

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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MINUTES

Glenn Groundwater Authority Executive Committee

December 3, 2020

3:30 PM

Teleconference

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-29-20 this meeting was conducted by teleconference. The meeting was accessible via telephone, computer, smartphone, or tablet and remote participation was highly encouraged.

Committee Members Present:	Agency Representing:
X John Viegas	County of Glenn
X Leslie Nerli (4:24 pm)	Glide Water District
X John Amaro	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District

Others in attendance:

Lisa Hunter, GGA/Glenn County; Hilary Reinhard, CGA; Valerie Kincaid, GGA Counsel; Jim Brobeck, Vina Subbasin Stakeholder Advisory Committee; F Lepp

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Amaro called the meeting to order at 3:37 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Lisa Hunter took roll call which is indicated above.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Approval of meeting minutes from May 27, 2020

A motion was made to approve the May 27, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted.

Motion: John Viegas, Second: John Amaro, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

John Viegas: AYE

John Amaro: AYE

4. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Brobeck commented about the importance of inter-basin coordination during the development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans and requested public participation in ongoing staff-level inter-basin coordination meetings in the Northern Sacramento Valley. Ms. Hunter added the working-group is not a decision-making body and Butte County is hosting a website to share information about the coordination efforts. She also confirmed Board members are not attending the working group meetings, public workshops are taking place December 9 and December 10 to provides updates on GSP development and receive input, and noted that the subbasins are gathering information regarding modeling efforts.

5. STAFF UPDATES

Ms. Hunter stated the annual audit is in progress. She noted she met with The Nature Conservancy and Department of Water Resources staff to discuss the potential to partner on a multi-benefit groundwater recharge project. More information will be presented at the GGA Board meeting. The transition to the new office location is going smoothly.

6. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

- a. Receive update on Plan development and activities
- b. Receive update on GSP Development Grants (Proposition 1 and Proposition 68)
- c. Receive update on Project Agreements
- d. *Discussion and possible recommendations to the GGA Board on Colusa Subbasin Outreach Strategy
- e. *Discussion and possible recommendations to the GGA Board on Technical Advisory Committee
- f. *Discussion and possible recommendations to the GGA Board on GSP development and activities

Ms. Hunter indicated the **grants** and **Project Agreements** are on-track and going smoothly. The committee discussed the status of **outreach** components including social media, upcoming outreach meetings, and in-person versus online formats. Ms. Hunter noted that the Colusa Subbasin SGMA Facebook and Twitter accounts were launched. Emails were sent to Board members, outreach partners, and media to share information about the outreach meetings and launching of social media. Mr. Amaro agreed that he could provide the introduction at the public meetings being held in coordination with the Colusa Groundwater Authority. John Viegas can be available if needed.

Ms. Hunter introduced the draft **Colusa Subbasin Logo** that has been developed by the outreach team to show the Colusa Subbasin as a cohesive unit. The logo is expected to be used for joint projects, programs, the GSP, and similar items. There was agreement that the design is pleasing and committee members preferred the design with the logo above with words below. It was clarified that both designs would be used depending on the layout of the items. Mr. Viegas suggested only having one version so as not to create confusion. Mr. Viegas made a motion to recommend the Colusa Subbasin logo to the Board of Directors for discussion and approval.

Motion: John Viegas, Second: John Amaro, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

John Viegas: AYE

John Amaro: AYE

There was further discussion on outreach in-person versus online formats. The State has just announced further restrictions. In-person activities are not possible at this time.

There was consensus regarding the direction of the outreach approach.

The discussion regarding the **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** stems from previous conversations on how best to facilitate the transfer of information from the TAC to the Board. The goal is to get enough technical and GSP development information to the Boards so that Board members feel prepared to make difficult decisions through the GSP development process. The TAC is working hard on the technical components, Davids Engineering provides a monthly status update memo, and a TAC member is giving reports at the Board meetings. Some Board members have expressed they are not feeling comfortable with making decisions when the time comes because they do not have enough information. Additionally, the GGA has received a verbal resignation from a TAC member, and that vacancy will need to be filled.

