

**GLENN COUNTY
WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Glenn County Department of Agriculture
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MINUTES

Meeting Date: June 9, 2009

Time: 1:30 pm

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

Water Advisory Committee Members Present:

Lance Boyd for David Alves Princeton-Codora-Glenn ID
Donnan Arbuckle Resource Conservation District
Ben Pennock for Thad Bettner Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Lance Boyd for Wade Danley Kanawha Water District
Larry Domenighini Glenn County Farm Bureau
Leigh McDaniel Glenn County Supervisor
Mark Lohse BOS District 5 P P
Ted Trimble Western Canal Water District
Jere Schmitke City of Orland
Rick Massa for Ken Sullivan Orland Unit Water Users Assoc.
Mike Vereschagin Orland-Artois Water District
Elwood Weller Provident Irrigation District

Water Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Jack Baber Reclamation District No. 1004
Gene Clark Reclamation Dist # 2106 & 1004
Bob Coruccini Willow Creek Mutual Water Co.
Larry Maben BOS District 3 Private Pumpers
Joel Mann Glide Water District
Rosanna Marino City of Willows
Del Reimers West Colusa Basin P P
James Weber East Corning Basin P P

Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

Mark Black Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture
Allan Fulton UCCE
Andrew Farrar East Area
Kelly Staton Department of Water Resources
Ben Pennock Central Area

Others in Attendance:

Tina Brothers WAC/TAC Secretary
Tito Cervantes DWR Northern District
Lydia Harris Tri County Newspaper
Sue King OUWVA
Vickie Newlin Butte County
Pat Parsons DWR Northern District
Eugene Massa Jr. Colusa Basin Drainage District
Lester Messina Glenn Co. Dept. of Agriculture
Andy Popper Planning & Public Works
Jim Strandberg Malcolm Pirnie
Rachelle Valverde Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District

- I. INTRODUCTIONS: Those in attendance introduced themselves.

- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for February 18, 2009 and April 14, 2009 were approved as mailed.

III. AGENDA ITEMS:

A. **Public Comment:** None.

B. **Discussion & Action Items:**

1. **Proposed Bottled Water Facility in the Orland Area** –Lester introduced Jim Strandberg, Consultant with Malcolm Pirnie representing the client that is interested in constructing a Bottled Water Facility in the Orland Area. Jim provided an updated Project Concept for review. The project is still in the planning stage. The property was identified as a 12 acre parcel W/ of the TC Canal and North of Rd 200. They have installed a 600 foot monitoring well screened in three zones. At this time it appears the 130-170 foot zone may meet their needs for a sparkling mineral water. There is currently no commitment with the property owner for purchase. Additional needs and tasks identified were:

- a) groundwater source with a total dissolved solids (TDS) concentration of 250-500 mg/L and meet all requirements with Title 21 requirements for potable water
- b) groundwater supply ranging up to 160 acre-feet/per year at full build-out (10 years)
- c) aquifer tests from production well with favorable monitoring results
- d) plan and building site approval from the City of Orland

It is anticipated if built, it may require up to 25 employees. The site application will be submitted to the City in the near future. WAC members asked that they be kept informed of their progress incase they are asked for input or advise by the Board of Supervisors.

2. **Continue Discussion on Strategic Planning for Water Resources**

1) Water Transfer Guidelines: Latest Sub-committee meeting revisions. The sub-committee met on May 27, 2009 and reviewed comments and suggestions from Western Canal Water District legal counsel. The sub-committee agreed with and incorporated them into the guidelines and a revised copy of the Guidelines was sent to the WAC for further discussion prior to today's meeting. Lester informed the WAC that he received comments from Sandy Denn this morning and shared them with the WAC and they were also incorporated. The WAC feels the draft is ready to go to County Council after it is presented to all the water districts for review. A revised copy will be sent to everyone before the next WAC meeting.

3. **TAC Recommendations on BMO's Sub-area 5 and Sub-area 9-**

1) A 5 mile radius of two BMO wells was examined taking into account land and water use changes since the BMO's for the wells were established in 2001. There were three questions that were considered:

- 1) Are the BMO's alert stages that were established in 2001 using 20 years of history (1977-97) of groundwater levels still relevant for these BMO wells the past 10 years?
- 2) Are there technical concerns with the methods used in 2001?
- 3) What's next?

