

MEETING SUMMARY August 12, 2016

Colusa Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) – Governance Subcommittee Meeting #1

MEETING RECAP

- The subcommittee agreed to three criteria for the governance structure discussion:
 - 1) Develop a manageable sized governance board (multi-agency GSA)
 - 2) Governance board must have balanced representation
 - 3) All areas of the county must be represented
- The subcommittee agreed to two proposed governance structures that they will bring to the larger Governance Workgroup on August 24, 2016.
- Although SGMA legislation creates a “1st, 2nd and 3rd among equals,” Subcommittee members discussed removing this dialogue and instead being more inclusive of Mutual Water Companies (private) and Private Pumpers in Governance planning.

For more local information visit the [Colusa County Water Resources Webpage](#).

For information on SGMA visit the [Department of Water Resources SGMA Webpage](#).

MEETING SUMMARY

Opening Remarks

Tania Carlone, Senior Mediator/Facilitator with the Center for Collaborative Policy opened the meeting, introduced herself and welcomed subcommittee and observer introductions. Ms. Carlone reviewed the agenda and confirmed the Governance Subcommittee’s purpose and the meeting objectives. The Subcommittee’s role is to generate ideas for governance options to take to the larger GSA Workgroup for consideration. The Subcommittee is not a decision-making body. The Subcommittee’s work will keep efforts moving forward in order to ensure that we meet the June 30, 2017 deadline for GSAs to be formed.

SGMA Implementation Updates

Ms. Carlone reported on the following SGMA updates:

- DWR is developing a Best Management Practices (BMP) Framework. An online survey closed on August 8 but there will be more opportunities for public input at meetings in 3 locations around the state in the fall. DWR will post initial BMPs on their website. GSPs may use DWR’s BMPs and/or locally generated BMPs.
Action Item: Many in the room did not know about the BMP survey and requested that Ms. Fahey send via email any important SGMA-related information to the GSA Workgroup members.
- DWR is developing a white paper about Water Available for Replenishment describing the technical and policy foundations as well as the proposed WAFR report content. Final is due December 31, 2016.
- DWR is finalizing Basin Boundary modifications and working on reprioritizing basins.

Ms. Carlone and Ms. Fahey gave updates on SGMA planning activities in adjacent counties and mentioned that both Glenn and Butte counties share sub-basins with Colusa County and we will begin coordination efforts soon with both counties.

Discussion Topics

Exploration of Preliminary Multi-Agency GSA Governance Proposals

Ms. Fahey summarized the discussion from the last Governance Workgroup meeting. Nearly all Workgroup members expressed a preference for a multi-agency GSA and there was also general agreement that private pumpers should be represented on the GSA board. GCID had questions about the GSA authorities that other agencies would be willing to utilize. They are considering being a stand-alone GSA.

Ms. Carlone asked the group to develop criteria or principles to help guide development of governance options. The group decided on three criteria:

- 1) Develop a manageable sized governance board (multi-agency GSA)
- 2) Governance board must have balanced representation
- 3) All areas of the county must be represented

The Subcommittee members discussed several options that mostly involved a multi-agency GSA. The group discussed the Yolo County model, which broadly includes a multi-agency GSA and Management Areas. Out of this discussion, two options emerged:

1. A multi-agency GSA with Management Areas (no decision on the make-up of the M.A.'s)
2. A multi-agency GSA without Management Areas

A third option that had not previously been considered was presented by Jim Wallace. This option included two entities:

1. A large multi-agency GSA consisting of any public or private agency, and private pumper that wanted to participate
2. The County of Colusa

A Charter or other legal agreement would be developed by the County to form the multi-agency GSA, and all parties on the GSA would be on equal footing. The County would utilize all of its current authorities (land use, taxation, etc.), while the GSA would give direction to the County. This governance option proposes that since it is the County's responsibility to manage air quality, roads, etc., it should also be their responsibility to manage groundwater. This option also supposes that landowners are familiar with County staff coming on their land for inspections, so this idea would be a comfortable option for landowners.

Discussion of Management Areas

Although there are still many nuances to be worked out regarding Management Areas, the group generally agreed on a proposal by PPAC member, Darrin Williams to divide the county into four Management Areas:

MA #1: Northwest – north of hwy 20, west of Sacramento River/West Butte subbasin

MA #2: Northeast – West Butte subbasin

MA #3: Southwest– South of hwy 20, west of Colusa Drain

MA #4: Southeast – South of hwy 20, east of Colusa Drain

Conclusion

The Subcommittee decided on two options to bring forth to the Governance Workgroup on August 24, 2016 (See appendix for a graphic representation of these two governance options):

1. Multi-agency GSA, covers entire county, 4 Management Areas
2. All-inclusive GSA, County implementation

The group broadly agreed that all parties should be allowed to participate, and we should eliminate the discussion of “1st, 2nd and 3rd among equals.” SGMA dictates these layers of authority, but there are ways to incorporate all interested parties on an equal footing.

