



Joint Colusa Groundwater Authority and Glenn Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

Special Meeting February 23, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Sites Project Office, 122 Old Highway 99, Maxwell, CA 95955

Alternate Location: 381 HCR 2424, Hillsboro, TX 76645

The meeting was also conducted via teleconference; accessible via telephone, computer, smartphone or tablet.

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Colusa Groundwater Authority:

Director Members Present:	Alternate/2 nd Alternate Directors	Agency Representing:
Gary Evans	Janice Bell	County of Colusa
X Jesse Cain	Greg Ponciano	City of Colusa
X Kate Dunlap	X Alfred Sellers, Jr.	City of Williams
Blake Vann		Glenn Colusa Irrigation District
X Frank Nobriga	R Shelly Murphy	Colusa County Water District
Zach Dennis	Dan Ruiz	Westside Water District
Jim Campbell	Lance Boyd	Provident Irrigation District
X Hilary Reinhard	Bill Vanderwaal	Reclamation District 108
Derrick Strain	Vacant	Reclamation District 479
X Jim Wallace	Lynell Pollock	Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company
X Darrin Williams		Private Pumper
X Jeff Moresco		Private Pumper

Glenn Groundwater Authority:

Director Members Present:	Alternate/2 nd Alternate Directors	Agency Representing:
X Grant Carmon	Tom Arnold	County of Glenn
X Bruce Roundy	R Pete Carr	City of Orland
	Ed Vonasek (2 nd)	City of Orland
X Gary Hansen	R Tavis Beynon	City of Willows
X Matt Deadmond	Vacant	Glide Water District
X John Amaro	Vacant	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X Charles Schonauer	Justin Dahl	Orland-Artois Water District
Randy Hansen	Wade Danley	Kanawha Water District
X Mark Lohse	Seth Fiack	Monroeville Water District
Gary Enos	X Jered Shipley	Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District/ Provident Irrigation District

Directors attending remotely are designated with “R” and are not counted toward a quorum, do not vote, and are considered members of the public.

Others in Attendance: Lisa Hunter (GGA), Kaitlyn Murray (GGA), Carol Thomas-Keefer (CGA), Jeff Davids (Davids Engineering, Inc.), Katie Klug (Davids Engineering, Inc.), Valerie Kincaid (GGA Counsel), Alan Doud (CGA Counsel), Brandon Davison (DWR), Ben King, Arne Gustafson, M. Ward, Jenny Scheer, Lisa Porta, Jaime Lely, Steve Geiger, Jim Brobeck, Anna Reimer (West Yost), Denise Carter, Ken Loy (West Yost), Bill Davis

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Introductions (CGA Board and GGA Board)

Chair Williams (CGA) and Chair Hansen (GGA) called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Attendance was noted above. A quorum of members was present from each respective Board.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Williams reported that approval of minutes from the January 26, 2024 Special Joint Meeting would be deferred to a future meeting.

3. Period of Public Comment

Chair Williams opened the floor to public comment for items not on the agenda.

Mr. Ben King spoke on a matter regarding Colusa County Flood Control District Zone 3 pertaining to landowners investing in Sites reservoir for dry year water supplies and their ability to sell that water. He expressed concern that the water would leave the area and urged the two GSA boards to stay engaged in the matter as it relates to subbasin sustainability.

4. Update on Water Year 2023 Annual Report

Ms. Katie Klug and Mr. Jeff Davids, Davids Engineering (DE), provided a brief overview of highlights from the 2023 Annual Report, including the calculated change in storage for 2023 (an increase of 34,000 acre-feet) versus 2022 (a decrease of 214,000 acre-feet). He also reviewed various hydrographs showing differences in water level recovery depending on location and discussed subsidence data. The draft report will be finalized over the next few weeks and submitted to DWR by no later than April 1, 2024.

5. Colusa Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

a. Discussion and concurrence on approach to develop a domestic well mitigation program

Ms. Klug discussed the results of the three prior consultation meetings with DWR, reviewing the key deficiencies identified by DWR, and noting that DWR has indicated that revisions should focus on developing management actions as backstops to address overdraft and groundwater conditions, and the sustainable management criteria should be revised to better justify minimum thresholds for wells and minimize undesirable results. To date, DWR and the joint GSA boards have discussed and concurred on a revised approach to determining overdraft as well as a conceptual “formal agreement” approach for developing management actions relating to groundwater levels and mitigating well impacts. GSP projects would also need to be updated with timelines and benefits. Ms. Klug stated that today’s meeting would focus on further development of PMAs, especially technical aspects of proposed management actions, and on SMC for groundwater levels. She noted that discussion on subsidence-related SMC would occur at a future meeting.

