



# 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

June 5, 2024 | 1:30p.m.

Location | 794 Third Street, Corning, CA 96021

Alternate Location | 1177 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 94939

And Teleconference

### Meeting Minutes

#### 1. Call to Order

Member Hansen called the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting to order at 1:36 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	Brian Mori
X Matt Hansen	X Julia Violich
Ian Turnbull (Alternate)	X Grant Carmon (Alternate)

Other participants: Lisa Hunter (Glenn County Water Resources Coordinator), Kaitlyn Murray (Glenn County), Nichole Bethurem (Tehama County), Eddy Teasdale (Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE)), Jenny Scheer, Adam Englehardt, Karen Jones, Martin Spannaus, Michael Ward, Shanna Long (Tehama County Farm Bureau), Toni Longley, Marisa Perez-Reyes

#### 3. Meeting Minutes

##### a. \*Approval of February 7, 2024 meeting minutes

Motion by Member Gruenwald, second by Member Carmon to approve the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Members Greunwald, Lester, Hansen, Amaro, Violich, Carmon

Noes: None

Absent: Member Mori

##### b. \*Approval of March 6, 2024 special meeting minutes

Motion by Member Amaro, second by Member Gruenwald to approve the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Members Gruenwald, Lester, Hansen, Amaro, Violich, Carmon

Noes: None

Absent: Member Mori

**c. \*Approval of March 27, 2024 special meeting minutes**

Motion by Member Carmon, second by Member Gruenwald to approve the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Members Gruenwald, Lester, Hansen, Amaro, Violich, Carmon

Noes: None

Absent: Member Mori

**4. Period of Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**5. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation**

Eddy Teasdale (Mr. Teasdale) gave a presentation on GSP Implementation (Items 5a-5f).

The presentation included the following slides: Revised Corning Subbasin GSP, WY 2023 Annual Report, Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations, Groundwater Storage, Subsidence, Interconnected Surface Water, Groundwater Recharge, Rolling Hills Casino, USBR Pond, Simpson Road, California Olive Ranch, Additional Sites, Permitting and Water Rights, Seeking Potential Volunteers, Task 5. Projects and Management Actions – Corning Regional Conjunctive Use, Tehama GSA GSP Implementation Project Grant Administration – Getting to Recharge, Corning Subbasin Expenditures Through 3.31.24, Tehama GSA GSP Implementation Project Environmental Review – Getting to Recharge, Tehama GSA GSP Implementation Project Optimizing Grant Funds for Recharge, Tehama GSA GSP Implementation Project Corning Subbasin Benefits, Task 2. GSP Implementation, Outreach, and Compliance Activities, Stakeholder Engagement and Community Outreach, Task 3. Ongoing Monitoring, Data Gaps & Enhancements for Corning & Antelope Subbasins, Task 3.1-Progress: Multi-Completion Monitoring Wells, Task 3.2 – Progress: Surface Water/Groundwater Site Identification, Task 3.3 – Synoptic Stream Gaging, Task 3.5 – Domestic Monitoring, Task 3.5 – Domestic Monitoring (Telemetry Equipment), Task 3.4 – Biological Investigation (Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems), Task 3.7 – Groundwater Quality Compliance Sampling, Seeking Potential Volunteers, Well Mitigation Discussion, and Demand Management Discussion.

**a. Update on Revised Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

Mr. Teasdale stated the revised GSP was submitted to Department of Water Resources (DWR) and that a response is expected by the end of 2024.

**b. Presentation on Water Year 2023 Annual Report**

Mr. Teasdale noted an acknowledgment letter was received from DWR following submittal, but no feedback has been given on the Annual Report contents. In response to Member Hansen, Mr. Teasdale stated minimal feedback was provided in response to annual reports for approved plans.

Michael Ward discussed potential GDE issues in the Capay and Hamilton City areas, noting the contours look like water is leaving the Sacramento River in these areas. Mr. Teasdale stated the complete analysis has not been completed.

In response to Member Gruenwald, Mr. Teasdale noted after two wet years, water levels look better than a few years ago but are still on a downward trend.

Mr. Teasdale stated consumption is calculated using surface water delivery, crop, and evaporation data; inflow is calculated by using a precipitation dataset.