Due to time constraints, the group was not able to address the Roles, Responsibilities and Authorities matrix exercise (Agenda item 3.c.). The group decided that subcommittee will provide comments via email.

Action Item: Ms. Fahey will distribute the matrix via email. Ms. Fahey will also send a Doodle poll to schedule the next Subcommittee meeting.

Action Items and Next Steps

- Send via email the GSA Roles/Responsibilities and Authorities Matrix documents to entire GSA Workgroup for completion and compile results before next GSA Workgroup meeting (Fahey)
- Compose two agreed-upon Governance options and send to Subcommittee members for review prior to bringing to the larger GSA Workgroup at the August 24, 2016 meeting (Fahey, Carlone)
- Send Doodle Poll to schedule the next Subcommittee meeting (Fahey)
- Create a map with proposed four Management Areas (Fahey)
- Ongoing – Ms. Fahey will send via email any important SGMA-related information (eg. The BMP survey) to the group.

Participant List

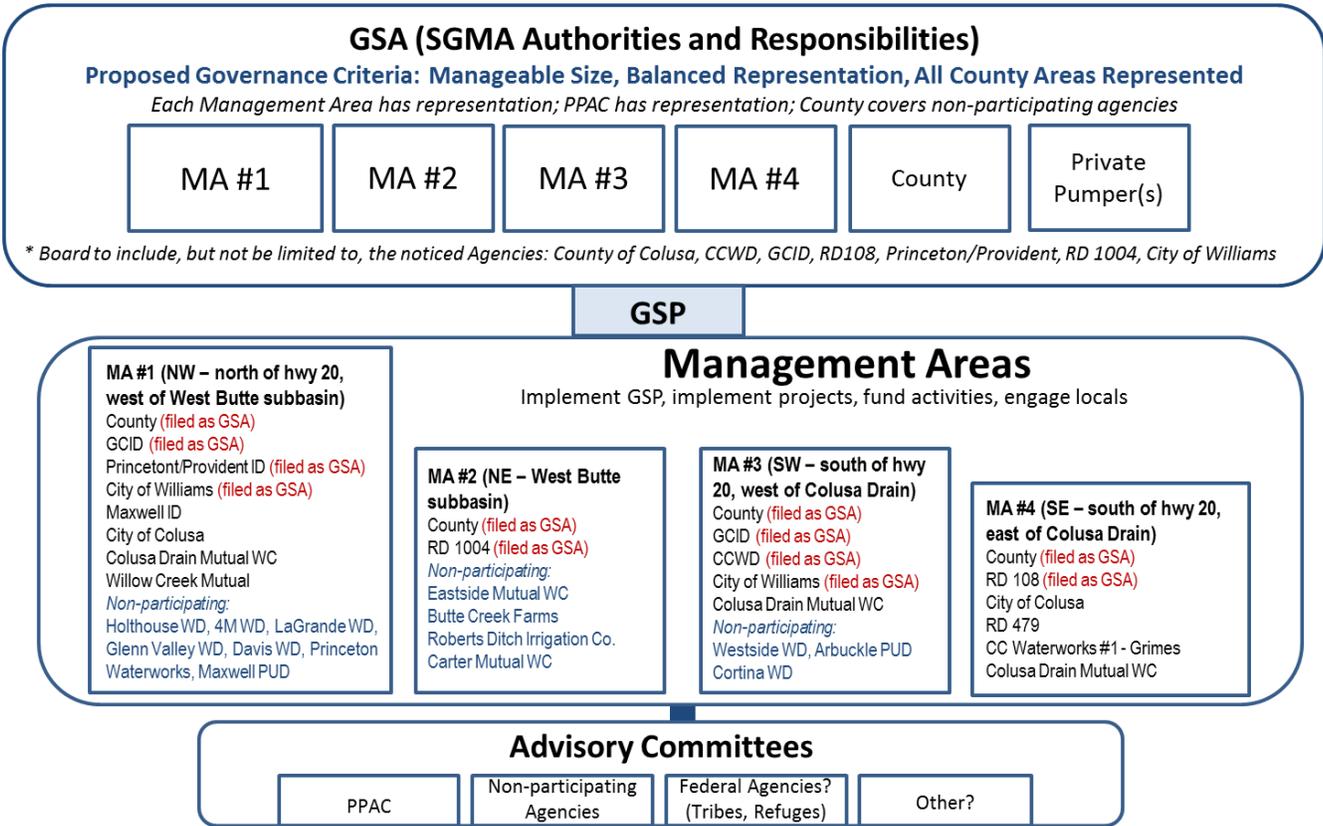
➤ Denise Carter	Colusa County Supervisor
➤ John Garner	Princeton Codora Glenn and Provident Irrigation Districts
➤ Shelly Murphy	Colusa County Water District
➤ Stewart Angerer	Colusa County Waterworks #1, Grimes
➤ Mike Mitchell	City of Williams
➤ Lewis Bair	Reclamation District 108
➤ Jim Wallace	Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company and RD 479
➤ Derrick Strain	Private Pumper Advisory Committee (PPAC)
➤ Darrin Williams	Colusa County Groundwater Commission/PPAC
➤ Lorraine Marsh	Colusa County Groundwater Commission/PPAC
➤ Carli Morengo	Colusa County Farm Bureau

