

MEETING SUMMARY May 23, 2017

Colusa Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) – Governance Workgroup Meeting #19

MEETING RECAP

- The public notices have gone out and the agencies are set to hold their public hearings to sign on to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement forming the Colusa Groundwater Authority.
- It was decided that once each of the Member agencies holds their public hearing, it will not be necessary for the JPA to hold its own public hearing (Ms. Fahey to confirm with the Department of Water Resources (DWR)).
- A Proposition 1 Project Solicitation Package (PSP) Subcommittee was formed and will coordinate with Glenn County to develop a comment letter on the draft PSP.
- GIS work is being done to true up the estimated agency acreages, to be presented to the Colusa Groundwater Authority Board when they are seated.
- The June 9, 2017 Colusa GSA Workgroup meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be June 20.

For more local information, **including all meeting materials**, visit the [Colusa County Water Resources Webpage](#). For information on SGMA visit the [Department of Water Resources SGMA Webpage](#).

MEETING SUMMARY

➤ Opening Remarks

Mary Fahey, Colusa County Water Resources Manager, announced that this group's facilitator, Dave Ceppos, from the Center For Collaborative Policy, would be arriving late today and she would be leading the discussion until his arrival. She welcomed everyone and asked for introductions. Ms. Fahey provided a review of the agenda. She said that at the last meeting, this group wrapped up the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) which has been distributed along with a draft resolution establishing the GSA. Today we will discuss the timeline for all of the JPA Member agencies' public hearings and ensure that all of the agencies are on schedule, and schedule a date for the JPA to hold a public hearing if applicable.

Ms. Fahey mentioned that Reclamation District (RD) 108 has agreed to fund GIS work by Provost and Pritchard to better define Member agency acreages. Bill Vanderwaal from RD 108, has been heading up this effort, and including Ms. Fahey in the discussions. They plan to coordinate these activities with the GSA Workgroup, or possibly form a subcommittee, to develop a recommendation to the Authority Board on adjusting acreages in the budget.

Ms. Fahey also said that the Proposition 1 Project Solicitation Package (PSP) for Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development is available. The comment period is open, and we will talk about coordinating with neighboring Counties/basins to provide comments, including looking at forming a PSP subcommittee today.

Ms. Fahey said that today the group will also look at the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) new SGMA portal and discuss the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) filing requirements.

Last on the agenda will be time for any agency updates, comments, etc.

Ms. Fahey asked if anyone wanted to add to the agenda. Denise Carter, Colusa County Supervisor, asked about the current subsidence survey that is taking place in the Sacramento Valley. She also asked about groundwater levels. Ms. Fahey said there will be a subsidence discussion shortly. Regarding groundwater levels, Bill Ehorn, DWR, provided a presentation at the May 17 Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management group's Technical Advisory Committee meeting (NSV IRWM TAC). Mr. Ehorn will provide the same update at the June 5 NSV IRWM Board meeting in Willows.

Darrin Williams from the Private Pumper Advisory Committee (PPAC) reported that his wells are pumping more water and less sand this spring, and groundwater levels have come up significantly in his wells.

Action: Ms. Fahey to distribute via email Groundwater Level Change Maps developed by the Department of Water Resources, Northern Region Office.

➤ **SGMA Process Updates**

Facilitation Support Services

Ms. Fahey reminded the group that DWR has an online survey regarding Facilitation Support Services. Mary Randall from DWR said that the survey should still be available through the end of May.

Ms. Fahey asked Ms. Randall if there will be facilitation support services for GSP development. Ms. Randall said that it might depend on the results of the survey. She believes it was very valuable and is hopeful that these services will be available in the future. Ms. Randall said we should know about availability before the Proposition 1 grant applications are due. The current facilitation contracts will end on June 30, so there will be some lag time before a new round of funding for these services may become available.

Basin Reprioritization

Ms. Fahey said that DWR is working on reprioritizing the groundwater basins since the last round of basin boundary modifications. The anticipated date for release of draft basin reprioritization is fall of 2017, followed by a public comment period.

Basin Boundary Modifications

Ms. Fahey provided a timeline for the next round of basin boundary modification requests:

- July 1, 2017 – Initial Notification period opens
- January 1, 2018 – 3 Month Submission Period opens
- August, 2018 - Anticipate final modifications

Glenn County Process

Ms. Fahey said that Glenn County will hold a GSA Workgroup meeting tomorrow (May 24, 2017) at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Randall said that she attended their most recent Private Pumper Advisory Committee (PPAC) meeting. The Glenn County private pumpers would really like a seat at the GSA table. At this time, the County is not offering a seat. Glenn County is hoping to finalize their JPA tomorrow. Grant Davids, Davids Engineering, Inc., will present a Glenn County Work Plan (similar to Colusa's) on May 31. This will help them produce their JPA budget. Ms. Randall said the agencies at the table all seemed supportive at the last meeting. They realize they each will likely have to chip in more funding than the Colusa agencies because there are fewer agencies participating in Glenn.

