



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: February 12, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m. - Noon

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Williams opened the meeting at 10:00 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

Denise Carter, Supervisor, District V

Erin Smith, Department of Water Resources, Northern Region Office

Elaine Rominger

Mathew Jones, T&P Farms

Lenore Kitts

Kurtis Klein

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Dormer, Moresco, LaGrande and Williams

Commissioners Absent: Charter

Approval of Minutes from the November 6, 2019 Meeting

Motion: Commissioner LaGrande moved to approve the November 6, 2019 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Dormer seconded. The motion passed 4-0 (1 absent).

Period of Public Comment

There was no public comment.



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PUBLIC FORUM

DWR Update: Erin Smith, California Department of Water Resources, Northern Region Office

Ms. Smith provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding groundwater conditions and precipitation. Questions were asked regarding frequency of groundwater level measurements and the number of wells that DWR monitors in the County. It was also asked if DWR considers weather conditions and surface water availability when they develop the groundwater level change maps. Currently that information is not integrated into the maps, but the data is available.

Colusa Groundwater Authority SGMA Update; Commissioner Moresco, Commissioner Williams, Mary Fahey (Staff)

Ms. Fahey stated that the main focus of the Groundwater Authority currently is on development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP). GSPs for the critically overdraft basins were due January 31, 2020. The plan for the Colusa Basin is due in January 2022. It is extremely important that landowners are engaged in the Plan development process.

Legislative Activities; Staff and Commissioners

i. Water Resilience Portfolio

ii. Delta Conveyance Environmental Review

Ms. Fahey described the elements in the draft Water Resilience Portfolio that are relevant to groundwater management, groundwater recharge, Sites Reservoir and Voluntary Agreements. She described the Plan's support for collaborative, multi-benefit, multi-partner programs. Some questionable aspects of the draft Plan include support of dam removal which would impact hydro-power operations. There is also a need for adequate funding to implement these programs, especially in rural areas such as Colusa County.

Ms. Fahey also provided a brief description of the Delta Conveyance project (single tunnel project) currently under environmental review. Notice of Preparation for this proposal was released January 15. Public comments on the NOP are due on March 20, 2020 by 5 p.m.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Review and Consider Approval of Annual Goals and Objectives

Motion: Commissioner Moresco moved to approve the 2020 Groundwater Commission Goals and Objectives as presented. Commissioner Dormer seconded. The motion passed 4-0 (1 absent).

Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors

Motion: Commissioner Dormer moved to appoint Commissioner Williams to provide the Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Moresco seconded. The motion passed 4-0 (1 absent).

Ms. Fahey will place the item on the Board of Supervisors Agenda and advise the Commissioners of the date, anticipated to be March 24, 2020.

UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Commissioner Comments and Updates

Commissioner Dormer reported that he recently had the opportunity to fly over the local area. He noticed that there were far less flooded rice fields than in the past. Rice growers are bailing rather than flooding.



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There is a new fiberboard plant in Willows that is making particle board out of rice straw. It is a very large operation that appears to be impacting the number of acres flooded for rice decomp.

Reminder – Commissioner terms of office

Ms. Fahey stated that District 2, 3 and 4 Commissioners' terms are up December 31, 2020

Items for Next Agenda

DWR update – observations on submitted Groundwater Sustainability Plans

Update on data gathering and studies on the west side of the Colusa Subbasin

DWR – information on monitoring well program

Water rights attorney to discuss water rights issues related to groundwater recharge

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular meeting date: May 6, 2020 at 10:00 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 p.m.