

Corning Subbasin Advisory Board

June 8, 2022 | 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Location | 794 Third Street, Corning, CA 96021

And Teleconference

Meeting Materials | CorningSubbasinGSP.org/CSAB-meetings

1. Call to Order

Justin Jenson (Mr. Jenson) called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Jenson conducted the roll call.

Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (TCFCWCD)		Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CSGSA)	
x	Steven Gruenwald		Grant Carmon
x	Dave Lester	x	Brian Mori
	Bob Williams		Julia Violich
x	Ian Turnbull (Alternate)	x	John Amaro (Alternate)

Other participants: Lisa Hunter (Glenn County Water Resources Coordinator), Justin Jenson (Tehama County Deputy Director Public Works – Water Resources), Todd Hamer (Tehama County Groundwater Commission), Pete Dennehy (Montgomery & Associates), Ron and Cathy Tobin (Landowners), Michael Ward (Landowner)

3. Meeting Minutes

Motion by Member Turnbull (Mr. Turnbull), second by Member Lester (Mr. Lester) to approve the April 6, 2022 CSAB meeting minutes as distributed.

Ayes: Members Gruenwald, Lester, Turnbull, Mori, Amaro

Noes: None

Absent: Members Williams, Carmon, Violich

4. Period of Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Groundwater Sustainability Agency Updates

Mr. Jenson and Ms. Hunter reported to the CSAB on the TCFCWCD and CSGSA, respectively:

TCFCWCD

- Tehama County is in the process of approving a funding mechanism. The fee structure is being presented for approval to move forward. Mr. Jenson discussed the \$0.29 per acre well registration program fee and upcoming public hearings.
- Tehama County is coordinating with the Tehama County Resource Conservation District to identify potential project funding opportunities.

In response to Mr. Mori, Mr. Jenson discussed the temporary well permit regulations approved by the TCFCWCD Board of Directors in response to Governor's Executive Order N-7-22. Mr. Jenson stated Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) approval of well permits is automatic if the conditions fall within the parameters of the temporary regulation. The temporary regulations and maps can be viewed at tehamacountywater.org.

Mr. Mori commented on recent Board of Supervisors election results and asked how they may impact water efforts in Tehama County.

CSGSA

- The last CSGSA meeting included a presentation on Land IQ and discussions about retaining legal counsel on an as-needed basis.
- The CSGSA approved a well permit acknowledgment form in response to Governor's Executive Order N-7-22. Glenn County's well permit moratorium remains in effect; therefore, compliance with the Executive Order essentially only applies to replacement ag wells.
- The CSGSA member agencies are discussing short-term funding strategies and a long-term funding mechanism. A Request for Proposals (RFP) process to develop the funding mechanism will be considered at the next CSGSA meeting.
- Ms. Hunter provided an update on the final invoice and reporting for the Proposition 1 grant.
- A Technical Support Services application is being considered to address erosion concerns in the Stony Creek area.

In response to Mr. Mori, Ms. Hunter stated the Land IQ presentation was an informational overview of the program and its features. Mr. Mori asked if Land IQ is being considered for a land use assessment as part of the long-term funding mechanism.

Michael Ward (Mr. Ward) asked for clarification on the assessment being considered. Ms. Hunter stated it is referring to the long-term funding assessment and how fees may be developed. Mr. Mori discussed the concerns with developing equitable costs for irrigated versus non-irrigated lands. Mr. Jenson discussed data requirements for funding mechanisms and the need to withstand challenges. Mr. Turnbull stated the need for landowners to be able to easily resolve errors.

6. Discussion: Funding Corning Subbasin Shared Costs

Mr. Jenson presented the SGMA Cost Allocation Approaches for the Corning Subbasin PowerPoint. The presentation included the following slides: SGMA Funding Needs, Sources of SGMA Implementation Funding, Expected Sources of Funding, How do the GSAs Share SGMA Costs?, Mechanisms for Recovering Costs, Approaches for Allocating Costs, Subbasin Data for Consideration, Comparison of Cost Allocation Approaches, Recommendations for Corning Subbasin GSAs. The complete slide deck can be viewed at corningsubbasingsp.org/csab-meetings.

Ms. Hunter stated while GSAs are required to develop individual funding mechanisms, some costs will be more economical to share. Staff from the two GSAs will need to coordinate on the most effective way to distribute those costs. In response to Mr. Turnbull, Mr. Jenson stated the costs provided are a good starting point to work from.

Mr. Gruenwald discussed concerns with the proposed \$1 million annual budget presented. Mr. Gruenwald stated costs for staffing and legal services seem low. Mr. Gruenwald asked if the costs could be compared to those GSAs further along in the process. Mr. Jenson stated in addition to the broad ranges based on localized costs, it is difficult to determine the costs agencies included in their budget. Mr. Lester stated many of the GSAs with funding mechanisms in place are critically overdraft and have more complicated problems to address.

Discussion ensued regarding legal exposure, specifically related to environmental groups, for the GSAs as the process advances.

In response to Mr. Turnbull's comments on the Subbasin Data for Consideration slide, there was discussion on the accuracy of the acreage by water use type. Ms. Hunter stated the figures could be referenced with the GSP for confirmation. Mr. Mori discussed a hybrid mechanism of parcels and land use types, stating it may solve conflicts between the various stakeholder groups.

Mr. Jenson clarified the purpose of this agenda item is to determine the methodology of how the GSAs will share the costs of administering the program. Ms. Hunter stated the importance of having the GSA cost share determined to ensure GSA fees account for the shared costs.

Mr. Lester expressed concerns with having separate consultants for the Corning Subbasin and the other four Tehama County subbasins.

Mr. Jenson encouraged the members of the public in attendance to submit comments and feedback via email to include in future meetings.

Following discussion, Mr. Jenson stated the original estimated costs could be presented to the CSAB at the September meeting to be reviewed by task category.

7. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Member Reports and Comments

Ms. Hunter discussed the need to develop an RFP for consultant services for the Water Year 2022 Annual Report.

Ms. Hunter stated it will be important to begin discussing and prioritizing projects and management actions (PMAs). This will also support discussions on the upcoming grant funding opportunity which is expected to open in September 2022. She clarified the application opens this fall, but the execution of the agreements is not expected until Summer 2023. Only one application is allowed per subbasin and the GSAs will need to coordinate on the process.

Mr. Turnbull commented on the projects and the types of information and costs that are included in the GSP. He suggested additional information and further outreach may be needed. Mr. Jenson encouraged those with project ideas to contact him. Mr. Gruenwald suggested reaching out to Sustainable Conservation.

Mr. Ward asked if the grants are dependent on the PMA list in the GSP. Mr. Jenson responded that funding can be applied for projects that benefit a PMA. Mr. Ward suggested that a feasibility assessment of projects be included and noted there is an interest in recharge projects. Mr. Jenson highlighted the

results from the airborne electromagnetic study will be useful to help with these studies; however, the data is not yet available.

8. Next Meeting

The next CSAB meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2022.

9. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:06 PM.