

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

PO Box 351, Willows, CA 95988 | 530.934.6501

MEETING MINUTES

GLENN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JULY 08, 2019

5:30 PM

201 NORTH LASSEN STREET, WILLOWS, CA 95988

Director Members Present:		Agency Representing:	
X	John Viegas		County of Glenn
X	Bruce Roundy		City of Orland
X	Gary Hansen		City of Willows
	George Nerli		Glide Water District
X	John Amaro		Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X	Charles Schonauer		Orland-Artois Water District
X	Randy Hansen		Kanawha Water District
	Gary Enos		Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District/ Provident Irrigation District
Alternate Members Present:			
X	Vince Minto		County of Glenn
	Pete Carr		City of Orland
X	Evan Markey		City of Willows
X	Leslie Nerli		Glide Water District
	Thaddeus Bettner		Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X	Emil Cavagnolo		Orland-Artois Water District
	Wade Danley		Kanawha Water District
	Lance Boyd		Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District/ Provident Irrigation District
2 nd Alternate Members Present:			
	Ed Vonasek		City of Orland
X	Andrea Jones		Orland-Artois Water District
	Michael Alves		Kanawha Water District

Others in attendance:

Sign In Sheets attached.

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Amaro called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll was taken and is indicated above.

3. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

The Monthly Activities Report and Claims Summary were included in the meeting packet materials. A motion was made to accept the Monthly Activities Report as presented.

Motion: Bruce Roundy, Second: Gary Hansen, Vote: Unanimous

A motion was made to approve claims as presented.

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

5. PUBLIC HEARING: GLENN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY PROPERTY-RELATED FEE

John Amaro opened the Public Hearing to provide an opportunity for the public to comment and protest on the Authority's proposed property related fee. He stated the fee is intended to cover everyday operations of the Authority. These operations include administration, legal services, insurance, office and outreach materials, accounting, monitoring and reporting to the Department of Water Resources, and potentially some special studies. Mr. Amaro reviewed the hearing procedures.

Valerie Kincaid, the GGA's legal counsel, reviewed the Authority's compliance with the requirements of the Proposition 218 process. Dave Ceppos, a neutral facilitator from Sacramento State University Consensus and Collaboration Program provided background information on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the Glenn Groundwater Authority, and financing SGMA implementation.

Bruce Roundy commented the importance of keeping the state out, the benefits of local management, and the Board's desire to keep the fees as low as possible.

John Amaro commented on the benefits of local control and local representation.

Gary Hansen stated the all are affected and while nobody wants increased fees, we must comply with state law and keep the State Water Resources Control Board out of our business. The Board has worked hard to keep the fees as low as possible. The cities will pay the same per acre rate on behalf of the land owners within the city boundaries in order to save money in administrative costs and control costs.

John Viegas noted the collaboration between all the agencies to try to provide unity and protect our local groundwater.

Leslie Nerli stated she appreciates the involvement and commitment of the Board to keep it local and the importance of protecting the ability to manage locally.

Mr. Amaro reviewed the procedures for providing comments and notes there were approximately 43 individuals present. Mr. Amaro opened the Public Comment portion of the Hearing.

Gwynn Turnbull-Weaver stated her comments are specific to the western boundary including the foothill areas that are non-irrigated. She feels the fee proposal incentivized non-irrigated lands to want the State to intervene as the fee would be lower under State control and the proposed structure subsidizes heavy groundwater users. She suggested a provision be made or a waiver process for those who do not irrigate lands to maintain the foothill areas. She also commented the foothill areas generally have a minimum parcel size of 160 acres which unfairly distributes votes when using a one vote per parcel structure.

Frances Lepp asked if the acreage has to have a well on it to be assessed.

Luke Reimers stated the fee is irresponsible and the cities are subsidized by rangeland. He supports the idea of a waiver process for the rangeland and cattle producers on the west side of the Colusa Subbasin.

Valerie Kincaid responded one consideration is that the State Water Board has the authority to implement an "interim plan" which is essentially the State's version of a GSP. Local control (GGA) has the ability to work with stakeholders to define local management areas, for instance for non-groundwater users. The State Water Board does not have that ability. It is a possibility that the State Water Board would cut historic non-groundwater users to zero allocations. Local management areas written into the plan would recognize this special circumstance, which would provide a specialized part of the plan, and potentially recognition in future fee constructs.

Luke Reimers responded that there is a significant cost associated with this and it will affect operations and the value of the land and the Board is capable of providing a waiver system and should be willing to do so.

Chris Souza stated they have a domestic well with 111 acres, and they irrigate about 25 acres of pasture with water from their pond. He asked why they are being charged for more than what they actually irrigate.

Holly Reimers stated she is representing several rangeland landowners. She stated as stipulated in Proposition 218 Section 6, it states fees are charged by an agency per parcel in exchange for providing a property related service. She believes they are not being provided a service or benefit in return for the fee as stipulated in the Proposition 218 process. She also asked why the Orland Unit Water Users are not here or represented. She also believes some landowners were not properly notified of the protest hearing.

Gladys Bettencourt stated she has about 60 acres with only a domestic well supply. She stated she cannot afford any increases in taxes on her limited income.

Rhonda Perkins stated water is a property right and that is why she is opposed to the fee.