Question: how is the Glenn private pumper agency formation going? **Answer:** They are still working through it. It hasn't been finalized.

Ms. Fahey asked Vickie Newlin, Butte County, if she would like to update the group on the West Butte Subbasin. Ms. Newlin said that they requested a letter of support from the agencies in the West Butte Subbasin stating that they support Butte County submitting a grant proposal for GSP development. Butte County will take the lead on writing the grant and coordinate with the other agencies, including Colusa County.

Other

Ms. Fahey asked Ms. Randall if she had any other updates. Ms. Randall said that the subsidence survey is going well, but they are short on staff. It is taking more of DWR's staff time than anticipated. They are in Butte and Glenn Counties now and will be heading south to Colusa next. Ms. Fahey said that Colusa County has two staff members from the Public Works department that will be participating in the survey, as well as GCID and RD 108 each supplying a staff member. Ms. Newlin said that Butte County can get students from Chico State if anyone wants to contribute. The students are paid for their work and also get credits.

Ms. Fahey said that she and Lester Messina installed a new monument in the Arbuckle area on Wildwood Road near County Line Road. This year's survey will provide an initial reading and any future surveys will detect changes.

➤ **Update on GSA Ratification and Public Hearing Process, and Schedule**

Ms. Fahey turned the group's attention to a handout showing the schedule for public hearings for each of the agencies. Ms. Fahey explained that there was a glitch with the County's public meeting, originally scheduled for May 30, in that the notice was published one day late. The County had to re-notice for June 13, but the dates for all of the other agencies still stand.

Ms. Fahey asked the group if they were all prepared to hold their meetings. Glenn Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) is waiting on Glenn County before scheduling their public hearing. They will hold a joint Colusa and Glenn public hearing in June. All of the other agencies are ready to go.

Action: Ms. Fahey to provide her staff report to the group to use as a template for their public hearings.

Ms. Fahey reminded the group that the items needed for the public hearing are:

- Staff Report
- Copy of JPA
- Resolution authorizing the execution of a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement establishing the Colusa Groundwater Authority

Ms. Fahey noted that the last Public Hearing (minus GCID) for the Colusa agencies is June 21. She said that we could schedule a Public Hearing for the seated GSA between June 22 and June 29. According to the attorneys, it is not necessary for the GSA itself to hold a public hearing. Once each Member agency has held their public hearing, Ms. Fahey believes that the requirements to apply to be a GSA are fulfilled. Ms. Randall suggested that Ms. Fahey get confirmation from Mark Nordberg, just to be safe. **Action: Ms. Fahey to contact Mr. Nordberg to ensure that the GSA does not need to hold a public hearing in addition to each Member agency holding a hearing.**

Comment: Mr. Vanderwaal said that in Yolo County, the JPA/GSA did not hold a separate public hearing. He mentioned that the Yolo Groundwater Authority will hold its first meeting on June 19.

Comment: Mr. Bettner said it would be a good idea to ask Rob Donlan to provide a list of all of the business that the JPA will need to conduct at their first meeting. It would be better for the JPA to conduct this business at their first meeting, rather than using this meeting to hold the 14-day publically noticed public hearing for the seated GSA.

Ms. Randall suggested that Ms. Fahey speak with Brian Crane in Shasta County as he has been through this process.

Question: How do the currently noticed agencies rescind their GSA filing? **Answer:** Ms. Fahey said she was looking at the SGMA portal and there is a button that says “rescind” or “remove,” but she was afraid to test it out. She had recently spoken with Mark Nordberg from DWR and he said that she could provide a letter with the GSA filing stating that upon formation of the GSA, the previously noticed agencies will rescind. **Action: Ms. Fahey to get clarification from Mr. Nordberg regarding the steps for the agencies to rescind previous GSA notices.**

➤ **Discussion – Cleanup of Agency Acreages, Proposed Recommendation to Colusa Groundwater Authority**
Ms. Fahey explained that the current draft budget, Exhibit E of the Colusa Groundwater Authority Joint Powers Agreement, includes agency acreage estimates based on GIS files that are not completely accurate. There is an effort by Mr. Vanderwaal to clean up these numbers. Ms. Fahey asked Mr. Vanderwaal to talk about his efforts.

