



Corning Subbasin Advisory Board



Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Members

Matt Hansen -- Dave Lester -- Steve Gruenwald -- Ian Turnbull (Alternate)
John Amaro -- Brian Mori -- Julia Violich -- Grant Carmon (Alternate)

Corning Subbasin Advisory Board

August 7, 2024 | 1:30p.m.

Location | 794 Third Street, Corning, CA 96021

And Teleconference

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

Member Hansen called the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (TCFCWCD)		Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) (CSGSA)	
X	Steven Gruenwald	X	John Amaro
X	Dave Lester	X	Brian Mori (arrived at 1:52 PM)
X	Matt Hansen		Julia Violich
X	Ian Turnbull (Alternate)	X	Grant Carmon (Alternate)

Other participants: Lisa Hunter (Glenn County), Justin Jenson (Tehama County), Nichole Bethurem (Tehama County), Marisa Perez-Reyes (Stantec), Eddy Teasdale (Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE)), Karen Jones, Martin Spannaus, Michael Ward, Shanna Long (Tehama County Farm Bureau), Bill Davis, Latisha Miller, Sharon Novak, Curt Pierce, Tamara Williams, *Monique Gaido (DWR)

3. Period of Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Facilitation Support Services for the Corning Subbasin

- a. Receive a presentation on Corning Subbasin Communications and Engagement Plan Update

Marisa Perez-Reyes, Stantec Associate Facilitator, provided an update on the Corning Subbasin Communications and Engagement (C&E) Plan. The presentation included the following slides: Background on C&E Plans: What are they and why do we need them?, Requirements of a C&E Plan, The Need for a Plan Update, How has the Plan changed?, Interview Process Overview, What Did We Learn?, 1. Public Meetings, 2. Public Awareness of SGMA, Incorporating Public Input, Public Knowledge of GSAs, Outreach Activities and Tools Identified in the Update, and Reflections.

Following the presentation, Facilitator Perez-Reyes invited CSAB members and the public to share their comments.

Member Hansen stated the same people attend meetings and questioned where we are missing the mark to get new faces in the audience.

Member Turnbull stated the meeting time makes it challenging for people to attend.

Member Mori arrived at 1:52 PM.

Member Carmon stated new people begin attending meetings and public hearings when fees and charges are implemented.

Member Amaro stated more people need to attend regular meetings to have a better understanding of what is going on.

Member Hansen proposed sending a short informational video to the interested parties lists. Member Gruenwald added that sharing information on social media may help reach a younger audience.

Member Gruenwald discussed the public having some reluctance to engage with agencies when they do not feel like they are part of the decision-making process.

Member Turnbull discussed the number of meetings and topics pulling people in a lot of different directions and the need to ensure the website is current.

Latisha Miller stated it may be beneficial for the CSAB to re-introduce themselves as a committee and identify the CSAB goals and values and share the importance of public input in the messaging.

Deputy Director Jenson discussed many people still not being aware of SGMA and how it may impact them and echoed previous statements that it is hard for people to pay attention to everything going on in local government. Deputy Director Jenson stated the people making decisions work for the public and it is challenging to make decisions without knowing people's concerns.

In response to Shanna Long, Facilitator Perez-Reyes provided an overview of the DWR Facilitation Support Services (FSS) funding, initial C&E development, and updates to date.

Bill Davis stated outreach efforts generally don't reach people, requiring the public to play catchup at meetings while learning the SGMA vocabulary.

Sharon Novak stated there needs to be more informal meetings, emphasized the importance of continuing hybrid meetings, and discussed the benefits of evening meetings with refreshments, shorter presentations, and question and answer periods. Sharon Novak commented on the lack of diversity amongst CSAB members.

Tehama County Groundwater Commissioner Michael Ward stated good work has been done on the C&E Plan but expressed concerns about the document sitting on the shelf and discussed the need for action items and goals from the CSAB.

