

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

225 North Tehama Street, Willows, CA 95988 | 530.934.6540

Meeting Minutes

Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

December 12, 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 (1:34) | Tom Arnold | County of Glenn |
| X Bruce Roundy | R Pete Carr (1:41) Ed Vonasek (2 nd) | City of Orland City of Orland |
| X Gary Hansen (23/24 Chair) | R Evan Markey | City of Willows |
| X Matt Deadmond | Michael Alves | Glide Water District |
| X John Amaro (23/24 Vice Chair) | Vacant | Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District |
| X Charles Schonauer | Emil Cavagnolo | Orland-Artois Water District |
| X Randy Hansen | Wade Danley | Kanawha Water District |
| X Mark Lohse | Seth Fiack | Monroeville Water District |
| Gary Enos | R Jered Shipley | 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:

Kaitlyn Murray (GGA/Glenn County), Valerie Kincaid (GGA Counsel), Jenny Scheer (Water and Land Solutions), Ryan Fulton (Larry Walker Associates), Shasta Banchio (GCID/GGA TAC), Toni Longley, Jeff Davids (Davids Engineering), Katherine Klug (Davids Engineering), Joe Turner (Geosyntec), Jaime Lely

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Hansen called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. ROLL CALL

- Roll call was taken as indicated above.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- Chairman Hansen invited comments or revisions on the aforementioned meeting minutes; whereby, none were heard.

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

4. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jenny Scheer stated the annexation of about 10,000 acres into the Orland Artois Water District was approved by the Water District Board in November. She stated the first stage with LAFCO occurred December 11 to

update the sphere of influence and the annexation will go to LAFCO in January. She further stated this will help with the shortfall in the water budget as well as improving the subsidence and dry well issues within that area. She noted the annexation will go to the Bureau of Reclamation for final approval.

5. STAFF UPDATES

- Chairman Hansen noted GGAs Program Manager, Lisa Hunter was not in attendance due to illness.
- Chairman Hansen invited staff updates; whereby, none were heard.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. *Review and accept Monthly Activities Report.
- b. *Review and consider approval of claims.

- Chairman Hansen invited comments or questions; whereby, none were heard.

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

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

- Chairman Hansen noted, Director Carmon entered the meeting just before Item 5.

7. *APPROVE REVISED 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

- Chairman Hansen stated the purpose of a revision to the previously approved meeting schedule is to change the November 11, 2024 meeting due to it being a federal holiday. Director Roundy noted the November meeting is proposed to be rescheduled to November 12, 2024.
- Director Carmon mentioned the Board of Supervisors meetings are held on Tuesdays; however, the meetings are usually adjourned by 1:00 p.m. avoiding conflict with the Tuesday scheduled GGA meetings.

On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Carmon, it was unanimously ordered to approve the revised 2024 meeting schedule.

8. CITY OF ORLAND NOTICE OF GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT / NOTICE OF INTENT TO RE-ADOPT THE CITY OF ORLAND 2021-2029 6TH CYCLE HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

- a. *Discuss and consider submitting comments on draft document.

- Pete Carr stated the State instructed the City to make some slight modifications to the General Plan/Housing Element which included a way to calculate the obligation the City has to allow for low-income housing.
- There was consensus from the Board not to move forward with submitting comments on the draft document.

9. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (GSP)

- a. Receive an update on Colusa Subbasin GSP implementation activities.
- b. Receive an update on Colusa Subbasin GSP "Incomplete" Determination, Recommended Revisions, and Proposal for Completion.
- c. *Approve cost share on a 50/50 basis with Colusa Groundwater Authority for Phase 1 Task Order 1 with Davids Engineering for a total Task 1 amount not to exceed \$47,519.

- Ms. Kincaid stated she spoke with CGA’s counsel regarding the GSP. She stated there are 180 days to resubmit the GSP to DWR. She stated a timeline is in the works and the technical consultant has met with Ms. Hunter and Ms. Thomas-Keefer. She further stated a meeting is being planned with the technical team, attorneys, and the managers. She stated the importance of scheduling appointments with DWR to get a clear understanding of what is needed to get out of an incomplete status and into compliance.
- Discussion ensued on the components of the incomplete determinations, a plan forward and the tight timeline the Board is facing.
- In regards to Item 9.b. Katie Klug of Davids Engineering stated they have put together a proposal stating what it would entail to go through the revisions. She stated the proposal includes a two-phase approach where the first phase includes many of the policy and technical questions that would guide the revisions with the second phase implementing the revisions while still coordinating with the GGA, CGA, and the joint TAC. She noted the first meeting with DWR is scheduled for next Tuesday (December 19, 2023). She further reviewed the three deficiencies received from DWR including issues with overdraft, groundwater levels, and subsidence and stated Davids Engineering has put together a list of potential options to address the deficiencies.
- Director Lohse expressed his concerns for the subbasin if it were to be deemed inadequate. Discussion ensued on the details of an inadequate classification, State intervention, and corrective actions to avoid that outcome. Director Carmon encouraged details of Glenn County’s updated well permitting process to be included in the GSP revision.
- Regarding Item 9.c., Chairman Hansen read the staff report included in the meeting packet. He further invited questions or comments; whereby, none were heard.

