



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 Meeting

September 6, 2023 | 1:30 p.m.

In-Person Location:

City of Corning Council Chambers
794 Third Street
Corning, CA 96021

Due to limited parking for Corning City Hall, meeting attendees are asked to park their vehicles in the parking lot across from City Hall, next to the railroad tracks.

Remote Public Participation Option:

Microsoft Teams meeting

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1. Call to Order

The meeting will be called to order.

2. Roll Call

Staff will conduct roll call.

3. Meeting Minutes

a. ***Approval of July 5, 2023 meeting minutes**

b. ***Approval of August 2, 2023 meeting minutes**

The July 5, 2023 and August 2, 2023 CSAB meeting minutes are attached.

Attachments:

- July 5, 2023 CSAB meeting minutes
- August 2, 2023 CSAB meeting minutes



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
July 5, 2023 | 1:30 p.m.
Location | 794 Third Street, Corning, CA 96021
And Teleconference

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

Matt Hansen (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 (CSGSA)
x Steven Gruenwald	x Grant Carmon
x Dave Lester	x Brian Mori
x Matt Hansen	x Julia Violich (1:45)
Ian Turnbull (Alternate)	John Amaro (Alternate)

Other participants: Lisa Hunter (Glenn County Water Resources Coordinator), Justin Jenson (Tehama County Deputy Director of Public Works – Water Resources), Nichole Bethurem (Tehama County), Michael Ward (landowner), Christy Clark (Stantec), Bill Ehorn (DWR), Christina Buck (Butte County), Evan Markey (Cal Water), Steven Stull (Cal Water)

3. Meeting Minutes

a. *Approval of April 5, 2023 meeting minutes

Motion by Member Lester, second by Member Gruenwald to approve the April 5, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: Members Greunwald, Lester, Hansen, Carmon, Mori

Noes: None

Absent: Member Violich

4. Period of Public Comment

Michael Ward (Mr. Ward) discussed an error in the Corning Subbasin Change in Groundwater Storage figure presented during the April 5, 2023 meeting and included in the meeting minutes. During the April meeting, it was stated the average annual change in storage is -1,000 AF; Mr. Ward stated his calculations indicate the number should be closer to -30,000 AF.

Mr. Ward noted the Cumulative Change in Storage column has an equation error. Mr. Ward provided a table he created showing revised numbers based on the Red Bluff Subbasin Change in Storage table.

Following additional discussion, Ms. Hunter suggested staff forward the information to Luhdorff & Scalmanini to review the numbers.

5. Groundwater Sustainability Agency Updates

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

CSGSA:

- The CSGSA has been meeting regularly, with a focus on the long-term funding strategy.
- In the short term, the member agencies have agreed to contribute funding toward the priority tasks and the CSGSA is working with Luhdorff & Scalmanini to develop a long-term funding mechanism.
- The fee report has been approved with proposed maximum fees of \$0.93, \$6.14, and \$14.60 per acre per year for Non-Irrigated, Irrigated-Surface Water, and Irrigated Groundwater respectively. A public workshop will be held July 19 and a public hearing has been scheduled for August 8.

Ms. Hunter and the CSAB members discussed parcel calculation corrections and revised cover sheets being sent to property owners.

TCFCWCD

- Staff's primary task has been the well registration program and developing a process to exempt landowners who submit completed forms from years two and three of the \$0.29 per acre fee.
- The Groundwater Commission formed an ad hoc committee to develop management areas for well permitting, similar to what has been established in Glenn County.
- Upon award of Proposition 68 Round 2 grant funds, the GSA will begin determining the long-term funding need and mechanism to cover the primary functions of SGMA.

In response to Member Carmon, Mr. Jenson stated the \$0.29 per acre fee is not for SGMA work and is limited to the well registration program. Discussion ensued around the well registration program funding and exemption process.

Member Violich joined via Teams at 1:45 p.m.

6. Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Application Status

Mr. Jenson stated in reviewing draft awards, it appears funding was awarded to a lot of areas with limited ability to fund management actions and projects. Mr. Jenson noted the Corning Subbasin is slated to receive over \$8 million and stated the importance of this funding as it is an area most heavily impacted in Tehama County and the northern portion of Glenn County.

Member Mori stated agencies with more access to surface water seemed to receive less funding.

Mr. Jenson stated the agencies have three years to spend the funds, which are intended primarily for Projects and Management Actions (PMAs).

Member Mori asked if the Prop 68 grant award was taken into consideration when the Glenn County fees were being developed. In response, Member Carmon stated they were not and clarified the Proposition 218 process and the maximum fees approved.