The TAC's current approach to evaluating BMO wells in alert stages was to:

- Focus on the two BMO wells; 22N03W18B01 (18B) and 21N02W23G01 (23G)
- Assess the extent of groundwater pumping within a 5 mile radius of the BMO wells
- Improve understanding of water and land use changes since BMO's were established in 2001
- Re-evaluate water level data for existing BMO wells from 1977 to 2009 in an effort to show changes in historic land water use. To the extent possible Department of Agriculture staff located as many wells as possible from the area surrounding the two

wells in question. Three maps showing progressive changes in land and water use from 1993 to 1998 to 2007 were presented using DWR Land and Water Use Data (2003 data was updated from Department of Agriculture files and additional visual evaluations). The data shows a 5,500 acre increase in groundwater use from 1993 to 2008 within the 5 mile radius for well 18B. There has been a historic 14,160 acre groundwater dependant area of Sub-area 5, which is within the 5 mile radius of well 23G. The 5 mile radius extends to the northwest into Sub-area 5. Historic spring groundwater levels from 1977 to 2009 in graph format were also provided. Presented in this fashion it is clear that the 18B area is declining while the area around 23G shows consistent fluctuations over time.

The recommendations from the TAC for sub-area 5 (18B):

- Important changes in land and water use have occurred and are continuing to occur
- 2009 spring groundwater levels are equal to 30 year historic lows
- History has shown that these deeper groundwater levels have recovered before
- Suggest being patient to see if the 2009 levels will recover during a wetter hydrological cycle
- Important to note that the current land and water use has occurred and it may result in less recovery
- If this becomes more substantiated, additional steps may need to be revisited to manage the groundwater resource in this sub-area

The recommendations from the TAC for sub-area 9 (23G):

- Important changes in land and water use have occurred and are continuing to occur
- Even though these changes have occurred, current groundwater levels are not yet at the historic low which have recovered in the past
- As a first step, the regression method used to define the BMO alert stages in 2001 for this well might be reconsidered in favor of a different BMO method for defining and setting alert stages

2) Reevaluate hydrographs of BMO wells using a period of record from 1977 to 2009 to include land use changes. This is a recommendation from the TAC. Ted Trimble suggested that Lester and the Private Pumpers work together rather than the WAC making the decisions. Larry Domenighini mentioned that he would like to see the last nine years of data be included in the BMO data for comparison. Lester is going to graph all available spring and fall data for 23G so Mark Lohse (Sub-area 9 representative) can compare before the WAC makes a decision.

4. **Drought Water Bank**

- 1) Fallowing, Substitution, etc - Western Canal and GCID reported they will be fallowing approximately 6,000 acres each for the Drought Water Bank. Lester received information from Reclamation 1004 that they will be fallowing as well as water transfer substitution in Glenn County and we are awaiting information on specifics associated with the transfer from the district or their consultant.
5. Update from Northern District Land and Water Use Section- Tito Cervantes explained to the process of how DWR performs their surveys. Currently the regional counties are surveyed every 5 years. Information compiled consists of crops grown, cultural changes, irrigation methods and water source. By collecting this data it helps DWR determine how water moves through the system. Glenn County will be included in this year's survey and DWR is hoping they can get as much help from the county departments of agriculture and irrigation districts to make the survey as complete and accurate as possible.
6. Update on TC Canal Water Supply, Biological Opinion, and Fish Screen- No formal presentation was provided. T.C.C.A districts have recently had their allocation increased to 40% of their contract amount. Progress is being made on the temporary pumping plant in Red Bluff and they have been able to meet district's demands. The gates at the diversion will go down June 14, 2009

at midnight. The T.C.C.A has also received \$110,000,000 dollars in federal stimulus funds for the fish screen project.

7. Prop 84 Regional Acceptance Process
 - 1) Four County Effort-Lester informed the WAC that to be eligible for funding through Prop 84 or 1E for Integrated Regional Water Management Planning and Implementation of water or flood control projects you need to go through a regional acceptance process that deals with boundary and overlapped issue of regions. The counties of Glenn, Colusa, Tehama, Butte, and most recently Sutter is in the process of developing a regional water management group (RWMG). It was discussed that an agreeable level of governance/guidance will be necessary to discuss what projects would be successful and provide the greatest level of benefit to the region.

C. Communications: Letter from RD1004 discussing participation in a substitution program in the 2009 Drought Water Bank.

D. Member Reports: None.

The next WAC Meeting will be determined through a memo to WAC members.

The next TAC Meeting at this date has not been scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 3:37 pm.

Sincerely submitted by,
Tina Brothers, WAC/TAC Secretary