Mr. Vanderwaal said that RD 108 hired Mallory Serrao from Provost and Pritchard to do some GIS work to try to true up the Member agency acreages. Ms. Serrao is using 2012 agency acreages from DWR, and she has 2016 acreages from GCID, and updated GIS files from recent annexation work from Westside Water District. She also has files from recent work that was done for the proposed Berlin water district. Ms. Serrao is working with the most current shapefiles available. She will compile the information and develop a spreadsheet which will be provided to the JPA Board. They can use it to adjust the budget, or ignore it, but it will be the most recent information that we have. Once the spreadsheet and map are completed, they will be distributed to the GSA Workgroup for review.

Question: How does she develop the shapefiles? Is it by parcel? There must be some sort of fudge factor.

Answer: Mr. Vanderwaal said there is some margin of error. She is using what DWR has plus any available updated files.

Mr. Vanderwaal said that there are areas where two agencies overlap. They will calculate the acreages attributed to those overlaps and the GSA can decide how it wants to deal with those areas.

➤ **Proposition 1 Project Solicitation Package for GSPs and Projects:**

<http://water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/sgwp/solicitation.cfm>

Ms. Fahey reported that available funding for Proposition 1 grants is \$86.3 Million statewide. The Colusa and West Butte Subbasins fall under Tier 2 (all other high & medium priority basins). Funding available for Tier 2 is \$46.3-\$61.3 Million. The maximum request is \$1 million per basin, with a 50% cost share. There is Disadvantaged Community (DAC) match reduction available. We should be able to apply for a partial DAC reduction. In-kind match is retroactive to May 18, 2016. Ms. Fahey reminded the group to keep track of their time.

Ms. Randall mentioned that if an applicant applies for more than one basin, the first application maximum is \$1 million and the max for any other applications by that same agency is \$500K.

Ms. Fahey said that some of the County representatives from the NSV IRWM TAC (Colusa, Glenn, Butte, Tehama Counties) talked about coordinating their proposals, including similar tasks in each grant proposal so that work could be done on a regional basis to enhance coordination and keep costs down. Applications will be due in October, 2017.

Ms. Fahey said that, instead of all of the agencies submitting separate comment letters on the Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP), this group has talked about a subcommittee of Colusa and Glenn County agency representatives to work on a single comment letter. Ms. Fahey asked if anyone was interested in participating. Mr. Vanderwaal and Ms. Murphy (Colusa County Water District) volunteered. The public comment period closes

June 19. **Action:** *Mr. Vanderwaal, Ms. Murphy and Ms. Fahey to work on a PSP subcommittee with members of the Glenn Workgroup to provide comments on the Proposition 1 PSP by June 19.*

Ms. Randall mentioned that at the July NSV IRWMP TAC meeting she will give a presentation on the Proposition 1 PSP. She mentioned that there is also \$10 million available for projects for Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDAC). The limit is \$1 million per project and the applicant does not have to be a public agency.

Comment: I noticed requirements for applicants for GSP funding include having a compliant Agricultural Management Plan and Urban Water Management Plan, along with being CASGEM-compliant. Every agency on the application needs to meet these requirements.

Question: Does the GSA have to apply, or can the County apply? **Answer:** A member of the GSA could apply.

Question: Ms. Fahey asked, for clarification, to apply for Proposition 1 GSP funding, do all of the agencies need to be eligible, or can just one agency apply? **Answer:** Ms. Randall said typically it is the applicant that must be eligible. But in this case, she is not sure.

Action: *Ms. Randall will check to find out, re: Proposition 1 GSP funding, if the GSA or just one agency should apply, and if the GSA, whether or not all members must be eligible.*

Mr. Ceppos arrived, and the group took a five minute break.

➤ **GSA Noticing Package and Requirements**

Miss Fahey displayed the online GSA application on the screen for the group's review. She explained that her plan is to work on the application, start populating it, and share it with the group at the next meeting. She then went through each item on the application.

Ms. Fahey asked what date should we name as the date that the group decided to become a GSA? There is a 30-day period from this date to the date the GSA must be filed. Ms. Randall said that the date will be the date of the last agency signing the resolution.

Ms. Randall said to be sure to include the most recent basin maps. Ms. Fahey said the GIS mapping might cause some issues and she will start working on that right away.

➤ **Open Discussion - GSA Member Comments/Updates**

Environmental Defense Fund Presentation

Ms. Fahey asked Mr. Bettner to provide an overview of a phone conversation with Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) in which he and Ms. Fahey participated. He said that EDF has taken an interest in how to generate water budgets and crop water use. There is interest in an open data source platform for estimating evapotranspiration (ET). It could be helpful for farmers estimating water applications, and could be useful for GSAs as they prepare water budgets. This project is in the very beginning stages and EDF is developing a task force to work with them. If there is interest from this group, we could take volunteers and set up a follow-up meeting. It could be an opportunity to save some money, and it could be good to participate in these early stages.

Question: What do they want to get out of it? **Answer:** They are interested in environmental sustainability. They have also talked about moving water around. Until you know how much water you're using, it's hard to do this.