On motion by Director Roundy, seconded by Director Amaro, it was unanimously ordered to approve a cost share on a 50/50 basis with Colusa Groundwater Authority for Phase 1 Task Order 1 with Davids Engineering for a total Task 1 amount not to exceed \$47,519, with GGA share being \$23,759.50.

10. GGA GROUNDWATER RECHARGE SERVICES

- Receive an update on groundwater recharge services and pilot project implementation activities.
 - Discuss and provide direction on long-term groundwater recharge priorities.
- Ms. Scheer stated the pilot projects were a success and now looking for direction from the board on long-term recharge projects. She stated the Ad Hoc Committee met and discussed the goals of groundwater recharge and which projects would make the most sense for this basin, which the Board needs to learn more information about, and which should be evaluated in greater detail. Ms. Scheer reviewed the seven projects types that were brought forward from the Ad Hoc Committee as a recommendation for further analysis. There was a lengthy discussion on permitting, short- and long-term costs, water right applications, potential partners, and project development. There was consensus from the Board to move forward with additional analysis of six projects. Those projects include: existing basins with local creek winter flows, winter water, Black Butte reservoir storage/releases, Stony Creek section 215 designation, on-farm system modernization, and water right application.
 - There was some discussion on the current contract with Geosyntec and status of tasks. Chairman Hansen requested to include an item on the January agenda to look into adding additional scope the contract with Geosyntec to potentially extend the task associated with the groundwater recharge pilot projects to continue the work this winter.

11. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT (SGM) ROUND 2 GRANT APPLICATION FEEDBACK

- a. Receive an update on meeting with Department of Water Resources regarding the Colusa Subbasin SGM Round 2 grant application.
 - b. *Authorize Chairman to coordinate with Colusa Groundwater Authority and send a letter to Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers regarding the feedback received on the SGM Round 2 grant application.
- Chairman Hansen stated on November 29, 2023 CGA and GGA members met with three representatives from DWR regarding the grant application feedback. Chairman Hansen stated DWR staff indicated the projects submitted in the application were good projects. DWR staff met with Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE), the consultant hired by GSAs to complete the grant application, during the application process. DWR provided a template for grant applicants to use in the application process. Chairman Hansen reviewed items in the application that were inadequate. Included in those inadequacies were incomplete maps, not utilizing the template provided, and project descriptions were lacking specific required information. Chairman Hansen noted a different team from LSCE completed the grant application for the Corning Subbasin, which was awarded grant funding.

On motion by Director Carmon, seconded by Director Randy Hansen, it was unanimously ordered to authorize the Chairman to coordinate with Colusa Groundwater Authority and send a letter to LSCE regarding the feedback received on the SGM Round 2 grant application.

12. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. CGA/GGA Joint Executive Committee
 - b. Fee Study Ad Hoc Committee
 - c. Groundwater Recharge Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee
 - d. Technical Advisory Committee
- In relation to Item 12.a., there was nothing additional to report.
 - In relation to Item 12.b., Director Carmon stated there was a meeting on November 8 and the consultants were working on defining the policy, potentially reaching out to landowners on classification, coordinating with the cities, and a plan forward.
 - In relation to Item 12.c., Director Roundy stated the project has been a positive experience. Answering a question from Director Carmon, Ms. Scheer stated data from the pilot recharge projects should be available next month.
 - In relation to Item 12.d., Director Lohse stated priorities have changed since the GSP was deemed incomplete and work will focus on the GSP revisions.

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

- Chairman Hansen invited public comment on Items 13 or 14; whereby, no public comments were presented or heard.
- The Board adjourned to closed session at 2:54 p.m.

15. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

- The Board returned from closed session at 3:16 p.m.
- Chairman Hansen stated there were no reportable actions for Items 13 or 14.

16. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- Chairman Hansen invited reports or comments from the Board; whereby, none were heard.

17. NEXT MEETING

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

18. ADJOURN

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.