



# Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2024 | 2:00 p.m.  
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Pump Station  
7854 County Rd 203, Orland, CA 95963

Public participation was also offered via teleconference

1. Call to Order

- Mr. Arnold called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

	Party Representative	Member Agency
X	Tom Arnold (2023 Chairman)	County of Glenn
X	Grant Carmon (2023 Vice Chairman)	County of Glenn
X	John Amaro	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X	Pete Knight	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X	Julia Violich (2:03 p.m.)	Monroeville Water District
X	Seth Fiack	Monroeville Water District

Roll call was taken as noted above. A quorum of members was present.

3. Election of Officers

- \*Election of Chairperson
- \*Election of Vice Chairperson
- \*Election of Secretary

Mr. Arnold opened nominations for Chairperson; whereby, Mr. Carmon nominated John Amaro. Mr. Fiack moved to close the nominations for Chairperson.

**It was unanimously voted to elect John Amaro to serve as the 2024 Chairperson.**

**Mr. Amaro assumed Chairman duties.**

Mr. Amaro opened nominations for Vice Chairperson; whereby, Mr. Knight nominated Tom Arnold, and Mr. Amaro nominated Grant Carmon. Mr. Knight moved to close nominations.

Mr. Amaro called for a vote of the 2024 Vice Chairperson nominations. **Grant Carmon was elected to serve as the 2024 Vice Chairman on the following vote:**

Tom Arnold: Knight

Grant Carmon: Amaro, Carmon, Fiack

Mr. Amaro opened nominations for Secretary; whereby, Mr. Knight nominated Lisa Hunter. Mr. Knight moved to close nominations.

**It was unanimously voted to elect Lisa Hunter to serve as the 2024 Secretary.**

#### 4. Meeting Minutes

a. \*Approval of January 25, 2024 meeting minutes.

- No corrections or additions were made to the draft meeting minutes.

**On a motion by Mr. Carmon, seconded by Mr. Fiack the January 25, 2024 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.**

#### 5. Period of Public Comment

- Answering a question from Jim Brobeck, Valerie Kincaid, CSGSA Counsel, stated that during the GSP amendment and re-adoption process, a notice is required to be given to the cities and counties at least 90 days before the public hearing. Written public comments are welcome to be submitted prior to the public hearing and comments will also be heard during the public hearing period. It was noted GSP development and schedule will be discussed during a later agenda item.

#### 6. Staff Reports

- Ms. Hunter reported zero well permit acknowledgement forms have been received since January 25, 2024. She stated the agreement with CliftonLarsonAllen has been executed and they are ready to move forward with the audit process. She stated she will work with Ms. Kincaid to bring forward a draft version of the committee by-laws. She further stated since the CSGSA has a funding source, further discussion will be held on reimbursement to Glenn County for provided administrative services. Responding to a question from Del Reimers, clarification was provided regarding funding sources, member agency contributions, and administrative reimbursement.

#### 7. Financial Report

a. \*Review and accept financial reports.

b. \*Review and consider approval of claims.

- Relating to Item 7.a., Ms. Violich asked for clarification regarding the Professional Services line item found in the financial report. Ms. Hunter stated the Professional Services line item includes consultant, administrative, and legal staff services. It was noted that a higher amount of interest accrued in 2024, and to consider adjusting the figure in the budget next year. There was a discussion on the budgeted amount for administrative reimbursement to the County.

**On motion by Ms. Violich, seconded by Mr. Arnold, the financial reports were unanimously accepted as presented.**

- Mr. Amaro invited comments or questions regarding the claims; whereby, none were heard.

**On motion by Mr. Carmon, seconded by Mr. Knight, the claims were unanimously approved as presented.**

8. Insurance through Golden State Risk Management Authority

- a. \*Authorize Chairman to sign Agreement for Admission of New Member to the Golden State Risk Management Authority.
  - b. \*Authorize Chairman to sign letter of no known loss.
  - c. \*Authorize purchase of insurance in an amount not to exceed \$1,800.
- There was a discussion on the various details of the policy, including pricing, types of coverage, and coverage through member agency policies.

