



Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2023 | 2:00 p.m.
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Pump Station
7854 County Rd 203, Orland, CA 95963

Public participation was also offered via teleconference

1. Call to Order

- Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

Roll call was taken as noted above. A quorum of members was present.

3. Meeting Minutes

- *Approval of August 2, 2023 special meeting minutes.
 - *Approval of August 8, 2023 special meeting minutes.
- No corrections or comments were made to the August 2, 2023 meeting minutes. The August 8, 2023 special meeting minutes were not available.

On a motion by Mr. Carmon, seconded by Ms. Violich, the August 2, 2023 special meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

4. Period of Public Comment

- Del Reimers presented a letter from the State Cattlemen’s Association. The letter stated concerns that rangeland owners (non-extractors) will be charged fees to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Mr. Reimers discussed the various disputes rangeland owners have with paying fees when they do not pump groundwater.

- Ms. Violich stated these compliance issues come from the State. She stated annual reports and administrative costs must be funded regardless of if a landowner pumps groundwater.
- Mr. Reimers stated only four counties in the state charge rangeland owners the fees. There was general consensus among the committee to verify this information as it was the understanding all landowners paid for SGMA compliance. Ms. Kincaid stated GSAs have used different mechanisms and it is incorrect that the parcel fee is only charged in the North Valley.
- Discussion ensued on the issues that affect the rangeland owners, fees, and solutions for compliance.
- There was a discussion on the possibility of charging a well head fee. Ian Turnbull stated this process is not cost effective nor practical.
- Michelle Dooley, Department of Water Resources (DWR), introduced herself and stated she was sitting in for Brandon Davison.
- Kevin Donnelley stated rangeland owners help the Corning Subbasin by bringing water into it through the Orland Project and have paid for the Project for many years. He is dissatisfied rangeland owners will be charged. Hank Irick expressed appreciation for Orland Unit Water Users' Association (OUWUA), particularly through the drought when wells were dry.
- Responding to a question from Doc Bogart, Chairman Arnold stated how the CSGSA has been funded over the last 5 years, including grant funding and member contributions. There was a discussion on ways to supplement fees including grant opportunities.

5. Staff Reports

- Lisa Hunter stated four well permit acknowledgment forms have been received by the CSGSA between July 27, 2023 and August 23, 2023.
- Ms. Hunter stated administrative items discussed at past meetings are still in process and more information will be brought forward as needed.
- Ms. Hunter stated she contacted Golden State Risk Management Authority to provide a quote for liability insurance.

6. Financial Report

- a. *Review and consider approval of claims.
- No comments were heard on item 6.a.

On motion by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Carmon, it was unanimously ordered to approve the claims as presented.

7. Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CSGSA) Operations and GSP Implementation Fee Project

- a. Receive an update on the CSGSA Fee Project activities.
 - b. Discussion on approved CSGSA Fee Policy.
 - c. Discussion on User Classification Change Request process
- Ms. Hunter reviewed the fee process and public hearing outcomes. She stated the fee policy was approved and the direct charge files were submitted to the Glenn County Department of Finance (DOF) by the August 10, 2023 deadline. She stated the consulting team made as many corrections to the acreage discrepancies as possible before sending to DOF. Although the fee policy was approved, the reclassification review process is in progress and corrections will need to be made upon completion.
 - Mr. Reimers stated both notices sent to him were incorrect. He asked for clarification regarding the reclassification process. Ms. Kincaid discussed the possibilities of how the reclassification could occur. Discussion ensued on CSGSA and staff direction, assessor involvement, timelines and responsibility of the landowners.
 - There was discussion on the refund process. If a landowner is charged incorrectly on their tax bill, there was general consensus to cut a check rather than crediting landowners on the following tax bill. This process will be clarified with the County.
 - Mr. Bogart stated he has not received any paperwork regarding the fee policy. He was directed to Lisa Hunter to verify the mailing address on file is correct.
 - Mr. Reimers suggested landowners be informed about the proposition 218 process and appeals. Ms. Kincaid stated she had concerns with providing legal advice to landowners as it would cause too much exposure for the agency.
 - There was a lengthy discussion on the user classification change request (UCCR) process and draft form. Mr. Carmon suggested after a landowner submits the UCCR form, staff should review and provide a recommendation to the CSGSA. He noted all reclassifications should be brought to the CSGSA. The following suggestions were made to the UCCR form:
 - Remove the current annual fee section of the UCCR form.
 - Add the ability to submit as much supporting documentation as possible.
 - Remove the phone number and add mail or hand delivery address.
 - Mr. Carmon further suggested providing the landowner notice of the date and time of the CSGSA meeting that will be hearing their reclassification submittal. It was noted the form will be available online.

8. Corning Subbasin Professional Services

- a. *Consider authorization for Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to issue *Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Professional Services for Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Annual Reports, DWR GSP Review Response to Comments, and Implementation Activities for the Bowman, Red Bluff, Antelope, Los Molinos, and Corning Subbasins* in partnership with the CSGSA as it relates to the Corning Subbasin.
- b. Provide direction on preferred RFQ review process.
 - Ms. Hunter provided an overview of Item 8.
 - There was discussion on breakdown of costs, the selection process, qualification of consultants to apply, and the importance of conducting interviews. Ms. Hunter stated there will be an evaluation committee comprised of representatives from Tehama County Flood and Water Conservation District and the CSGSA.
 - There was no opposition to the RFQ moving forward.

9. Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

- Ms. Hunter stated the data from the Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Survey that was conducted state-wide by DWR is now available for download or through web map data views showing the electrical resistivity data and interpretation data. It was requested the link to the AEM data be sent out.
- Ms. Hunter noted there are no updates on the status of the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Round 2 grant application. Final awards are expected to be announced in October. There was discussion on components of the grant and where funding could be spent after final award.

10. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Report

- Ms. Hunter stated the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) met on August 2, 2023. She stated an update was provided on GSA activities and a presentation was given on facilitation support services for the Corning Subbasin. The CSAB also continued prioritizing basin-wide tasks which will remain a standing agenda item. The next meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2023.
- Mr. Carmon asked out the CSAB term expiration dates; whereby, Ms. Hunter responded March 2024 is the soonest a CSGSA member term expires. Mr. Turnbull stated in Tehama County, some terms expire in December 2023.
- Mr. Reimers asked Ms. Dooley if DWR had comments on the pricing; whereby Ms. Dooley responded she did not know all the specifics of fees throughout the State and it is a locally driven process.

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

- Chairman Arnold invited CSGSA member reports or comments; whereby, none were presented or heard.

12. Next Meeting

- The next regular scheduled meeting is on September 28, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

13. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.