

**GLENN COUNTY
WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Glenn County Department of Agriculture
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MINUTES

Meeting Date: April 13, 2010

Time: 1:30 pm

Place: Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
344 East Laurel Street
Willows, CA 95988

Water Advisory Committee Members Present:

David Alves	Princeton-Codora-Glenn ID
Donnan Arbuckle	Resource Conservation District
Thad Bettner	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Gene Clark	Reclamation Dist # 2106 & 1004
Larry Domenighini	Glenn County Farm Bureau
Mark Lohse	BOS District 5 Private Pumpers
Ken Sullivan	Orland Unit Water Users Assoc.
Ted Trimble	Western Canal Water District
Mike Vereschagin	Orland-Artois Water District
James Weber	E. Corning Basin Private Pumpers
Jere Schmitke	City of Orland
Elwood Weller	Provident Irrigation District
Rosanna Marino	City of Willows
Del Reimers	W. Colusa Basin Private Pumpers
Leigh McDaniel	Glenn Co. Board of Supervisors
John Viegas	Glenn Co. Board of Supervisors
Bob Coruccini	Willow Creek Mutual Water Co.

Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

Mark Black	Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture
Lance Boyd	South Area
Ben Pennock	Central Area
Allan Fulton	UCCE
Andrew Farrar	East

Water Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Larry Maben	BOS District 3 Private Pumpers
Wade Danley	Kanawha Water District

Others in Attendance:

Eugene Massa Jr.	Colusa Basin Drainage District
Rick Massa	OUWA
Rachelle Valverde	GCID
Mark Atlas	PCGID & PID
Lester Messina	Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture
Lisa Hunter	Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture
Don Parisio	Glide Water District
Mike Alves	Kanawha & Glide Water District
Gaylee Curcio	Glenn Co. Ag Dept.
Vickie Newlin	Butte County

INTRODUCTIONS: Those in attendance introduced themselves.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for March 9, 2010 were approved as mailed.

III. AGENDA ITEMS:

A. **Public Comment:** None.

B. Discussion & Action Items:

1. Continue Discussion on Strategic Planning for Water Resources –

- a) **Update on Ordinance 1115:** The Board of Supervisors is working on a draft of revisions of the original ordinance adding export guidelines information with additional suggestions from water district counsel to provide an updated ordinance. The draft will be complete in the next few weeks. The Board of Supervisors hopes to have the draft available for WAC's review in May and possible adoption by 2011 irrigation season.

Mark Atlas, speaking on behalf of clients he represents in the water districts, said that there is no crisis to solve and that the current ordinance has worked well in the past so there is no need for an updated ordinance. Supervisor McDaniel replied that the updated ordinance is in response to the public sentiment that the County is not doing enough to protect its groundwater resources. The Board of Supervisors would like to take a proactive approach and prevent state control of our groundwater. The existing ordinance does not currently have course of action in place in the event of reaching critical monitoring levels. Additionally, the Board wants to ensure that there is enough groundwater in our area for the use by local citizens before water is exported outside the area.

- b) **Legislative Analyst Report March 24, 2010:** The LAO has put together a report discussing possible changes to some of our water laws. Some of the highlights of this report are: the need to establish active management areas (AMA) while still having some local control, the current legal distinction between percolating groundwater and subterranean streams is removed, and groundwater permitting from a region or statewide basis. Committee members believe that the recommendations presented in the report are indications of things to come down the road and we should be prepared.

2. **Spring Groundwater Measurements**— Established BMO wells in Sub-areas 8, 9, and 10 have been modified recently to a more uniform method of evaluation for spring groundwater level measurements. In Sub-area 10, the spring elevations on the three wells are at a BMO stage 1-2 and one is very close to BMO level 3. In Sub-area 9 one well is below the BMO stage 1-2 and all wells in Sub-area 8 are above Stage 1-2. In Sub-area 5 (Orland-Artois) six of the wells are below BMO stage 1-2 and two are below BMO stage 3. Some of the wells have come up from last year but not enough to take them out of the stage alert. Supervisor McDaniel suggested that maybe affordable surface water might help this area. There were no recommendations forwarded by the WAC, but the discussion will be continued at the TAC later in the month.

3. 2010 Water Transfers

- a. Thad Bettner gave a power point presentation on GCID's upcoming water transfer to south of Delta Ag contractors for the purchase of around 20,000 acre feet. The transferred water would be replaced with landowner wells in the district thus making it a groundwater substitution program. Sixteen wells have been selected for continuous pumping in a three-month period (July-September) but are still being evaluated to see if they meet approved criteria. The draft initial study and negative declaration documents are available on the GCID website. GCID is still awaiting approvals from USBR, Glenn County APCD, and GCID Board. Thad also discussed how GCID would allocate revenue from the water transfer. Landowners would receive \$100 per acre foot to pay for all their pumping cost, well maintenance, etc. GCID would also allocate \$100 per acre foot towards district operational costs, district reserves, and more recently, towards a new monitoring/ mitigating fund to offset third party impacts and regional sustainability. GCID has set this fund aside for further research, more monitoring wells, more data loggers and the like, investing in the protection and enhancement of groundwater to ensure its availability for years to come.

3. Supervisor McDaniel reported that Glenn County voted to withdraw from NCWA. The Board of Supervisors felt that the Northern Sacramento Valley Regional Water Management Group was a better format for regional planning and GCID along with TCCA effectively express our local concerns in water rights discussions in other arenas. Budget constraints were also a reason for withdrawing from membership.

The next WAC Meeting was scheduled for June 8th at 1:30 pm.

The next TAC Meeting has not been scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 3:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Gaylee Curcio