**On motion by Ms. Violich, seconded by Mr. Carmon, it was unanimously ordered to authorize the Chairman to sign the Agreement for Admission of New Member to the Golden State Risk Management Authority.**

**On motion by Ms. Violich, seconded by Mr. Knight, it was unanimously ordered to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter of no known loss.**

**On motion by Mr. Carmon, seconded by Mr. Fiack, it was unanimously ordered to authorize the purchase of insurance in an amount not to exceed \$1800.**

9. \*Consider allocating funds for reimbursement of water-related costs for groundwater recharge and authorize the Chairman to approve the purchase of water.

- Ms. Hunter opened the item stating this relates to discussions from the previous Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting. She stated if winter water is available and there are landowners willing to volunteer their property, this may streamline recharge efforts, by allowing payment for water as soon as it becomes available. Discussion ensued on the water source, importance of recharge projects, water expenses, conveyance to projects, location of potential sites, and potential cost splits.

**On motion by Mr. Fiack, seconded by Mr. Knight, it was unanimously approved to allocate \$3,000 for reimbursement of water-related costs for groundwater recharge and authorize the Chairman to approve the purchase of water.**

## 10. Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CSGSA) Operations and GSP Implementation Fees

- a. Receive an update on the CSGSA Fees and User Classification Change Requests.
  - b. \*Consider User Classification Change Request appeal for parcels 032-320-006-000, 032-320-008-000, and 032-340-015-000.
  - c. Discussion on CSGSA Fee Policy and Variance Process.
- Relating to Item 10.a. Ms. Hunter stated the direct-bill invoices are ready to be mailed. An insert with contact information, useful links, and a map will be included with the invoice to alleviate some questions parcel owners may have regarding the CSGSA fees.
  - Relating to Item 10.b. Ms. Hunter presented the User Classification Change Request documentation included in the agenda packet. In response to a question, Ms. Hunter clarified the landowner was requesting a classification change on a portion of the property. There was discussion on user classification definitions, Land IQ data, and the potential variance policy that has been previously discussed. Considering the current policy language and definitions, there was general consensus, supporting the staff determination to deny the User Classification Change Requests.

**On motion by Mr. Carmon, seconded by Mr. Knight, it was unanimously ordered to deny the User Classification Change Request appeals for parcels 032-320-006-000, 032-320-008-000, and 032-340-015-000.**

- Regarding Item 9, Jim Brobeck, stated concerns regarding ownership of water in storage and asked who would own the water if purchased and whom would extract the water? Ms. Kincaid clarified the GSA's role and intent for water recharged to be part of the common supply which would be outlined in an agreement between the landowner and GSA. Discussion ensued on recharge as a beneficial use and the limitations that apply. Mr. Reimers expressed concerns with points of diversion regarding recharge water.
- Regarding Item 10.c. Ms. Hunter introduced the item and requested recommendations from the CSGSA on the proposed variance process. Discussion ensued on various components of the variance process including administrative efforts and costs associated with the process, adding some language to capture non-irrigated easements (such as a conservation or wildlife habitat easement), and minimum acreage to be eligible for a variance. Ms. Hunter stated the intent of the presented policy is to give landowners the option to carve the parcel into a more granular approach. Ms. Violich agreed with the key points for discussion included in the meeting packet, stating all the important points were included.

