



Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee Meeting Materials

August 18, 2022 | 2:00 p.m.

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Main Pump Station
7854 County Road 203, Orland, CA 95963

Remote Participation Option:

Microsoft Teams meeting

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1. Call to Order

The Chair will call the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

Staff will conduct roll call.

3. Meeting Minutes

- a. ***Approval of July 13, 2022 meeting minutes.**

Draft meeting minutes are attached.

Attachments:

- July 13, 2022 draft meeting minutes



Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2022 | 9:30 am
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Pump Station
7854 County Rd 203, Orland, CA 95963
Public participation was also offered via teleconference

1. Call to Order

John Amaro called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

2. Roll Call

	Party Representative	Member Agency
	Tom Arnold	County of Glenn
X	Grant Carmon	County of Glenn
X	John Amaro	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X	Pete Knight	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
	Julia Violich	Monroeville Water District
X	Seth Fiack	Monroeville Water District

Lisa Hunter conducted roll call as noted above.

3. Meeting Minutes

a. *Approval of May 11, 2022 meeting minutes

- No corrections or comments were made on the draft minutes.

On a motion by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Carmon, the meeting minutes of May 11, 2022 were unanimously approved as presented.

4. Period of Public Comment

- No public comments were heard.

5. Staff Reports

- Ms. Hunter reported the data from the Airborne Electromagnetic Survey (AEM) that Department of Water Resources (DWR) is conducting statewide is expected to be available in May 2023. More information can be found online at: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Data-and-Tools/AEM>

- Ms. Hunter stated she is working with DWR to submit an application through the Technical Support Services program to explore and better understand the depressions/void areas appearing near Stony Creek that have been discussed at past meetings. Discussion ensued on the terminology of the features in question.
- Ms. Hunter reviewed the status of the Proposition 1 grant and stated the grant period has concluded. The final invoicing and reporting have been submitted and she will work with DWR to finish the close out process including the release of the ten percent retention payment.
- Ms. Hunter noted the future Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant solicitation will be discussed in a separate agenda item.

6. *Approval of Revised 2022 Meeting Schedule

- Ms. Hunter stated the 2022 meeting schedule had been approved in April; however, since that time, staff has become aware of conflicts for some members to attend in person for those dates. Another consideration is the short time-frame between the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) meetings and the CSGSA meetings. She suggested revising the 2022 meeting schedule to accommodate these factors. Discussion ensued on potential meeting options.

On a motion by Mr. Carmon, seconded by Mr. Knight, it was unanimously ordered to approve the revised 2022 meeting schedule to be the third Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m.

7. *Approve Agreement with Paris Kincaid Wasiewski, LLP to provide legal services to the CSGSA

- Ms. Hunter summarized the committee began discussing this topic in March and background information is included in the meeting materials. At the May meeting, staff was directed to request a draft contract and statement of qualifications from Ms. Kincaid. Discussion ensued on the qualifications and reputation of the firm.
- Mr. Knight asked if they would only be called in for certain items requiring guidance. Ms. Hunter replied, the committee would provide direction to the firm relating to their attendance at meetings and request their guidance on certain items as needed.

On a motion by Mr. Carmon, seconded by Mr. Knight, it was unanimously ordered to approve the agreement with Paris Kincaid Wasiewski, LLP to provide legal services to the CSGSA.

8. Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

- Ms. Hunter reported on topics that will be discussed in more detail at a future meeting. She stated the Water Year 2022 Annual Report will need to be coordinated with the Tehama County portion of the basin and staff will be

meeting soon to discuss this among other topics. The CSGSA will need decide how to move through the process to develop the report.

- She stated GSA staff will also discuss approaches on the upcoming Sustainable Groundwater Management grant opportunity, which is expected to open in October 2022. She further stated there is approximately \$200 million available through this opportunity and approximately 95 basins that are eligible to apply. It seems likely this topic will be discussed at the CSAB. She further noted it would be helpful to hire a grant writer to assist with developing and submitting the application.

9. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Report

- Ms. Hunter shared the CSAB met June 8, 2022 and held initial discussions on costs and splitting Corning Subbasin shared costs. They further discussed funding mechanisms, which was clarified that each GSA will be responsible for its own funding mechanism. Shared costs will include items such as Annual Reports, grant writing, and similarly shared tasks. Further discussion will continue at the September 2022 meeting. Discussion ensued and suggestions were made to prepare materials for a productive CSAB meeting.
- Ben King spoke regarding building capacity, best practices relating to the differences between hill ground and valley ground, and cost structure.

10. Discussion on Executive Order N-7-22

- a. *Approve Well Permit Acknowledgement Form and authorize staff to finalize process with the Glenn County Environmental Health Department
- Mr. Amaro introduced the item and noted this item was discussed at the last meeting.
 - Ms. Hunter summarized that at the last meeting, staff was directed to communicate with the County's Environmental Health Department to determine if the Department had any comments or suggestions. Environmental Health staff has not provided any concerns with the proposed form. She further stated staff recommends finalizing the Well Permit Acknowledgement Form and authorize staff to continue to work with the Environmental Health Department staff to finalize an efficient process.
 - Mr. Knight inquired if this form is the same as the Glenn Groundwater Authority's (GGA) form; whereby, discussion confirmed the form is essentially the same as the GGA's form and several GSAs in the region are also using a very similar Well Permit Acknowledgement Form. Discussion ensued on the County's effort to revise the well drilling permit standards, automated water usage reporting, techniques to estimate water usage, and responsibilities of the County and the GSA.

On a motion by Mr. Carmon, seconded by Mr. Fiack, it was unanimously ordered to approve the Well Permit Acknowledgement Form and authorize staff to finalize process with the Glenn County Environmental Health Department.

11. Corning Sub-basin GSA 2022/2023 Budget

- a. Discuss Short Term Funding Strategy
 - b. Provide direction on a proposed agreement among member agencies to fund specific tasks or explore other potential options to meet short term funding needs
 - c. Discussion on appointing a fiscal agent for the CSGSA
- Ms. Hunter stated the direction from the previous meeting was to request \$40,000 from each of the agencies to fund specific tasks until a funding mechanism was in place. She further stated it will be important to select a fiscal agent that will manage the CSGSA account. Ms. Hunter said that grants have funded the CSGSA except for in-kind services and the grant funding has ended. She also noted the deadline to get a fee on the County tax roll is August 10 of each year. The soonest the GSA would see funding, if that is the preferred collection route, is over a year away. The funding contribution from each agency is intended to support the priority GSA tasks in addition to the continued in-kind services.
 - Mr. Fiack reported there had been some confusion on the funding request at the Monroeville Water District meeting; however, the funding request had been approved. Mr. Knight asked if there would be reimbursement of these initial funds. Mr. Fiack shared how Monroeville Water District handled a similar situation for reimbursement of loans. Discussion ensued on the funding request, fees in other basins and districts, and fee structures. It was clarified the funding mechanism will be developed after a consultant is selected. Mr. Carmon reported that Glenn County approved the funding request. Mr. Knight shared the topic was discussed in general and would be brought to a future GCID Board meeting.
 - Ms. Hunter stated the County would likely agree to manage the CSGSA funds. Any invoices could be brought to the CSGSA for approval prior to payment. If another agency volunteers for this role, that could also be considered. There was consensus that Glenn County be the fiscal agent for the CSGSA. Ms. Hunter stated this item would be brought back to the next meeting for action.
 - Ms. Hunter asked if a formal agreement was needed. By CSGSA consensus, it was decided that a formal agreement is not necessary at this point.

12. Funding Mechanisms for GSP Implementation

- a. *Approve issuing Request for Proposals To Provide Services to Develop and Implement a Funding Mechanism for the Operations of the Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

- b. *Authorize the Funding Mechanism RFP Ad Hoc Committee to complete all tasks necessary to bring a consultant recommendation to the CSGSA
- Ms. Hunter provided a recap of prior discussions and the CSGSA's desire to get a rate consultant on board to help move the funding mechanism process forward. An ad hoc committee was created at the May 11, 2022 meeting to bring a Request for Proposals (RFP) to the CSGSA for consideration. A draft RFP is included in the meeting packet and staff recommends approving the RFP.
- Mr. Carmon asked about the timeline for the RFP. Ms. Hunter clarified that in the draft RFP, the issue date is July 18 and closing date is September 5. Discussion ensued on the RFP and potential synergies with other projects, such as the Annual Report.
- Ms. Hunter noted the RFP currently indicated the County of Glenn will manage the agreement with the consultant. There were no concerns with this approach.
- Mr. Carmon suggested shortening the response period from 90 days to 60 days, and discussion took place on the timing of the RFP.
- Holly Dawley suggested adjusting the due date to September 2 rather than September 5 due to the holiday. There was general agreement to this suggestion.

