



COUNTY OF COLUSA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT,
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
100 Sunrise Boulevard Suite A, Colusa, CA 95932
530-458-0719

**COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER
COMMISSION**

Darrin Williams, Dist. 1 | Deke Dormer, Dist. 2 | Matt LaGrande, Dist. 3 | Tom Charter, Dist. 4 | Jeff Moresco, Dist. 5

Meeting Minutes

Location: Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room
100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932

Date: November 28, 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m. - Noon

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Williams opened the meeting at 10:02 a.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, a Roll Call of Officers and introductions of others in attendance.

Introductions

Staff and public in attendance:

Mary Fahey, Colusa County Water Resources Manager
Tana Loudon, Colusa County Community Development Department
Charles Bergson, City of Williams
Ben King
Joe Lastufka
Bill Wallace
Robert Arens
Bill Ehorn, Department of Water Resources
Matt Jones, T&P Farms

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Dormer, Moresco, LaGrande, and Williams
Commissioners Absent: Charter

Approval of Minutes from the July 11, 2018 Meeting

Motion: Commissioner Moresco moved to approve the July 11, 2018 Meeting minutes. Commissioner LaGrande seconded. The motion passed 4-0 (1 absent).

Acceptance of Agenda

Motion: Commissioner Moresco moved to accept the agenda. Commissioner Dormer Seconded. The motion passed 4-0 (1 absent).



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Period of Public Comment

Chair Williams opened the Period of Public Comment.

Mr. Ben King introduced himself and stated he grew up on the edge of Colusa and gave a brief background of his family's history in Colusa County. He stated that he is actively involved in water issues. Even though he is not a resident he does own land here and is a SGMA stakeholder and would like to be involved. The Groundwater Commission plays a very important role in protecting water rights and groundwater. SGMA is going to affect water rights. This is a most important time for this body to be active and talking to Supervisors.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Review Draft Groundwater Commission Update to be Presented to Board of Supervisors

Ms. Fahey stated that the Commission Bylaws include a yearly report to the Board of Supervisors and she anticipates presenting it to the Board in January or February. Ms. Fahey then summarized the information found in the Agenda Materials for this item. She then asked for input from the Commissioners and stated that she would finalize the report for the next meeting.

Commissioner Williams stated that the information looks good.

Ms. Fahey stated the Board may have input on the Goals and Objectives.

Mr. King stated SGMA has changed everything. It would be good to look at the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) and the action items found in that document that have not been followed through on.

Commissioner Williams stated that he agreed with Mr. King and added that the GMP will be referenced a lot.

Ms. Fahey stated that she will add more background information.

Set 2019 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Fahey stated that quarterly meetings seem to be working for the Commission and the next meeting should be no later than February.

Discussion is held.

It was decided the next meeting would be held on February 6, 2019 at 10:00 am then the first Wednesday at 10:00 am in May, August, and November.

Motion: Commissioner Dormer moved to set the 2019 Meeting Schedule as stated. Commissioner Moresco Seconded. The motion passed 4-0 (1 absent).



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Discussion; Outreach meetings, collaboration with Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA)

Ms. Fahey briefly summarized upcoming opportunities to provide outreach. The CGA has started the Proposition 218 process and has hired Provost & Pritchard Consultant team along with Dave Ceppos to help with outreach. Mr. Ceppos is contracted for two large public meetings. On December 5th Ms. Fahey and Ms. Lisa Hunter from Glenn County will be speak to the Tehama Colusa Canal Authority Board to update them regarding local SGMA activities. On December 6th Ms. Fahey will provide a SGMA Update at the Colusa County Agricultural Commissioner's Annual Growers Meeting.

The CGA's first public meeting related to the Proposition 218 fee assessment process will be in late January hosted by the Colusa Groundwater Authority. It will cover GSP development and the fee assessment. It is unknown if this meeting will be Colusa County focused or if it will be jointly hosted with the Glenn Groundwater Authority. The Colusa Farm Show is in February and the CGA is considering hosting a workshop. It would be good for the Commission to co-host that effort with the CGA.

Question: Commissioner Williams asked Ms. Fahey what she thought the Commission can do to help out.

Answer: Ms. Fahey replied come to the meetings and workshops and talk about SGMA and the Groundwater Commission so people know you are here and that the Commission is a place that landowners can come and ask questions. Basically, market the Commission.

Mr. Williams stated that smaller meetings were talked about. He then asked Ms. Fahey if she could talk to Mr. Ceppos to see if he has any presentations or slides that we would be able to use for those.