There was general discussion eluding that it is difficult to disseminate such a large amount of information to whole Board. It is the responsibility of each Board member to review the information, ask questions, and educate themselves prior to Board meetings and decision points. Some Board members have found it helpful to listen to the TAC meetings. A suggestion was made that it may be helpful to have a longer meeting every other month or as needed to review TAC materials and discussions. Another suggestion is to have the consultants provide a presentation to the Board. It was noted in a neighboring subbasin, the consultant provides powerpoint presentations to the Advisory Board monthly. Another potential option is to include robust reports from the TAC and continue to have the TAC representative be available for questions, and to include the TAC meeting minutes and presentations in the Board packet. Joint CGA/GGA Board meetings to review TAC discussions is another possibility, if also desired by the CGA.

Ms. Kincaid pointed out there is a huge volume of technical information to distill down for the Board. It may be helpful to create decision points as chapters or components are developed. The draft chapter could be brought to the Board so they can understand the components and provide direction or approval. Ideally, the process would take place in two steps. The first step being a draft chapter presented as an information item, and at the next meeting present the chapter for approval. Presenting items for approval creates a different dynamic than being a receiver of information. There was general agreement for this approach.

Ms. Hunter summarized the discussion noting the idea to include TAC minutes and presentations in the Board meeting packets, with the hope that Board members take it upon themselves to educate themselves. Another recommendation is to bring decision points to the Board, preferably in two steps. The first step would be to introduce the item and receive feedback and the second step to bring the item for approval, not approval of the GSP, but rather the components that will make up the GSP. There was also a thought to potentially hold some Joint Board meetings. Mr. Amaro added it will still be helpful to have someone from the TAC at regular meetings to answer questions. Hilary Reinhard, CGA Board member stated she is glad this discussion is taking place and good points were made. She indicated the timeline is getting short and more input is needed from the Boards in these planning efforts.

It was agreed this item would be discussed at the Board meeting based on direction given to staff.

Ms. Hunter asked if the Executive Committee would like to provide direction on the TAC vacancy that will need to be filled. Previously, the member agencies made recommendations to the Board and the Board made the selection of the TAC members.

Discussion highlighted the need to reach out to nominees to ensure they have the time and are willing to participate. There was agreement that Ms. Hunter will include a short paragraph in the Board meeting packet indicating that there was discussion at the Executive Committee and they recommend that the Board should compile a list of individuals to contact and see if they are willing to participate on the TAC and then bring back a list of willing nominees for Board selection. Mr. Amaro noted the item should stress to the Board members to think about recommendations for nominations ahead of time and that this is an important position to fill.

There was no additional discussion on **GSP development and activities**.

7. DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL DIRECTOR TRANSITIONS AND POSSIBLE ON-BOARDING MATERIALS

John Viegas and Vince Minto are retiring from the Glenn County Board of Supervisors. A new Supervisor and Alternate will be appointed to replace the current Glenn County representatives. As new members come into the organization, it may be helpful to provide the new member(s) with a foundational information packet to help them get oriented to the GGA. There was agreement to develop on-boarding materials. Suggestions to

include in the packet include SGMA 101, how the JPA was formed and the purpose, and additional relevant background information.

Mr. Viegas suggested reviewing the Board of Supervisors new members manual for additional ideas.

Ms. Nerli suggested that it should be considered that if a member seat becomes vacant, the alternate should be moved to the voting member and a new alternate be appointed to get up to speed. It was noted that the representatives are appointed by each member agency at their discretion.

There was general agreement to direct Ms. Hunter to develop the on-boarding materials.

8. *APPROVE 2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

A motion was made to approve the 2021 Executive Committee Meeting Schedule.

Motion: Leslie Nerli, Second: John Viegas, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

John Viegas: AYE

John Amaro: AYE

Leslie Nerli: AYE

9. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Viegas offered his assistance to gather on-boarding materials if needed. He also noted there was a General Plan update at the Board of Supervisors meeting. He encouraged the GGA to engage in the process because they need to have input. He made that comment to the Board of Supervisors and consults as well.

10. DISCUSS ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT GGA BOARD MEETING AGENDA

No additional items were added.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2021 at 1:30 PM. (Correction, the meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2021.)

12. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.