Staff

- Mary Fahey Colusa County Water Resources Coordinator
- Tania Carlone Center for Collaborative Policy

Appendix A: Governance Options

Option #1: Multi Agency GSA, covers entire county; 4 Management Areas



Pros/Merits:

- Flexibility
- Practical – workable on the ground
- Management Areas aid outreach and education

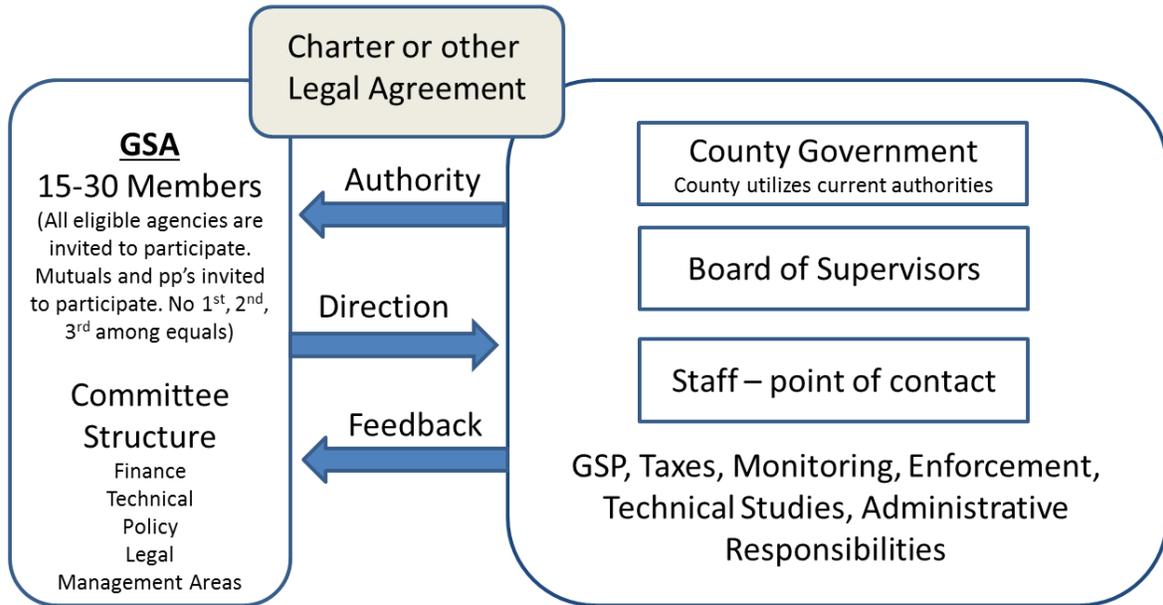
Cons/Concerns:

- Non-elected board

Key Questions

- What size is the GSA Board? (Subcommittee agreed that it should be manageable)
- Who sits on GSA Board? (Noticed GSAs, Private Pumper(s), Other?)
- How many private pumpers on the board?
- How will board members be chosen?
- Who has management responsibilities – what are the respective roles, responsibilities, authorities of the GSA Board vs. Management Areas?
- Define Private Pumpers, White Areas and Pumpers within Districts:
 - Private Pumper: Ag well operator outside of a water district
 - White Area: Areas of the county that are not covered by a GSA
 - GW Pumpers within Districts are not Private Pumpers
- What is the County’s role – coordination? Point of contact? White Area rep.
- How do we distribute agencies representing M.A.s on the GSA Board?
- How is this organization funded and how do we ensure it is proportional and fair?

Option #2: All-inclusive GSA; County Implementation



Pros/Merits:

- Local Engagement
- Landowners are accustomed to County taking on this role
- Allows everyone to participate, on equal footing – eliminates 1st, 2nd, 3rd among equals

Cons/Concerns:

- County bears responsibilities/costs – GSA instructs County, County takes the action
- Staff Capacity (County)
- Staff/Technical Consultants – County bears costs
- County leads politicized process (potentially)

Key Questions:

- What kind of Legal Agreement?