



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.