

## Water Users Group Meeting Minutes s 3/17/15

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

*Mary Fahey called the meeting to order at 10:11.*

*Moved to Item 2.a. since there was no quorum present.*

#### A. Introductions

*Public In Attendance:*

*Mary Fahey, Colusa County Dept. of Agriculture (staff)*

*Roy Hull, DWR*

*Joe Carrancho*

*John Garner, F.B.*

*Terry Bressler, RD 1004*

*Derick Strain*

*Suzie Dawley, Colusa County Environmental Health*

*Elvira Gutierrez, Colusa County Dept. of Agriculture (staff)*

#### B. Roll Call

**WUG Members in Attendance:**

*Bryan Busch, RD 108*

*Jim Scheimer, Arbuckle P.U.D*

*Doug McGeoghegan, private pumper*

*Jesse Cain, City of Colusa*

#### C. Acceptance of Agenda

*No quorum present to accept agenda.*

#### D. Acceptance of Minutes

*No quorum present to accept minutes*

#### E. Period of Public Comment

*There were no comments from the public*

### 2. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

#### a. Staff Report

*Mary Fahey reported the Ground Water Commission met last week and the Water Users Group and Commission have been working on amendments to the Ground Water Ordinance for the last couple of months. Last week the recommendations were unanimously approved by the Groundwater Commission and have been forwarded to the county attorney for review. The ordinance main changes were:*

*1. A formal administrative review for all in-county transfers*

*2. Drought language – limitations on issuing permits during times of drought.*

*3. Conditions that will apply to all permits.*

*Other changes where all mostly grammatical changes and updating dates. The next step is to send to the attorney.*

*Ms. Fahey will keep everyone updated on the process.*

*The Technical Support Team is working on the monitoring network. They are dividing the county into quarters. Starting with south of Hwy 20 and West of I-5 to choose wells. They have found there are not a lot of wells in that area, so there are a lot of data gaps. For now there are wells picked out and they are moving on to the south east quadrant to choose wells there.*

*Question from public: Are any of those wells DWR wells so they might have a history?*

*Ms. Fahey answers yes they are DWR wells.*

*Question from the public: how deep are the medium wells?*

*Roy Hull states that a deep well is typically more than 400 feet.*

*Deeper wells in that area go as far as 700-800 feet*

*Question from public: how often they are checked?*

*Mrs. Fahey answered, three times a year when DWR does their monitoring. The next check will be in March for the spring measurements and then in the fall.*

*Ms. Fahey reports, as the program moves forward she would like to look into developing a voluntary well network, wells that private landowners agree to be monitored, and to have staff monitor those wells monthly or quarterly, whatever is feasible with staff resources.*

*Roy Hull reports that DWR's monitoring results are publically available online.*

*Ms. Fahey added that choosing wells and gathering data is an ongoing project. Water levels, quality and subsidence are the main parts of management. At the moment we are monitoring the levels. DWR monitors water quality at various locations.*

*Question from public: What is the time frame for the four quadrants?*

*Ms. Fahey hopes within the next couple months. Unfortunately there is not an extensive amount of wells to choose from. She provided a map of the wells that have been chosen in the southwest quadrant of the county.*

*Roy Hull states there are others wells in that area that are being monitored. The ones that are on the map are the key well that the county wants to monitor.*

*Question from public: are these wells in continuous use?*

*Roy Hull answered: some of them are. If they are in use when measurements are taken, it is recorded.*

*Question from the public: are cropping patterns taken into consideration?*

*Roy Hull explained that some wells date back to 50's and some have been added in the last decade.*

*Mrs. Fahey added that they are also trying to estimate the Ground Water use in the county. DWR is working on the land and water use report within the county so we can use that to estimate the water use. RD 108 also shared information on Water use in the county that they compiled. The Technical Support Team will look at that this Friday and they will share that with Water Users Group at next meeting. She would like to do a presentation on the monitoring network at a future meeting.*

*Ms. Fahey shared that regarding Water Transfers: MBK engineers reported they don't know of any groundwater substitution transfer proposals outside of Colusa County for 2015. There are some proposed transfers to the TC Canal, similar to last year.*

### **3. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

#### **a. Presentation – Groundwater Sustainability Agencies**

*Roy Hull provided a handout and a timeline for implementation of the SGMA. Mr. Hull discussed the various items on the timeline, emphasizing the items that will take place in the next two years. He stated that he is interested to hear questions that the public has so that he can address concerns, and develop a future presentation.*