Ms. Klug then noted that, in addition to refining project descriptions and benefits as well as adding new projects, management actions would be developed to address 1) domestic well mitigation, and 2) demand management. She reviewed the potential program measures for domestic well mitigation, such as emergency solutions, deepening wells, and lowering pumps, as well as program considerations and limitations, such as temporary program status, well evaluation and eligibility process, and coordination

with county ordinances. She also reviewed available data to estimate the number of potentially impacted wells and the various potential items that may be included in the program (i.e., application process, priority, mitigation awards, etc.). Ms. Klug also noted that DWR's guidelines for well mitigation have been incorporated in the program components. Discussion followed on developing program parameters for mitigation, funding for the program, and timeline for implementation. Following additional discussion, the two GSA boards concurred with the proposed approach to develop a well mitigation program.

b. Discussion and concurrence on approach to develop a demand management program

Ms. Klug then reviewed the potential measures for a demand management program, including immediate implementation of voluntary measures (including dry farming, fallowing, incentivized land use changes, and multi-benefit land repurposing) as well as phased adaptive implementation (including water use allocations and land use/zoning restrictions in cooperation with counties). She then reviewed items to consider in developing the program, including a program implementation process, public outreach and engagement, and implementation of phased measures. Phased measures may need determinations on applicable areas, sustainable yield, transition period to achieve sustainability, processes and timelines for putting measures into place, and monitoring and enforcement. Following discussion on various considerations, the two GSA boards concurred with the proposed approach to develop a demand management program.

c. Discussion and concurrence on Groundwater Level Sustainable Management Criteria

Ms. Klug reviewed key needs relating to revisions to Groundwater Level Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC), including justification of how Undesirable Results (URs) and Minimum Thresholds (MTs) represent significant and unreasonable conditions, compared to previous conditions; and clarifying the relationship between Groundwater Level SMC and subsidence. She stated that, in addition to updating the UR definitions, the revisions would need to clarify at what level do the unreasonable conditions occur, and suggested referring to conditions during 2020-2022, including number of dry wells reported, reduction in pumping capacity, need to deepen wells and/or lower pumps, and adverse impacts to the environment. She indicated that tying revisions to specific 2020-2022 conditions would provide a justifiable basis for explaining impacts to beneficial uses, connection to subsidence, and setting MTs.

Ms. Klug then reviewed the proposed revisions to Groundwater Level SMC, noting that well impacts varied throughout the subbasin, with greater impacts in the Orland/Artois and Arbuckle areas, so it was reasonable to suggest that MTs should also vary depending on area. Areas with dry wells and/or subsidence since 2015 are referred to as "focus areas," and would have MTs set at the 2020-2022 low, while areas outside the "focus areas" would have MTs set at the 2020-2022 low plus 10 feet. Measurable Objectives (MOs) would be the average pre-SGMA (2011-2015) groundwater levels, and Interim Milestones (IMs) would be established to bridge the MTs and the MOs to reach sustainable conditions. Ms. Hilary Reinhard expressed concerns about setting MTs at the 2020-2022 low for some areas where groundwater levels do not necessarily justify those MTs, and Mr. Davids suggested that the specific data should be reviewed before the focus areas were defined and MTs were established. Considerable discussion followed regarding the establishment of MTs as low as 2020-2022 levels and how best to recognize different conditions within the subbasin. Ultimately, the CGA and GGA boards concurred that the consultant team should move ahead with development of Groundwater Level SMC that included "focus areas" as discussed with MTs set at a level to be determined, as well as MTs proposed for areas outside the "focus areas" with those MTs plus an appropriate margin based on subbasin conditions. It was agreed that additional work would be done on the SMC, and more data would be presented at the March 8 Joint Technical Advisory Committee meeting for further discussion.

d. Discussion on monitoring network and basis of Sustainable Management Criteria for land subsidence

Discussion on this item was deferred to a future meeting.

6. Member Reports and Comments

None.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.