## 11. Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

- a. Receive update on Corning Subbasin GSP Implementation activities.
  - b. Receive update on Corning Subbasin GSP “Incomplete” Determination.
  - c. Concurrence with approach for estimating overdraft.
  - d. Discussion on approach for revisions to Projects and Management Actions.
  - e. Discussion on Sustainable Management Criteria for Groundwater Levels.
- Ms. Hunter stated Items 11.a. through 11.e. will be captured in the presentation conducted by John McHugh and Eddy Teasdale from the Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) team. Ms. Hunter stated the purpose of Item 11 is to achieve general direction from the CSGSA on the approach to address the GSP incomplete determination and related revisions. John McHugh began the presentation with an introduction and background on the GSP deficiencies identified by Department of Water Resources (DWR), including overdraft conditions and Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) for Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels.
  - Mr. McHugh presented potential considerations for a dry well mitigation program and recommended the CSGSA pass a resolution showing a commitment to develop and implement a well mitigation program. There was discussion on beneficial users, eligibility, funding sources, implementing parameters, and the possibility of cost-sharing. Ms. Hunter stated three options for the CSGSA to consider regarding the well mitigation plan: do nothing, commit to developing a plan via a resolution, or implement a fully detailed well mitigation plan. There was general consensus from the CSGSA to consider a resolution with a commitment to create and implement a well mitigation program with funding and specific timelines for creation to incorporate into the GSP revisions.
  - Mr. McHugh presented the overdraft estimation and approach for potential revisions. The recommendation from LSCE was to use the 2015-2023 average change in storage. Mr. Carmon stated his concerns in regards to recharge projects falling short of efforts, stating demand management will be necessary. Mr. Arnold stated the importance of diverting flood water to assist with recharge efforts. Regarding demand management, Mr. Mori recommended focusing on problem areas within the subbasin. Ms. Violich exited the meeting. Following discussion comparing between the two data methods (empirical vs. modeled), there was general consensus from the CSGSA to use the empirical groundwater measurement data as recommended.
  - Relating to Item 11.d., Mr. McHugh presented on Projects and Management Actions, and discussion ensued on recharge projects, grant funding, water rights and land use issues. A Demand Management workplan example was presented and there was discussion on the economic effects a demand management plan may cause. Ms. Kincaid provided clarification on water rights, stating landowners have a correlative right (shared) to available groundwater and do not have priority over other landowners,

such as in surface water rights. She discussed the challenges the subbasin may face if the State Water Resources Control Board assumed control of the basin. There was general consensus from the CSGSA to consider a resolution that would commit the GSA to create and implement a demand management program with funding and specific timelines for creation.

- Relating to Item 11.e., Mr. McHugh presented on the potential modification of minimum thresholds relating to groundwater levels. Discussion took place on existing SMC and related analysis, potential modifications to the SMC and related analysis, and pros and cons of reducing the number of Representative Monitoring Point (RMP) wells. Mr. McHugh presented an interactive map showing where reported dry wells are located and analysis of potential SMCs. Mr. Carmon exited the meeting. Discussion ensued on existing minimum thresholds and various minimum threshold options. There was general consensus with the approach to set the groundwater level minimum threshold to the 2020-2022 groundwater lows in focus areas, and 10 feet deeper elsewhere. Mr. Teasdale indicated the undesirable results definitions will also need refinements, which will be brought back.
- Mr. McHugh presented the next steps including the schedule of upcoming meetings and deadlines.

## 12. Committee Reports

- a. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board
  - b. Corning Subbasin GSP Determination Response Ad Hoc Committee
  - c. Audit Services Ad Hoc Committee
- Relating to Item 12.a., Mr. Amaro stated most of the topics at the CSAB meeting have been discussed. Ms. Hunter added the next CSAB meeting is on March 6, 2024.
  - Relating to Item 12.b. Ms. Hunter stated the ad hoc committee has not met since January, but will be involved in the conversations relating to the GSP revisions.
  - Relating to Item 12.c. Ms. Hunter stated the responsibilities of the Audit Services Ad Hoc Committee have been completed.

## 13. Review Committees and Revise as Needed

- a. \*Assign new committees, update membership, and/or dissolve committees as needed.
- Ms. Hunter recommended appointing John Amaro and Julia Violich as primary CSAB members and Grant Carmon as an Alternate CSAB member for a four-year term ending February 21, 2028.

**On motion by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Arnold, it was unanimously ordered to appoint John Amaro and Julia Violich as primary CSAB members and Grant Carmon as an Alternate CSAB member for a four-year term ending February 21, 2028.**

- Ms. Hunter recommended dissolving the Audit Services Ad Hoc Committee.

**On motion by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Arnold, it was unanimously approved to dissolve the Audit Services Ad Hoc Committee.**

#### 14. Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee Member Reports and Comments

- Mr. Fiack encouraged obtaining water when it is available and stated Monroeville Water District is looking for opportunities to partner in recharge projects.

#### 15. Next Meeting

- The next regular scheduled meeting is March 28, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

#### 16. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.