*Discussion ensued regarding the SGMA and Mr. Hull took several questions from those in attendance.*

*Questions included:*

*Question from the public: how were basins identified?*

*Mr. Hull described the process. DWR is also making recommendations on which basins need to be changed.*

*Comment from the public: There is misinformation that in the Colusa County region there are 27 different water districts and all want to be a GSA. If that's the case, there will be chaos. There should be a template from the state that would be an example of what a GS A would look like. The way to get a handle of sustainability is to see what you're taking out and monitor the level of the groundwater, then the recharge aspect of it. Most areas here have a supply that comes back to the area. If you measure what is taken and the groundwater stays the same, then it seems that the basin would be in balance. What we need is to have some kind of example of what is necessary to go to land owners. And if we have to monitor levels, there will be a certain cost associated. If there's a template and everyone fills in the blanks, it will be a homogeneous way to measure for that area.*

*Mr. Hull explained that DWR is developing a best practices template.*

*Comment from the public: we don't know how extensive our recording needs to be until we hear from DWR.*

*Mr. Hull states that the first order of business is to see what the options are to effectively manage the area. Can they effectively work with other agencies, and what the basin is doing can't affect the other basins. You don't want to spend money for 26 plans. Multiple agencies can be a GSA and form joint powers.*

*Comment from public: That information needs to be in the handout because everyone is going to come up with separate plans. They need to get together and see how they are connected.*

*Mrs. Fahey explains that she is coordinating within the districts and the county to sit down and start having those conversations. April 17<sup>th</sup> there will be the meeting with the county and the irrigation districts. She is still trying to coordinate a meeting date with the local government agencies.*

*Mr. Hull states that one of the other tasks for DWR is to define the process in which basins will be defined as critical overdraft. If a basin is considered in critical overdraft your plan has to be in place by 2020. Mr. Hull also stated that there will be a set of requirements for the GSPs, but AB 3030 will still be part of those plans. Colusa County has a good head start with their Groundwater Management Plan.*

*Ms. Fahey stated that the county is thinking that they would like to see a joint GSA with everyone involved, including the county, water purveyors, cities, PUDs, etc., so they aren't duplicating efforts and all entities are working together.*

*Comment from the public. What if a GSA takes in more than one basin within one county?*

*Mr. Hull comments: That is a very complicated situation because we are covering four counties.*

*Public: right now in the county if a domestic well goes dry doesn't that land owner have a hearing process to go to the county?*

*Ms. Fahey replied: we did have that happen last year and we couldn't do anything. The landowner would have to go to court.*

*Mr. Hull states: There can be a variety of scenarios - one or multiple GSA's, one or multiple GSPs. DWR has to wait until all GSPs in a basin are submitted before they can evaluate any of the plans. If there is one bad plan or one doesn't have a plan, they can't evaluate any of the plans in that basin.*

*Question from the public: who says who can punch a well and who can't and where?*

*Mr. Hull answered that it is up to the individual county. Each county is different. Mr. Hull*

**b. Discussion – Groundwater Legislation Outreach Efforts**

The County is planning two outreach meetings with local agencies that are eligible to be GSAs. The first meeting will be with water purveyors and the second with local government agencies. The purpose of these meetings is to share ideas/thoughts regarding GSA formation. These meetings are not public meetings.

**i. Outreach to irrigation and reclamation districts**

*This meeting will take place on April 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 3:30pm.*

**ii. Outreach to local governments**

*There is currently no date for the local government meeting.*

**iii. Public Outreach Meeting.**

*Ms. Fahey reported that there will be a public outreach meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm at the Colusa County Fairgrounds. There will be a basic overview of water law, Roy Hull will present groundwater conditions in the county, including the latest spring measurements, DWR will give a presentation on the groundwater legislation and one of our county Supervisors will present the counties perspective of the legislation.*

**c. Set 2015 meeting dates**

*No quorum to set meeting dates*

**d. Member Reports – WUG members are encouraged to discuss items that may be of interest to the group**

*Brief discussion took place regarding land subsidence*

**e. Next Meeting of the WUG (date and time to be determined in Discussion/Action Item b.)**

*Ms. Fahey reports that the next meeting date has not been set. She will coordinate with the group over email. Typically meetings are quarterly but the WUG can meet more often if necessary.*

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting was adjourned at 11:45am*