

GLENN COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Glenn County Department of Agriculture
720 North Colusa St., P.O. Box 351, Willows, CA 95988
Phone: (530) 934-6501 Fax: (530) 934-6503

E-mail: wateradv@countyofglenn.net Web Page: www.glenncountywater.org

MINUTES

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 13, 2016

Time: 1:30 pm

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

Water Advisory Committee Members Present

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rob Vlach (Chair)	Private Pumper
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Darin Titus (Vice-Chair)	Private Pumper
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Alves	Central River Irrigation Districts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Terry Bressler	East County Rec & Irr Districts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ted Trimble	East County Rec & Irr Districts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Amaro	GCID
<input type="checkbox"/>	Larry Domenighini	Glenn County Farm Bureau
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ken Sullivan	Orland Water Users Association
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Lohse	Private Pumper
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Del Reimers	Private Pumper
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bruce Roundy	Resource Conservation District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Alves	TC Canal Authority Districts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Vereschagin	TC Canal Authority Districts

Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

Lance Boyd, At-Large South; Erin Smith, Department of Water Resources; Matt Gomes, Glenn County Planning and Public Works; Kevin Backus, Glenn County Environmental Health; Ben Pennock, At-Large, Central Area; Anjanette Shadley, At-Large, East Area

Others in Attendance:

Lisa Hunter, Glenn County Agriculture Department; Patrick Wickham, Glenn County; Vince Minto, Glenn County Board of Supervisors; Mardy Thomas, Glenn County PPWA; George Pendell, Stony Creek; Zac Dickens, GCID; Sharron Ellis, Private Pumper; Paddy Turnbull, Capay Landowners; Will Martin, Private Pumper; John Viegas, Glenn County Board of Supervisors; Todd James, Glenn County Sheriff's Office; Brett Poliquin, Western Canal Water District; Geoff Fulks, Cal Water

I. INTRODUCTIONS:

Those in attendance are shown above.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The meeting minutes from July 12, 2016 and July 21, 2016 were not available and tabled until the next WAC meeting.

III. AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Public Comment:

None

B. Discussion and/or Action Items:

1. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) update

Lisa Hunter reviewed the progress on SGMA Governance formation in the Glenn County area. There are three subbasins within the County that are required to be managed under SGMA. Many eligible agencies have submitted notices to the Department of Water Resources indicating their intention of being a Groundwater Sustainability Agency. All agencies within the Glenn County area are currently in “overlap status” meaning that no agency is the exclusive GSA until the overlap is resolved. The deadline for GSA formation is June 30, 2017.

The County applied and was approved for Facilitation Support Services through DWR. Highlights of the activities included a public meeting, four Governance Workgroup meetings, a subcommittee working on revising a draft Common Principles document, a planning meeting for the Corning Subbasin, and future planning efforts for the three subbasins.

Glenn County was awarded initial Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant for a project titled: Data Management and Hydrogeologic Conceptual Modeling to Support a Groundwater Model in Support of Sustainable Groundwater Management Activities. The County is currently in the process of selecting a consultant to help with the project.

The Board of Supervisors approved the formation of a Private Pumper Advisory Committee (PPAC) on August 16. The committee will consist of seven members: one from each Supervisorial District and two at-large. It is anticipated the committee will be seated in early October. A comment was made that the Colusa County PPAC has taken on a strong role in SGMA governance formation and would encourage Glenn County to do the same.

A comment was made that the Colusa County Water Resources newsletter provides some helpful information. The County or the PPAC has also sent letters to landowners to provide SGMA information. The county-wide outreach is an important step in SGMA implementation. It might be helpful to have direct mailers to private pumpers.

Butte County will form a Groundwater Pumper Advisory Committee (GPAC) to address similar concerns. There will be two representatives from each groundwater basin and a Water Commission member that is a groundwater pumper. The GPAC will be advisory to the County. There will be an application process associated with the committee.

To clarify, Glenn County also has an application process, and will be asking the interested parties to complete a supplemental sheet. The Board also has the ability to interview applicants if they feel it is necessary. The Board will have additional discussion at the September 20 Board meeting. It is important that all parties work together.

Generally the counties will wait to file formal notices to DWR until the end of the governance formation process. DWR has indicated they are working on a process that will make it possible for a basin to reconcile the overlap in one step.

A page from the DWR GSP Emergency Regulation Guide was distributed that discusses GSA Formation and Governance Structure, and Coordination Agreements.

2. Well Permit Application Update/Well Permit Ordinance

Darin Titus reviewed the discussion from the July WAC meeting regarding the well permit application process. He discussed the role the requirement of the e-log could play in well construction throughout the County. The e-log could be presented to the County Official, who would review it, and based on the information, would determine the depth and/or sealing requirements of the well on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Titus also shared a proposed well construction schematic. He indicated these items would be very helpful for data

collection for the County and should be attached to the permit. Tehama County has been implementing a similar process.

A Well Completion Report is also submitted to DWR from the driller and is on record with the State. It was clarified that the Environmental Health Department also receives a copy of the Well Completion Report. The Ag Department also has most of the reports. Up until recently, the information from the report was confidential. Now most of the information is not confidential. DWR is in the process of redacting the sensitive information (owner name, etc) from the reports, and eventually, the reports will be available online.

Comments were made regarding the draft well permit and permit application process included in the packet. Most members felt the draft was very comprehensive and collects more information than the current application. There were questions raised about the relevance of the contractor and pumping information section. There was also concern about allowing the County to determine where a well owner would perforate their well. It was reiterated that prior to being more restrictive, collect more information. The proposed 200 foot seal may not be appropriate for all areas. Does this approach protect the people? How does this approach compile other potential issues like well to well interaction and impacts to neighbors? One size fits all is not a good approach. Some felt the Stage 3 areas should be more restrictive, while others felt that some of the Stage 3 areas may not be justifiable. The importance of accurate well mapping was also discussed, as well as the need for buffer zones. A question was asked if water quality becomes an issue if well owners are required to drill deeper. There are specialized instruments that can measure the electrical conductivity during the e-log evaluation. That could be a good indicator of water quality. There was also concern about private property rights and the ability for water users to be able to make a living. There was also some apprehension that there could be unintended consequences.

A question was raised regarding the county-wide water budget that was discussed at previous WAC meetings and included in the letter that was sent to the Board of Supervisors. It was suggested to hold off on moving the proposal forward until the Supervisors have finished the final budget discussions.

Ultimately, it was decided to send the draft well permit application and application process to the TAC for review and comment to bring back to the WAC at their next meeting. The TAC should also review the comments made by the WAC today including, but not limited to:

- e-log
- Water quality
- Well Permit Application: "Pump Information" section
- Well Permit Application: The second paragraph in the "Agreement and Signature of Owner and Well Contractor" beginning "I understand that this well..."

The WAC also requested to ask the TAC if they would like to be involved in the water model being developed under the Proposition 1 grant, and if the WAC should consider a recommendation to the Board that a well driller be added to the TAC membership.

IV. NEXT MEETINGS:

The next WAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 13, 2016.

The next TAC meeting will be scheduled in the next month.

V. ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.