Mr. Ceppos said that EDF is trying to engage in SGMA statewide. They are known for building market-based solutions. This is not inconsistent with how they normally work.

Comment: Maybe we should wait until this GSA board forms first before engaging them. What about having them come in and do a presentation? **Answer:** Yes, we could do that.

Ms. Fahey said we could meet with them in the near term and bring information back to the GSA board.

Question: Are they aware that most farmers are already utilizing ET? Are they reinventing the wheel? **Answer:** These are good questions and good input that this group could provide to them.

Action: Invite EDF to come to our next meeting.

Groundwater Commission

Ms. Fahey discussed recent changes to the Colusa County Groundwater Commission. She provided a copy of a Notice of Vacancy on the Colusa County Groundwater Commission.

Ms. Fahey explained that the Commission was dissolved at the May 16 Colusa County Board of Supervisors meeting by resolution. New bylaws have been developed that reflect the Commission's new roles with SGMA. Each Commissioner will be chosen per Supervisorial District. Applications are due June 5, 2017.

Ms. Fahey thanked Ms. Marsh and Mr. Williams who were past Groundwater Commissioners in attendance today, for their past service to the County.

Ms. Fahey said there is a tight timeline and she is not sure if the two private pumper representatives will be seated by the first GSA meeting. The Commission will need to be seated, hold their first meeting and choose two Commissioners to serve on the GSA Board. Those two seats need to be ratified by the Board of Supervisors before they can be seated on the GSA Board.

Current Proposition 1 project – Monitoring Network and Data Management Program

Ms. Fahey said that Grant Davids will give a presentation on the current County Proposition 1 grant funded project, which is a monitoring network and data management program addressing the SGMA sustainability indicators. This presentation will be at the June 20 GSA Workgroup meeting.

Ms. Fahey said that June 9 is our next scheduled GSA Workgroup meeting. The group decided to cancel the June 9 meeting. There are not a lot of critical items now. It is also Friday of the Colusa County Fair week. **Action: Cancel June 9 Workgroup meeting.**

Other

There was more discussion about all of the details that will need to be included on the GSA's first agenda. Mr. Ceppos said that his office is working on a packet that includes these items.

Ms. Newlin mentioned that at the June 5 NSV IRWMP Board meeting there will be two presentations, one from DWR on groundwater levels and one from Butte County on a recent regional study of groundwater models.

Action: Ms. Fahey to send info about the June 5 NSV IRWMP meeting to the Workgroup members.

Mr. Williams discussed the formation of the Berlin Water District in Arbuckle. It is currently in a holding pattern while crops are being planted. They will pick it back up again in June.

Action Items from This Meeting:

- Ms. Fahey to distribute via email Groundwater Level Change Maps developed by the Department of Water Resources, Northern Region Office.
- Ms. Fahey to provide her staff report to the group to use as a template for their public hearings.
- Ms. Fahey to contact Mr. Nordberg at DWR to ensure that the GSA does not need to hold a public hearing in addition to each Member agency holding a hearing.
- Ms. Fahey to get clarification from Mr. Nordberg regarding the steps for the agencies to rescind previous GSA notices.

- Mr. Vanderwaal, Ms. Murphy and Ms. Fahey to work on a PSP subcommittee with members of the Glenn Workgroup to provide comments on the Proposition 1 PSP by June 19.
- Ms. Randall will find out if the GSA should apply for Proposition 1 grant funding, or just one agency, and if the GSA, whether or not all members must be eligible.
- Ms. Fahey to invite the Environmental Defense Fund to present their project at the next Workgroup meeting.
- Ms. Fahey to cancel the June 9 Workgroup meeting and send notifications.
- Ms. Fahey to send the agenda for the June 5 NSV IRWMP Board meeting to the group.

For copies of all meeting materials, visit the [Colusa County Water Resources Webpage](#).

Participant List

GSA Workgroup Members	
➤ John Garner	Princeton- Codora-Glenn and Provident Irrigation Districts
➤ Mike Mitchell	City of Williams
➤ Denise Carter	Colusa County Supervisor
➤ Bill Vanderwaal	Reclamation District 108
➤ Thad Bettner	Glenn Colusa Irrigation District
➤ Shelly Murphy	Colusa County Water District
➤ Dan Ruiz	Maxwell and Westside Irrigation Districts
➤ Darrin Williams	Private Pumper Representative
➤ Charles Marsh	RD 479
Members of the Public	
➤ Greg Plucker	Colusa County
➤ Mary Randall	California Department of Water Resources
➤ Vickie Newlin	Butte County
➤ Lorraine Marsh	PPAC/Colusa County Groundwater Commission

Staff

- Mary Fahey Colusa County Water Resources Manager
- Dave Ceppos Center for Collaborative Policy