In response to Member Greunwald, Mr. Jenson stated Tehama County anticipates a hybrid funding approach based on wellhead size and land use, with an assumptive fee for nonresponsive parcels.

7. Water Year 2023 Annual Report

a. Recommendation on process for completing the annual report

Ms. Hunter discussed the need to develop a process for the annual report prior to the end of the water year on September 30 and discussed the process to onboard a consultant through RFP or direct hire by November.

Mr. Jenson discussed work being completed by LSCE in both Glenn and Tehama County and data gathering associated with bringing new consultants on board.

Discussion ensued about the public perception of not soliciting bids, the costs and time associated with developing an RFP, and the benefits of working with an existing consultant.

Member Hansen stated with a three-year grant it makes sense to solicit bids for a three-year consultant contract and ensure the agencies are getting the best price while knowing costs for the next several years ahead of time. Member Carmon echoed Member Hansen's statements and the need to do due diligence to show the public funds are being spent efficiently.

Member Lester and Member Mori spoke in support of the work done by LSCE in Tehama County and the positive working relationships.

In response to Member Violich, Mr. Jenson stated it would be an open RFP process, posted for all qualified consultants to submit a proposal.

Member Violich stated the benefits of continuing to contract with LSCE and the benefits of the RFP process.

Motion by Member Carmon, second by Member Gruenwald to solicit an RFP for a three-year contract.

Ayes: Members Greunwald, Lester, Hansen, Carmon, Mori, Violich
Noes: None
Absent: None

b. Recommendation on Annual Report cost-share between GSAs

Mr. Jenson provided an overview of the decision to do a two-thirds Tehama County, one-third Glenn County cost share for the Water Year 2022 annual report. Mr. Jenson noted there have not been significant changes that would justify a change in the cost share.

Member Carmon stated it seems like an equitable split the costs and Glenn County appreciates the relief with having a smaller amount of acreage in the Corning Subbasin.

Discussion ensued regarding the fess for the Glenn County portion of the Corning Subbasin anticipated to be collected on the tax roll and how they will be used in conjunction with Prop 68 grant funding.

Ms. Hunter stated the budget and costs will be reviewed annually.

Motion by Member Mori, second by Member Carmon to recommend to continue with the two-thirds (Tehama County) one-third (Glenn County) cost share for the Water Year 2023 Annual Report.

Ayes: Members Greunwald, Lester, Hansen, Carmon, Mori, Violich
Noes: None
Absent: None

8. Discussion: Prioritization of basin-wide tasks

Ms. Hunter provided an overview of the required basinwide tasks and processes to date.

Mr. Jenson discussed the need to set overall guidelines and identify GSA specific tasks for administrative functions and grant-specific work.

In response to Member Lester, Mr. Jenson stated funding is broken into categories but there is some flexibility with the tasks within those categories.

It was noted there may be a need to pivot the use of grants funds, if the GSP needs major revisions.

Member Hansen stated consultant assistance will be needed to identify the monitoring and data gap needs. Staff and CSAB members discussed utilizing a consultant for project management/administration who can also serve as a point of contact for both agencies.

Following discussion, CSAB members agreed to the concept of an RFP that includes annual reports and grant-related consultant services and directed staff to present to their respective GSA Boards.

9. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Member Reports and Comments

Member Gruenwald discussed the need to prioritize recharge projects and discussed recharge efforts in Glenn County. Member Carmon emphasized that work will need to begin now to be ready for next summer, due to government contracting timelines.

Member Mori discussed working with water districts and utilizing existing infrastructure for recharge projects.

Reopen public comment

Del Reimers (Mr. Reimers) stated consultants are only as good as what they are told to do and it is up to the CSAB to ensure the consultants are meeting expectations.

Mr. Reimers further discussed the various fees being applied to landowners, concerns with fees not being done fairly, and the need to make sure landowners are being billed correctly.

10. Next Meeting

The next CSAB meeting will be on August 2, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

11. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.



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

August 2, 2023 | 1:30 p.m.

Location | 794 Third Street, Corning, CA 96021

And Teleconference

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

Matt Hansen (Mr. Hansen) called the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (TCFCWCD)	Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CSGSA)
x Steven Gruenwald	x Grant Carmon
x Dave Lester	x Brian Mori
x Matt Hansen	Julia Violich
x Ian Turnbull (Alternate)	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), Marisa Perez-Reyes (Stantec), Brandon Davison (DWR), Monique Gaido (DWR), Jenny Scheer, Chase Hurley, Frank Endres, Michael Ward, Sharon Novak, Martin Spannaus, Cody Lamb

3. Period of Public Comment

Sharon Novak (Ms. Novak) discussed issues with her well and neighboring wells going dry and the impacts on home and property values. Ms. Novak discussed the impacts of mega drilling on the Earth’s axis, large orchards impacting natural systems and recharge, the need to replace unsustainable crops with non-intoxicating hemp, and spoke in support of a well moratorium.