Ms. Fahey replied that she would. She added that we should plan one smaller meeting in each district. She then inquired if all Commissioners should be present for each meeting.

Commissioner Dormer stated that just the Commissioner representing that particular district would work.

Ms. Fahey stated that she will ask DWR to give a presentation on SGMA at the next Commission meeting.

Mr. Bill Ehorn of DWR stated that they have presentations ready they just need to be updated a little.

Question: Mr. King asked if the Williams Pioneer Review and the Colusa Sun Herald were on the interested parties list.

Answer: Ms. Fahey replied that they were.

Mr. King stated that he hasn't seen any groundwater meetings in there. It would be good to actively engage out local media.

Ms. Fahey stated she will get ahold of Mr. Lloyd Green with the Williams Pioneer Review.

Discussion; Resolution in support of Surface Water Storage

Mr. Williams stated that the Resolution isn't completed yet but it will be ready for the next meeting.

Discussion is held regarding the Sites Reservoir and Shasta Dam projects.



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UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Staff Report; SGMA Activities

Ms. Fahey stated that the CGA will be installing a monitoring well in downtown Arbuckle that will be equipped with a continuous monitoring device. This is being funded by DWR's Technical Support Services.

Ms. Fahey stated that the Colusa Basin Drainage District has formed a Projects Subcommittee to identify and investigate potential groundwater recharge projects. They are currently investigating a potential project on Salt Creek in Arbuckle. She added that NextGen Utility Management provided a presentation to the CGA Board regarding utilizing subsurface drainage in orchards for recharge on the west side of Colusa County.

Mr. King stated that he has been working on recharge projects for three years and that he would be happy to assist on a subcommittee. There is some data available from a project around Corning that would be helpful.

Commissioner Williams inquired as to what type of recharge Mr. King was doing.

Mr. King summarized his surface recharge projects. He stated that soil types and where you pick your spot is important.

Ms. Fahey stated the Sustainable Conservation and U.C. Davis have come to look at the Arbuckle area.

Legislative Update

Ms. Fahey stated that the decision on the Phase I Update to the Bay Delta Plan regarding the San Joaquin River and Tributaries was delayed to December 11th or 12th.

She also mentioned the Public Trust Doctrine and stated that there are a lot of implications to this recent decision.

Mr. King stated the Groundwater Commission will be important in the need to stand up to groundwater rights.

Ms. Fahey stated that she will try to get a NCWA representative or other organization to give a legislative update at a future Commission meeting.

Reminder; Commissioner Terms of Office

Ms. Fahey reminds Commissioners Moresco and Williams that their terms will be up soon.

Commissioners Moresco and Williams state that they will be filling out the necessary paperwork for reappointment.

Commissioner Comments and Updates

Commissioner Williams stated that he attended the Site Reservoir meeting yesterday. It was a good meeting however the question regarding the waters of the US didn't get asked.

Discussion is held regarding the 449 million dollar loan for the Sites Reservoir and the costs of water in the future.



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Items for Next Agenda

Ms. Fahey stated that she will talk to DWR to see if they can come and do a SGMA presentation and that she will get the newspaper involved.

Commissioner Williams stated that a presentation regarding the December 12th decision would be good.

Commissioner Moresco states he would like to see the continued public outreach regarding Proposition 218.

Ms. Fahey stated that she will work on some dates for the public outreach.

Commissioner Dormer stated it would be good to get ahold of the Farm Bureau and the Family Water Alliance. They will help to get the word out.

Mr. King inquired if the Groundwater Commission supported the Proposition 218 process.

Commissioner Williams replied that he is in support of it, it is a necessary evil.

Mr. King stated that he feels there should be tension to this process. The GSAs should pay for it for three to four years to see how it works before everyone else pays for it.

Commissioner Moresco stated it is going to take a couple million dollars to do a GSP, it wouldn't work that way.

Mr. King stated that this commission should make sure the groundwater users are really respected. He added that he doesn't like the CGA board is so dominated by surface water guys.

Commissioner Williams stated that the best chance for SGMA to succeed is if we all work together or the State will take over. He added that he would like to see more landowners participate in this process. Our goal is to get more people in these rooms. We need to have participation from the public.

Mr. King stated that it needs to be a true representation for the County. We need to think about where this is going in the future. There needs to be some tension in this process.

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular meeting date: February 6, 2019 at 10:00 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.