Tamara Williams asked who is being held accountable for implementing the C&E Plan and stated the need for metrics to identify the progress and success of the Plan.

Tamara Williams stated participants on the phone and Teams are unable to determine who is speaking, noting only a staff name appears as speakers for the meeting room.

5. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

a. Update on Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Implementation Grant

Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) Project Manager Eddy Teasdale provided a verbal update on the SGM implementation grant activities.

Member Carmon requested to see a list of tasks for the Corning Subbasin to help ensure projects are being diversified across the subbasin and requested involvement in the decision-making process, including for access to surface water projects.

Member Gruenwald shared frustrations with not getting more recharge water in the ground and requested information on the permitting status. In response, Mr. Teasdale stated Jenny Scheer will be invited to provide an update at the next CSAB meeting.

Member Mori stated he does not want to hinder the ability to tackle low-hanging fruit projects or avoid discouraging willing landowners from participating with bureaucracy. Member Mori spoke in support of reviewing items at CSAB but not at the risk of stopping progress.

Deputy Director Jenson stated no DWR reimbursement payments have been received to date, noting the first round of invoice approvals and payments typically take the longest.

In response to Member Turnbull, Deputy Director Jenson stated the GSAs will need to implement projects to capture water due to the costs of long-term water purchases.

Member Gruenwald discussed the use of Section 215 water (excess flow water during high water events) to enhance groundwater recharge in Glenn County. Member Gruenwald stated that though there is a limited distribution, growers make use of the water when it is available. Ms. Hunter added some growers continued receiving and paying for water at more expensive rates on their own after the 215 water was no longer available and the water district stopped funding the program.

In response to questions, Mr. Teasdale stated recharge projects can be submitted at any time using the QR code included in presentation slides. Mr. Teasdale noted the responses are submitted directly to the LSCE team.

b. Discussion on Well Mitigation Program

Deputy Director Jenson stated the focus in Tehama County has been on establishing the Demand Management working group, as it will be the heavier lift.

Member Hansen discussed the importance of coordination between Glenn and Tehama counties.

Member Carmon discussed the focus of the well mitigation program being on how dry wells will be remedied versus the permitting process at the individual county level. Member Carmon emphasized the need for collaboration and the possibility of coordinated meetings.

Ms. Hunter stated the Corning Subbasin is unique as representatives from both counties meet regularly at CSAB meetings.

c. Discussion on Demand Management Program

Deputy Director Jenson stated the Demand Management Ad Hoc Committee recommended appointing CSAB members Steve Gruenwald and Ian Turnbull to the working group.

Members Carmon and Amaro have been appointed as CSGSA Demand Management Coordinating Members. Member Carmon requested invitations to the Tehama working group meetings be sent to the CSGSA Coordinating Members.

6. Groundwater Sustainability Agency Updates

Deputy Director Jenson stated Tehama County has completed compiling data from the second round of well registration and discussed the increased response from larger landowners in the east and west portions of the county.

Deputy Director Jenson stated this is an opportunity for landowners to inform the GSA of how they are using water versus assumptions being made in the future.

In response to Member Hansen, Deputy Director Jenson stated new wells will be entered into Tehama County Environmental Health's database.

Ms. Hunter added that the CSGSA does not have a well registration process; however, Glenn County maintains a robust well database that will be utilized in the various programs.

7. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Member Reports and Comments

Member Carmon discussed the following items from the CSAC legislative update:

- AB 2060 would extend exemptions for lake and streambed alterations for recharge.

- SB 1390 related to exemptions for diverting high-flow flood water and pumping.

Member Carmon stated the Glenn County Board of Supervisors will be submitting letters of support for the above items. Following discussion, it was requested a letter of support be presented to the Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Board of Directors on August 19.

Member Carmon discussed a project to install floodgates on Black Butte Reservoir to increase water storage by approximately 80,000 acre-feet. It is expected the project will take 6 years to complete if approved.

8. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2024.

9. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:59 PM.