Frank Endres (Mr. Endres) discussed wells on his property 15 miles west of Corning going dry, costs associated with drilling new wells, and Tehama County continuing to issue drilling permits. Mr. Endres spoke in support of a well moratorium for new wells.

Mr. Endres stated the public may need to request the state step in to assure water in the future if nothing changes.

4. Groundwater Sustainability Agency Updates

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

TCFCWCD:

- DWR Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) survey data will be used to identify areas best suited for recharge.
- The DWR Proposition 68 Round 2 grant application included additional funding for expanded well monitoring; staff anticipates receiving funding agreements in August.
- Tehama County staff is developing the Request for Proposals for a consultant to develop three annual reports and assist with tasks associated with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Round 2 grant program.
- The Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Board of Directors established guidelines for exempting those APNs that submitted complete well registration forms from well registration program fees in years two and three.

Staff, CSAB members, and the public engaged in discussion about the well registration program in Tehama County, methods for determining long-term fees for various water use situations, and future outreach methods.

Member Gruenwald (Mr. Gruenwald) discussed concerns with the new Tehama County well drilling standards pushing drilling into deeper aquifers with slower recovery rates.

Member Turnbull (Mr. Turnbull) discussed the lack of information on deeper aquifer recharge, other than the Tuscan Aquifer, and echoed Mr. Gruenwald's concerns about forcing deeper drilling without knowing how the aquifers recharge.

Member Mori (Mr. Mori) stated the short-term objective is to protect domestic wells and the long-term objective is recharge and aquifer protection. CSAB Members, staff, and the public engaged in discussion about water age testing and aquifer formation timelines.

CSGSA:

- The public hearing for the Glenn County portion of the Corning Subbasin Proposition 218 funding process is scheduled for August 8, 2023. The proposed maximum fees are as follows:
 - Non-Irrigated \$0.93 per acre per year
 - Irrigated-Surface Water \$6.14 per acre per year
 - Irrigated-Groundwater \$14.60 per acre per year

- The CSGSA Board approved the concept to develop a Request for Proposals for a consultant to develop three annual reports and assist with tasks associated with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Round 2 grant program.
- The CSGSA Board approved the recommendation to continue to split costs for the Corning Subbasin Annual Reports between Tehama County (two-thirds) and Glenn County (one-third)

In response to Mr. Mori, Ms. Hunter discussed corrections to the Prop 218 fee notice cover sheet landowners received.

5. Presentation on Facilitation Support Services for the Corning Subbasin

Stantec Associate Facilitator Marisa Perez-Reyes (Ms. Perez-Reyes) provided an overview of Facilitation Support Services. The presentation included the following slides: Who are We?, What is the Facilitation Support Services (FSS) Program, FSS Activities for the Corning Subbasin, Corning Subbasin Operations Plan, Upcoming Activities, and Questions?

Following questions from CSAB members, Ms. Hunter stated the Operations Plan will help identify how the GSAs will work together and provide transparency to boards, commissions, and stakeholders. Mr. Hansen stated the Tribe should be included in the operations plan.

Ms. Hunter stated the FSS contract is Corning Subbasin wide and discussed the need to ensure there are basinwide benefits to the tasks under this contract and a balance in outreach across both counties.

Cody Lamb discussed the timing of board and commission meetings, noting most public can't attend meetings during the day and stated most Commission meetings are in the evenings.

6. Discussion: Prioritization of basin-wide tasks

Mr. Jenson stated this will be a standing CSAB agenda item to provide updates and discuss the topic as needed.

Mr. Carmon stated there should be a focus on recharge projects and discussed the timeline to implement basin-sponsored projects.

Mr. Turnbull spoke in support of monitoring wells on the west side and recharge projects.

Mr. Gruenwald discussed west side recharge projects, small-scale recharge projects by local growers, Corning Water District conveyance, GCID water purchase or reallocation, Tribe collaboration, and state and federal collaboration to get water back to local use. Mr. Gruenwald stated a lot of money is being spent on consultants and studies, but not addressing the overdraft problem and putting water back in the ground.

Mr. Mori echoed the importance of filling data gaps and recharge projects. Mr. Mori discussed Orland Unit Water Users ability to put water in the north side of Stony Creek divert water and flood irrigate, and create programs to incentivize surface water use.