On a motion by Mr. Fiack, seconded by Mr. Carmon, it was unanimously ordered to approve issuing the Request for Proposals To Provide Services to Develop and Implement a Funding Mechanism for the Operations of the Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan as revised to change the due date to September 2, 2022.

Mr. Knight made a motion to authorize the Funding Mechanism RFP Ad Hoc Committee to complete all tasks necessary to bring a consultant recommendation to the CSGSA. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fiack.

- During further discussion, Ben King asked if Regional Government Services (RGS) does this type of work. Mr. Carmon asked how the RFP gets distributed; whereby Ms. Hunter indicated the announcement is emailed to a list of consultants that have asked to be included in these types of announcements and the RFP is posted on the website. If members have suggestions of firms to include, the information should be sent to Ms. Hunter.

The motion was passed unanimously.

13. Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee Member Reports and Comments

- Mr. Carmon reported the County is still receiving several reports of dry wells, including both domestic and ag. Discussion ensued on the dry conditions, surface water conditions, and well conditions and response times to lower pumps.

- Ian Turnbull asked if there was any information on the reports of subsidence near Orland and Artois. Mr. Knight shared he has heard of two wells with issues and Mr. Carmon shared he heard of a collapsed well also.
- Mr. Turnbull reported that in Tehama County, the 29 cent per acre fee was passed by the Groundwater Commission for the first three years for the well registration program. The GSA will likely consider this item on Monday, July 18, 2022.

14. Next Meeting

The next CSGSA is scheduled for August 18, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

DRAFT

4. Period of Public Comment

Members of the public are encouraged to address the Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee. Public comment will be limited to three minutes. No action will be taken on items under public comment.

5. Staff Reports

Staff from members of the Corning Sub-basin GSA will provide relevant updates, such as a brief status update of GSP implementation, grant agreement, and project agreement. Reminders and clarifications may be made, and direction may be provided to staff.

6. Corning Sub-basin GSA 2022/2023 Budget

- a. Report on status of Agency contribution request.
- b. ***Approve Glenn County as the fund administrator for the CSGSA pending concurrence with the County.**

Over the past several months the CSGSA has discussed funding needs for GSP Implementation. At the April 13, 2022 meeting, the CSGSA requested figures for immediate short-term funding needs and longer-term needs, breaking the discussion into two parts. The short-term funding strategy will address immediate needs to provide for GSA administration and prioritized tasks. The longer-term needs will be addressed through the funding mechanism discussions.

At the May 11, 2022 meeting, discussion was held on short, medium, and long-term funding options. It was noted that in the immediate term, member contributions were determined to be the most effective option to fund the GSA activities. The CSGSA reviewed initial funding needs based on the Corning Subbasin GSP Section 8.9 Short-Term Implementation Start-Up Budget and Tables 8-5 and 8-6. Prioritized immediate term needs presented included legal services, fee study, grant application expenses, fiscal support, annual report, and routine data management system updates. The proposed budget for these items would be \$197,000 for fiscal year 2022/2023. If the estimated expenses are split evenly among the three members, each member would contribute \$65,667. After much discussion, the CSGSA it was agreed to request each member agency contribute \$40,000 to fund initial short-term prioritized needs.

At the July 13, 2022 meeting, it was reported that Glenn County and Monroeville Water District approved the funding request. GCID reported there had been general discussion and the item would be placed on a future agenda for consideration. There was also consensus that Glenn County be the fiscal agent for the CSGSA. Additionally, it was decided that a formal agreement relating to the fund administration was not necessary.