Maryann Edmonson stated she only has one acre and the fee is not that significant for her but she questions the legality of the situation, not necessarily the Board, but regarding the law that was passed to enable the people to vote before a new tax is implemented. She asked if anyone challenged the State for saying there must be a board and implementing new property taxes on the landowners.

Jim Hughes stated we do have to fulfill the law but the options forced upon people are without exception and there is no negotiating. It is a blanket law. He represents three parcels. One is a church with a well that is not used for irrigation. The other two parcels have pasture irrigated with water from Glenn Colusa Irrigation District. There should be fairness in deciding who should pay. He does not believe parcels with only residential wells should have to pay this fee.

Shaun Beckett stated his fee is about \$4 and he is not worried about his personal cost. However, he is also concerned about the rangeland. His wife owns about 800 acres that is essentially dryland/rangeland, fed by a natural spring. They already pay other water fees. He questions the mentality of the process; people are paying as a collective and not receiving a service that other people are benefitting from more than the west side people.

Gwynn Turnbull-Weaver stated the rangeland people cannot wait five years because once the plan is in place and compliance is reached, they will lose their leverage to have the fee removed. She stated the Proposition 218 process will not hold up because the votes should be based on a per acre basis, not per parcel. There are minimum parcel sizes and it is not a fair way of measuring. She believes the waiver process would not impact on the overall fee significantly, but would streamline the legal processes. She does not want the State to step in, but it is currently to rangeland peoples' financial benefit to let the State have control.

Val Shaw from Hamilton City is concerned about groundwater extraction and groundwater exportation out of the county for money.

Luke Reimers an audience member responded stating there is an ordinance against the exportation of groundwater out of the county.

Billy (last name not provided) stated he only has 13 acres and the fee is not significant for him; however, he feels that the fees will continue to go up and he only has dry ground.

Darla Nonella stated she believes there should be another proposal that is a usage-based fee rather than an acreage-based fee.

Seeing no further comments, Mr. Amaro closed the Public Comment portion of the Hearing. Valerie Kincaid explained the protest process. Mr. Amaro called for members of the public wishing to file a protest, to do so at this time. Members of the public were given time to submit written protests or remove any prior written protests.

Mr. Amaro closed the end of the Public Comment and protest portion of the Hearing. He instructed Provost & Prichard Consulting staff to unseal protests and begin the counting process. Mr. Amaro explained the counting process and invited the public to observe. Provost & Pritchard staff conducted the tabulation of protest ballots, which was projected on the screen for the public to view as each parcel was entered and counted.

6. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE RESULTS OF A PROPOSITION 218 MAJORITY PROTEST PROCEEDING AND SETTING THE AUTHORITY'S OPERATIONS FEE

The Board Meeting reconvened following the tabulation of protests. Provost & Pritchard staff stated there were 259 written protests submitted out of a possible 5,661. There was a motion that Resolution 2019-01 titled "A Resolution Certifying the Results of a Proposition 218 Majority Protest Proceeding and Setting the Authority's Operations Fee" be adopted.

Motion: Gary Hansen, Second: Bruce Roundy

AYES: John Viegas, Bruce Roundy, Gary Hansen, John Amaro, Chuck Schonauer, Randy Hansen, Leslie Nerli

NOES: None

ABSENT: Gary Enos

ABSTAINS: None

7. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

None

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2019 at 1:30 PM.

9. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned 9:09 PM.

Glenn Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting

July 8, 2019

Glenn County Department of Agriculture, Willows, CA

Voluntary Sign In Sheet

Name	Email (or Mailing Address)	Phone Number	Add me to	*Groundwater					
			email list	User Type	D	A	I	M	O
			Yes/No						
HOLLY REIMERS ET AL	5600 ROAD 200, ORLAND	530-865-4549	X						
Sandra Clemens	4509 Co. Rd 200A, Orland	530-518-1556	X	A					
Sharon McMahon	PO Box 148 Artois, Ca	530-517-0008	X	A	A	L			
Bekky May Greenwood	25800 Post Ave Orland	530 865 1575		C	X	A	A		X
Mark Lohse	Glenn Groundwater Dist.			I	U	I	P	R	
Mary Fahy	Colusa GW Authority			S	T	R	I	C	H
DONNAN REZUSHE									
William Exner	4795 County Rd E	530 624-2061 VO	X	U	S	I	C	T	
George Swamer		536-682-3131		M	C	U	N	O	
John K Veig				O	I	D	U		
BRANDON DAVIS				D	R	N	M		
Vince Minto					A	I			
Maryann Edmonson	4436 Tropetosh Ln Orland		X		A				
Billie Stuben		828-3911	X						
Shawn Beckett		828-6638							

*Groundwater User Type: D=Domestic; A=Agricultural; I=Industrial; M=Municipal Supply; O=Other

Glenn Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting

July 8, 2019

Glenn County Department of Agriculture, Willows, CA

Voluntary Sign In Sheet

Name	Email (or Mailing Address)	Phone Number	Add me to email list Yes/No	*Groundwater User Type						
				D	A	I	M	O		
<i>Bruce Y. Roendy</i>										
<i>Jackie Billings</i>	<i>PO Box 176, Orland, CA 95963</i>	<i>865-5846</i>	<i>NO</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
<i>Marie Skelton</i>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Frances Lipp</i>	<i>auvinoni559@yahoo</i>		<i>YES</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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