Mr. Gruenwald discussed the need to involve Congressman LaMalfa and Assemblyman Gallagher to help solve issues and requested staff or county boards reach out to their offices. CSAB members discussed the need to have specific issues identified prior to having representatives attend a CSAB meeting.

7. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Member Reports and Comments

There were no member reports or comments.

8. Next Meeting

The next Corning Subbasin Advisory Board meeting date is September 6, 2023.

9. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

DRAFT

4. Period of Public Comment

Members of the public are encouraged to address the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board. Public comment will be limited to three minutes. No action will be taken on items under public comment.

5. Groundwater Sustainability Agency Updates

Groundwater Sustainability Agency staff and members may provide activity updates to the CSAB.

6. *Approve 2024 Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Meeting Schedule

The Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) currently meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the City of Corning Council Chamber, unless otherwise noted. The CSAB will discuss the preferred meeting frequency and potential meeting topics required to provide the necessary support and advice to the GSAs based on the expected workload for the upcoming year. The Memorandum of Understanding between the GSAs specifies the CSAB shall meet at least annually. In 2023, five meetings were cancelled to date.

Potential CSAB topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Corning Subbasin Operations Plan
- Guidance on grant related tasks
- Planning and prioritization of basin-wide GSP implementation activities and projects, including work for five-year update
- Annual Reporting
- Outreach opportunities
- Intra- and Inter-basin coordination efforts

Meeting options could include a monthly schedule, a bi-monthly schedule, or another frequency as desired.

Attachments:

- Draft 2024 CSAB meeting schedule Option 1, Option 2

Corning Subbasin Advisory Board

2024 Meeting Schedule

Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Meetings will be held at **1:30 p.m.** unless otherwise noted. Meetings are expected to be held at the City of Corning Council Chambers at 794 Third Street, Corning, CA 96021. Meeting locations will be confirmed and included on each agenda.

Option 1

January 10, 2024 (2nd Wednesday due to holidays)

February 7, 2024

March 6, 2024

April 3, 2024

May 1, 2024

June 5, 2024

July 3, 2024 (Thursday 7/4 is a holiday)

August 7, 2024

September 4, 2024 (Monday 9/2 is Labor Day)

October 2, 2024

November 6, 2024

December 4, 2024

Option 2

February 7, 2024

April 3, 2024

June 5, 2024

August 7, 2024

October 2, 2024

December 4, 2024

7. Facilitation Support Services for the Corning Subbasin

a. Receive presentation on Draft Corning Subbasin Operations Plan

Stantec is working to support the Corning Subbasin on specific tasks through the Facilitation Support Services (FSS) program funded by the Department of Water Resources. Christy Clark and Marisa Perez-Reyes have been assigned by Stantec to work with the Corning Subbasin on these tasks, including a draft Corning Subbasin Operations Plan. Ms. Perez-Reyes provided an overview of the FSS program at the August 2, 2023 meeting.

The Corning Subbasin Operations Plan documents the subbasin's organizational structure and operations, including description of the GSAs' governance and associated support bodies and delineation of those groups' roles and responsibilities to implement the Corning Subbasin GSP. Stantec will present the Draft Corning Subbasin Operations Plan for CSAB's review. CSAB members are encouraged to submit any written or verbal feedback directly to Marisa, Christy, and GSA Staff either via email or phone call by Friday September 22, 2023. The CSAB will receive a copy of and presentation on the updated Operations Plan at the October 4, 2023 CSAB meeting.

8. Discussion: Prioritization of basin-wide tasks

The Corning Subbasin GSP was approved by the CSGSA and TCFCWCD in December 2021. Two Annual Reports have been submitted (Water Years 2021 and 2022) by April 1 of the following year (2022 and 2023). The first five-year update will be due in early 2027.

Through the SGM, Round 2 grant application process, the CSAB and GSAs have begun prioritizing tasks to comply with SGMA. In the coming months, it would be helpful to prioritize and outline a work plan for basin-wide tasks to ensure the subbasin stays on track. Considerations will include the outcomes of the final grant awards; however, many tasks will need to be completed, with or without grant funding.

On July 5, 2023, the CSAB held initial discussion on how best to prioritize tasks and what information would be most helpful to bring forward in order to recommend a work plan to the GSAs. This item will remain a standing agenda item to continue the discussion as needed.

9. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Member Reports and Comments

Members of the CSAB are encouraged to share information, reports, comments, and suggest future agenda items. Action cannot be taken on matters brought up under this

item.

10. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

11. Adjourn

The meeting will be adjourned.
