioned items and announced that the Orland Unit Water Users Association will be meeting September 1st and encouraged board members to attend.
- Director Lohse encouraged the committee to work with the consultant to find any additional grant funding available for the project.

11. GRANT WRITING SERVICES

- a. *Approve approach to engage in grant writing services for the upcoming Sustainable Groundwater Management Round 2 grant application pending concurrence with the Colusa Groundwater Authority to:
 - Engage the services of Davids Engineering, Inc., OR
 - Request proposals from specific individuals/firms, OR
 - Issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide grant writing services for the SGM Round 2 grant
- Ms. Hunter reviewed the aforesaid matter, stating it was decided at the last meeting to hire a grant writer to assist with the grant application for SGM Round 2 funding.
- Director Roundy spoke in favor with working with Davids Engineering; Director Enos stated he is fine working with Davids Engineering, but he is concerned with the Board doing their due diligence and might support an RFP. Director Carmon stated he is in favor of issuing an RFP or requesting proposals from specific individuals/firms to remain competitive.

On motion by Director Schonauer, seconded by Director Deadmond, it was unanimously ordered to request proposals from specific individuals/firms to engage in grant writing services for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Round 2 grant application pending concurrence with the Colusa Groundwater Authority.

12. UPDATE ON WATER CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

- Ms. Hunter provided an update on the rollout of the educational water conservation campaign and shared a press release that was issued on August 4, 2022 and a screenshot of the new GGA Drought Resources webpage.

13. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. Audit Services Ad Hoc Committee
- b. Executive Committee
 - i. CGA/GGA Joint Executive Committee
- c. Funding Ad Hoc Committee
- d. Multi-Benefit Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee
- e. Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee
- f. Technical Advisory Committee
- g. Water Well Drilling Permits and Standards Ad Hoc Committee.

- Ms. Hunter stated Committees a, b, c and d have not met and that Committee e has already provided their update. She further stated the Technical Advisory Committee will be meeting Friday, August 12 and will have an update at the next meeting. Director Carmon stated Committee g has not met as the County has been waiting for the State to finalize their well permitting guidelines before making any further revisions.
- Ben King stated there may be a Statewide Moratorium on well drilling coming soon through Assembly Bill 2202.

14. 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.

15. 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 14 or 15.
- The Board adjourned to closed session at 2:53 p.m.

16. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

- The Board returned from closed session at 3:42 p.m.; in regards agenda item 14, no reportable action was taken. In regards to item 15, direction was provided to Counsel to file an answer to the Court in response to the overruling of the demurrer by the Court.

17. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- Director Carmon announced the drought task force would be meeting Thursday, August 11, 2022 in Orland at 3:00 p.m. He further reported they are looking at trying to increase the funding for the North Valley Community Foundation program and stated that the Board of Supervisors approved fronting the funding to the Artois Community Services District to finish their water system project. There is also a project occurring in Elk Creek and an update was provided on the City of Orland project. Discussion ensued on current drought conditions and potential solutions in the community.

18. NEXT MEETING

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

19. ADJOURN

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.