Members may report the status of the funding contribution request and any feedback the agencies may have regarding the contribution.

7. Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

a. Water Year 2022 Annual Report

Updates may be provided on activities relating to the Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

At the July 13, 2022 meeting, staff mentioned the process to complete the Water Year 2022 Annual Report will need to be determined. The report is due to the Department of Water Resources on April 1, 2023. Staff has communicated with Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (TCFCWCD) GSA staff to bring forward a recommended approach to release a Request for Proposals to solicit a consultant to complete the work. It is recommended TCFCWCD manage the consultant agreement which would include the Corning Subbasin Annual Report as one task within a larger Tehama County Subbasins Annual Report agreement. This would likely create efficiencies in developing the reports and have consistency within the Tehama County subbasins, while allowing the CSGSA to participate in the process of developing the Corning Subbasin Annual Report. The cost of the Corning Subbasin Annual Report would be split between the agencies.

Staff may provide additional updates on the Water Year 2022 Annual Report approach.

8. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Report

The Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) met on June 8, 2022. As discussed at the July 13, 2022 CSGSA meeting, the CSAB received updates from each Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and held discussion on funding Corning Subbasin shared costs. While each a GSA will develop its own mechanisms to fund GSA administration and GSP implementation, it will be important for the GSAs to agree on how they plan to split basin-wide or shared costs. Examples of such costs could include GSP Annual Reports and 5-year updates. Discussion on this topic is expected to continue at the next CSAB meeting, which is scheduled for September 7, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

CSAB meeting materials, including presentations, agendas, and meeting summaries are available on the website at: www.corningsubbasingsp.org.

Advisory Board members may provide additional updates.

9. Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant

a. *Approve grant writing services approach

DWR is administering the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation funding solicitation using funds authorized by the California Budget Act of 2021 (Stats. 2021, ch. 240, § 80) and the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68). The anticipated program schedule and key dates are summarized below:

Program Schedule and Key Dates	
<i>Milestone or Activity</i>	<i>Tentative Schedule</i>
SGMA Implementation Round 2 Grant Solicitation Opens	October 2022
Draft Award List Posted for Public Review	June/July 2023
Final Award List Posted	August 2023
Execute Agreements	September-November 2023

More information about the grant program can be found on DWR's website at: <https://water.ca.gov/work-with-us/grants-and-loans/sustainable-groundwater>.

As this opportunity draws nearer, it is critical to coordinate with the TCFCWCD GSA on a single application for the Corning Subbasin. The Corning Subbasin GSP Projects and Management Actions (PMAs) should be reviewed, along with any new potential PMAs. Implementation activities should also be considered which include items such as develop and submit the Annual Reports and 5-year updates, update and refine hydrologic model, expand and refine monitoring networks, and other data gaps that were identified during the development of the Corning Subbasin GSP. Staff will be working with TCFCWCD staff to bring this discussion to the CSAB for a coordinated approach across the subbasin and to recommend a prioritized list of components (projects) to include in the grant application.

At the July 13, 2022 meeting, staff gave a brief report on the upcoming SGM grant opportunity and suggested the CSGSA consider hiring a grant writer to assist with developing and submitting the application. This would be coordinated with the TCFCWCD GSA and the cost of the grant writing services would be split between the agencies. The estimated cost is not yet known.

Two approaches have been discussed with TCFCWCD staff. With either approach, staff recommends authorizing the TCFCWCD to lead the effort to hire a grant writer. It may be

more efficient and cost-effective to include the Corning Subbasin grant application as one task of a larger Tehama County subbasins grant writing agreement. This would allow the TCFCWCD to have consistent applications across the County for all the subbasins that they manage while allowing Corning Subbasin to be more specific to the local needs and include the CSGSA in the process.

One approach could be to negotiate an agreement with a selected firm through a sole source process. The second approach could be a Request for Proposals process. The approach depends on the purchasing requirements of the contracting agency.

Staff may provide additional updates on the proposed approach.

10. Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee Member Reports and Comments

Members of the CSGSA Committee are encouraged to share information, reports, comments, and suggest future agenda items. Action cannot be taken on matters brought up under this item.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

12. Adjourn

The meeting will be adjourned.
