

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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

Special Meeting Minutes

Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

March 22, 2023 | 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	Tom Arnold	County of Glenn
X Bruce Roundy	R Pete Carr (1:34)	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
X John Amaro (Chair)	R Thad Bettner (2:17)	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X Charles Schonauer	X Emil Cavagnolo	Orland-Artois Water District
X Randy Hansen (1:32)	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), Jacques DeBra (Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers), Joe Turner (Geosyntec Consultants), Jenny Scheer (Water and Land Solutions), Jeff Davids (Davids Engineering), Katie Klug (Davids Engineering), Joey Judson (CliftonLarsonAllen), Ryan Fulton (Larry Walker Associates), Holly Reimers, Del Reimers, Gwynn Turnbull Weaver, Arne Gustafson, Jaime Lely, Carol Thomas-Keefer (Colusa Groundwater Authority), Don Bills (GGA TAC), George Pendell, Gina Nicholls (Nossaman), Pete Dennehy (Montgomery & Associates), Matt Hansen

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chair John Amaro called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

2. ROLL CALL

- Roll call was taken as indicated above.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. *Approval of the meeting minutes from February 13, 2023.

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

On motion by Director Schonauer, seconded by Director Carmon, the meeting minutes of the February 13, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

4. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chair Amaro invited public comments; whereby, no public comments were heard.

5. FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022 ANNUAL AUDIT

- a. *Receive presentation and accept Glenn Groundwater Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency Financial Statements and Supplementary Information Year Ended June 30, 2022.
- Ms. Hunter introduced Joey Judson from CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) where he conducted a presentation regarding the 2021/2022 fiscal year financial statements. He stated CLA is issuing an unmodified opinion which is the highest opinion. In the final report, an audit adjustment will be included that will reduce the revenue in the amount of \$370,000 that was recorded in the incorrect fiscal year.
 - Ms. Kincaid replied to a question, stating the Board can approve the report with the aforementioned adjustment, however, if there are any other substantial changes, it should be brought back to the Board.
 - Director Carmon suggested waiting to approve the statement until after the change was made and finalized. Ms. Hunter asked Ms. Kincaid about the audit requirement deadline, which she confirmed was March 31, 2023. Director Carmon asked for confirmation that this change would be the only one, whereby, Ms. Hunter concurred and stated if any other substantial changes are made, it will be brought back to the Board.

On motion by Director Gary Hansen, seconded by Director Roundy, it was unanimously ordered to approve the Glenn Groundwater Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency Financial Statements and Supplementary information Year Ended June 30, 2022 as presented in draft form with the changes mentioned.

6. STAFF UPDATES

- Ms. Hunter stated between February 14, 2023 and March 22, 2023, one Well Permit Acknowledgement Form has been received.
- Ms. Hunter stated there will be a webinar on March 23, 2023 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. regarding Executive Order N-4-23 which will discuss diversions of high flood flows for the purpose of recharge at existing recharge facilities, managed wetlands, and eligible ag lands. She stated the webinar link was sent to the board members.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. *Review and accept Monthly Activities Report.
 - b. *Review and consider approval of claims.
- Director Carmon asked for clarification on the line stating “penalties and costs delinquent taxes”. Ms. Hunter replied the GGA gets a portion of the penalties associated with delinquent taxes collected.

On motion by Director Enos, seconded by Director Randy Hansen it was unanimously ordered to approve the Monthly Activities Report.

On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Schonauer, it was unanimously ordered to approve the claims.

8. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- Ms. Hunter stated there was nothing to report.

9. GGA GROUNDWATER RECHARGE PILOT PROJECT

- a. Receive an update on the GGA Groundwater Recharge Services.
 - b. *Approve Drought Executive Order N-7-22, Action 13 Self-Certification Form and authorize the Program Manager to submit the form on behalf of the GGA.
 - c. *Approve Agreement between Glenn Groundwater Authority and Orland-Artois Water District Regarding Groundwater Recharge Pilot Project.
 - d. *Direction and/or approval of additional pilot project recharge sites for Phase 1 project implementation.
- Jenny Scheer from Water and Land Solutions provided an update on the GGA Groundwater Recharge Services. She shared an overview of Phase 2 which includes a series of meetings with stakeholders and land owners to identify potential recharge sites.
 - Ms. Scheer reported the Orland-Artois Water District is currently implementing the short-term recharge project at the Van Tol property and is interested in implementing more recharge sites this winter throughout the district. She shared project progress and aerial photographs of the site, and further stated the GGA Board approved a budget for Phase 1 implementation not to exceed \$40,000 which would go toward said project once an agreement had been reached.
 - Ms. Scheer asked if the Board would be interested in using the implementation funds to share in the cost of the additional recharge sites or maximize recharge at the Van Tol site. Director Carmon stated he would be willing to slow down the flow at the Van Tol site to save some budget and spread out to other potential sites. Director Enos stated to hold off on any structural work and use the water on additional sites. Discussion ensued on potential recharge sites. Director Amaro asked how long Section 215 water generally lasts; whereby, Director Cavagnolo responded in the past, it has been available until June but, it depends on the flows.
 - Ms. Kincaid stated that Items 9b and 9c are not specific to the Van Tol recharge site and would cover these additional sites; however, if the Board chooses to partner with other agencies, they will need to enter into different partnership agreements and summarized what that would entail.