Shanna Long asked if the Corning Subbasin uses the same model as other basins. Mr. Teasdale stated the methodology is the same for the Butte, Colusa, and Tehama subbasins. Mr. Teasdale noted the model is not used to develop the annual report due to the cost of running the model.

Discussion ensued about the use of groundwater levels as a proxy for interconnected surface water monitoring and the need to expand monitoring.

**c. Presentation of Groundwater Recharge Efforts in the Corning Subbasin**

Ms. Hunter noted Michelle Dooley (DWR) wants to help support implementation of groundwater recharge and requested the consultant team reach out to DWR to continue the conversation on how they can help.

Mr. Teasdale stated the Tehama County Groundwater Commission is forming a recharge ad hoc committee, tasked with providing direction to the consultant team on additional projects that can be done. There was additional discussion on how to incorporate the CSAB, Corning Sub-basin GSA, and stakeholders in these meetings and the importance of collaboration across the subbasin. GSA staff noted the June Groundwater Commission meeting will have a more in-depth discussion and requested the public ask questions at that time.

Mr. Teasdale noted DWR grant funds cannot be used to purchase water for recharge projects and discussed partnering with The Nature Conservancy for recharge projects.

In response to Member Gruenwald, Mr. Teasdale stated data from the Brown and Caldwell Feasibility Study was used but current efforts are focused on identifying willing landowners. Mr. Teasdale noted there is some overlap in locations between the feasibility study and locations identified by LSCE.

Jenny Scheer (Ms. Scheer) stated that 12 -15 phone calls have been made regarding surface water projects and 15-20 in-person site visits have been made to potential recharge sites. Ms. Scheer stated project flyers were distributed to Corning Water District last week.

Member Carmon stated the importance of dispersing funds and projects more equally across the subbasin and requested other entities have seats at the table.

Adam Englehardt (Mr. Englehardt) asked if recharge projects in the Corning Subbasin need to utilize surface water only. There was a discussion regarding the use of flood flows, and permitting and water right applications, with Ms. Scheer noting the high thresholds in which water would be available for use in the Corning and Red Bluff Subbasins.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential for funding matches and cost-sharing to get users to switch to surface water. Member Hansen stated the need to ensure money is being spent in the best way to reach sustainability.

**d. Update on Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Implementation Grant**

Mr. Teasdale stated the first round of invoices and quarterly reports were submitted to DWR, provided an overview of expenses through March 31, 2024, and discussed the challenges with reimbursement timelines impacting payments to subconsultants and slowing down work.

There was a discussion regarding the funding mechanisms implemented in the Northern Sacramento Valley, legal challenges, probationary fees, and the decision-making authorities for the Corning Subbasin.

Mr. Englehardt requested clarification on the difference between participating in well monitoring through the GSA versus DWR.

**e. Discussion on Well Mitigation Program**

Mr. Teasdale discussed the concept of the well mitigation program, what has been implemented in other areas, the formation of the Groundwater Commission's ad hoc group, and progress to be made for the next annual report.

Ms. Hunter discussed the desire for consistency across the Corning Subbasin and including representatives from both GSAs in the discussion.

Member Gruenwald discussed requests to Environmental Health on the number of wells that have been drilled due to old wells going dry to help determine how many wells need to be mitigated.

Member Hansen proposed reallocating Tehama County American Rescue Act Funding for dry well replacements to the GSA, which could be used as an interim loan to pay the consultant and be reimbursed with grant funding.

**f. Discussion on Demand Management Program**

Mr. Teasdale stated the demand management activities to date and the next steps align with the Well Mitigation Program, with the Demand Management Program requiring an economic analysis.

## **6. Groundwater Sustainability Agency Updates**

Ms. Hunter shared the following updates:

- The CSGSA is currently in the process of revising the fee policy to include a variance to allow parcels to be in multiple user classes.
- The Corning Subbasin Communications and Engagement (C&E) Plan is being updated with Facilitation Support Services funding, with the intent of guiding public outreach and engagement through 2027. A full presentation is expected at the August CSAB meeting.

## **7. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Member Reports and Comments**

There were no CSAB member reports or comments.

## **8. Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2024.

## **9. Adjourn**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:43 PM.