



Corning Subbasin Advisory Board



Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Members

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

Corning Subbasin Advisory Board

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

Location | 794 Third Street, Corning, CA 96021

Alternate Location | 333 W Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101

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 Grant Carmon
Dave Lester	X Brian Mori
X Matt Hansen	X *Julia Violich (arrived at 1:34, departed at 3:06)
X Ian Turnbull (Alternate)	X John Amaro (Alternate)

Other participants: Lisa Hunter (Glenn County Water Resources Coordinator), Kaitlyn Murray (Glenn County), Justin Jenson (Tehama County Deputy Director of Public Works – Water Resources), Nichole Bethurem (Tehama County), Bill Davis, *Brandon Davison (California Department of Water Resources (DWR)), Curt Pierce (University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources), Jenny Scheer (Water and Land Solutions), John McHugh (Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE)), Karen Jones, Latisha Miller (Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians), *Lisa Porta (Montgomery & Associates), *Marisa Perez-Reyes (Stantec), Martin Spannaus, Michael Ward, *Ryan Fulton (Larry Walker Associates)

* = online participant

3. Meeting Minutes

a. *Approval of November 1, 2023 meeting minutes

Motion by Member Turnbull seconded by Member Mori to approve the November 1, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: Members Turnbull, Mori, Gruenwald, Hansen, Carmon, Amaro

Noes: None

Absent: None

b. *Approval of December 6, 2023 meeting minutes

Motion by Member Carmon seconded by Member Amaro to approve the December 6, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: Members Carmon, Amaro, Turnbull, Mori, Gruenwald, Hansen

Noes: None

Absent: None

4. Announcement of Special CSAB Meeting- A special CSAB Meeting will be called on March 6, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. at 794 Third Street, Corning, CA 96021

A special meeting of the CSAB will be held March 6, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. at the Corning City Council Chambers located at 794 Third Street in Corning, CA. The purpose of that meeting will be to receive a recommendation from CSAB on alternatives for revising the Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

5. Period of Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Groundwater Sustainability Agency Updates

TCFCWCD: Mr. Jenson reported that a second round of well registration forms have been distributed and the reception has been much better than the first time around.

Member Violich entered the meeting.

There were no updates from CSGSA under this Agenda item.

7. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

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

Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) are leading the Tehama County GSP Implementation Project, which includes projects funded through the SGM implementation grant in the Corning Subbasin and other Tehama County Subbasins (Red Bluff, Los Molinos, and Antelope). The following tasks are included in the project:

- Task 1. Grant Management and Administration
- Task 2. GSP Implementation, Outreach, and Compliance Activities
 - Includes GSP Annual Reports, updates to GSP based on DWR determination letter, stakeholder engagement and community outreach, and other activities
- Task 3. Ongoing Monitoring, Data Gaps, and Enhancements
- Task 4. Projects and Management Actions- Recharge Focused
- Task 5. Projects and Management Actions- Regional Conjunctive Use
- Task 6. General Consulting Services on an As Needed

LSCE staff, Mr. John McHugh, provided an overview and update on each of the SGM implementation grant tasks. He called attention to the following Task 2 activities:

- Development of the Water Year 2023 Annual Report, which will conform to the template/guidance that DWR provided this year.
- The timeline for GSP revisions, which includes meetings with DWR and smaller ad hoc group meetings.
- The scope of work for outreach and engagement.
- The deficiencies identified in the DWR determination letter and the corresponding corrective actions, which include greater specificity and commitment to triggers for dry well mitigation and demand management. The subbasin needs to have a plan to replace the wells that are lost under their GSP (due to factors that the GSA has purview over, i.e., not well casing failures, etc.)

Regarding Task 4, Ms. Jenny Scheer (Water and Land Solutions), who is part of LSCE’s consultant team implementing the projects, acknowledged subbasin residents’ interest in understanding whether groundwater recharge will happen this winter. A limitation of the grant is that the cost of water isn’t covered. Members of the CSAB identified this as an area where the agriculture industry, or others, should step up and demonstrate initiative to avoid negative impacts. They recommended authoring a letter to private landowners to encourage the purchase of 215 water for recharge this winter.

Regarding Task 5, this task is closely aligned with Task4. Ms. Hunter shared that discussions are underway with federal partners to potentially use excess waters to augment groundwater recharge and conjunctive use.

b. Update on Water Year 2023 Annual Report development

This update was provided under Agenda Item 7a.

c. Discussion on prioritization of basin-wide tasks

This item was not discussed.

8. Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Determination Response

On October 26, 2023, DWR determined the Corning Subbasin GSP to be “incomplete.” The GSAs have 180 days to address the deficiencies and resubmit the GSP for evaluation no later than April 23, 2024. The GSP revision work is included in Task 2 of the grant project discussed under Agenda Item 7. Mr. Jenson shared an update on the status of the Corning Subbasin GSP Determination Response.

Discussion among the CSAB centered around the emergence of the development of a demand management strategy as a method to address the groundwater budget shortfalls that cannot be recovered through recharge alone.

Another option to slow the overdraft would be to limit new development through a well moratorium. Several CSAB members echoed that recharge will be challenged to keep up with replenishing groundwater supply if more wells are added. Members of the CSAB expressed a preference for protecting existing groundwater users and uses of groundwater in the subbasin.

9. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Member Reports and Comments

This item was skipped in the interest of time.

10. Next Meeting

A special meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

11. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.