On motion by Director Carmon, seconded by Director Gary Hansen, it was unanimously ordered to approve Drought Executive Order N-7-22, Action 13 Self-Certification Form and authorize the Program Manager to submit the form on behalf of the GGA.

On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Enos, it was ordered to approve the agreement between Glenn Groundwater Authority and Orland-Artois Water District Regarding Groundwater Recharge Pilot Project. Director Schonauer abstained from voting.

- Additional discussion on potential recharge sites ensued. Director Carmon stated he is in favor of additional sites for water purchase as long as there is a monitoring well nearby and it does not exceed the \$40,000 already allocated. There was discussion on supporting water supply to Lely Park and including educational components due to its high visibility. There is also a desire to explore overflow in Stony Creek to put in gravel pits.

- Staff was directed to bring back an agenda item with partnership agreements with City of Orland and Orland Unit Water Users Association.
- Ms. Hunter also mentioned a potential opportunity to showcase recharge projects which will be brought to a future meeting for consideration.

10. PRESENTATION ON COLUSA SUBBASIN WATER YEAR 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

- Jeff Davids from Davids Engineering gave a presentation on the Colusa Subbasin Water Year 2022 Annual Report including groundwater conditions, water budget, and GSP implementation. He noted this Report was a collaborative effort between Davids Engineering and Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE).
- Mr. Davids reviewed the requirements of the Annual Report contents and shared groundwater conditions as they relate to the Sustainable Management Criteria. Discussion ensued on groundwater storage, recharge, subsidence, surface water supplies, and implementation highlights. It was noted that additional technical details were provided during a presentation to the CGA/GGA Joint Technical Advisory Committee.
- Ms. Hunter mentioned the presentation will be available online to any interested parties.

11. GSP IMPLEMENTATION FEE PROJECT

- Receive update on the GSP Implementation Fee Project
 - Receive an update on outcomes from the Public Workshops
 - Discussion of Fee Options to consider
 - Review next steps and provide direction to consultant team and staff
- Jacques De Bra from LSCE greeted the Board and proceeded with presentation on the implementation fee project progress. He began by sharing highlights of the three public workshop meetings, which he considered successful. Mr. De Bra proceeded to discuss different ways to charge fees and considerations including a fee per acre, a fee structure where non-irrigated lands would pay a lessor fee compared to irrigated lands, a land use hybrid approach, or a metered use approach. Significant discussion ensued on implementation and administrative costs, the cost to implement particular charge options, potential charge options and the pros and cons of each, and the Proposition 218 process.
 - It was clarified that the goal is to select fee options to evaluate in a technical memorandum, which will provide additional detail about each option. After review of the technical memorandum, the GGA will select one option to be evaluated in the fee study report. Legal Counsel will need to review the options as well.
 - There was general consensus to evaluate charge options in the technical memorandum as presented by LSCE which include a charge per acre, irrigated /non-irrigated, land use hybrid, and metered use. There was general consensus not to include a well head fee option. It was also agreed that Monroeville Water District would be considered a groundwater pumping area, not a surface water irrigated area.

12. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Executive Committee
 - CGA/GGA Joint Executive Committee
 - Fee Study Ad Hoc Committee
 - Groundwater Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee
 - Technical Advisory Committee
- There were no additional updates for Items 12.a-12.c

- In relation to Item 12.d, Director Lohse mentioned he received an e-mail from Department of Water Resources stating they were postponing their groundwater level monitoring until the week of April 7, 2023.

13. FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION: FORM 700 REMINDER

- Chair Amaro reminded the Board members to submit their 700 forms.

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

16. CLOSED SESSION

Gov't Code §54956.9 (d)(2) Conference with Legal Counsel – Significant exposure to litigation – one matter.

- No public comments were presented or heard for Items 14, 15, or 16.
- The Board adjourned to closed session at 4:22 p.m.

17. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

- The Board returned from closed session at 4:42 p.m.
- In regards to Items 14, 15 and 16 the Board received an update from counsel.

18. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- No member reports or comments were heard.

19. NEXT MEETING

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

20. ADJOURN

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.