

Corning Subbasin Advisory Board

September 7, 2022 | 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Location | 794 Third Street, Corning, CA 96021

And Public Participation via Teleconference

Meeting Materials | CorningSubbasinGSP.org/CSAB-meetings

1. Call to Order

Bob Williams (Mr. Williams) called the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Justin Jenson (Mr. Jenson) took the roll call for the CSAB members.

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

Other participants: Lisa Hunter (Glenn County Water Resources Coordinator), Justin Jenson (Tehama County Deputy Director Public Works – Water Resources), Nichole Bethurem (TCFCWCD), Jenny Scheer, Kathryn Haefelfinger (landowner), Patricia Vellines (Department of Water Resources), Pete Dennehy (Montgomery & Associates), Ryan Fulton (Larry Walker Associates), Matt Hansen (landowner), Jacques DeBra (Luhdorff & Scalmanini, Consulting Engineers), Maryse Suppiger, Adam Englehardt (landowner), Donna Barry (landowner)

3. Meeting Minutes

a. *Approval of June 8, 2022 meeting minutes

Motion by Member Turnbull (Mr. Turnbull), second by Member Lester (Mr. Lester) to approve the June 8, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: Members Turnbull, Lester, Williams, Mori

Noes: None

Absent: Members Gruenwald, Carmon, Violich

4. Period of Public Comment

Donna Barry (Ms. Barry) discussed her dry well and neighboring dry wells and asked what recourse is available. It was noted she resides in Tehama County. Mr. Jenson discussed the DWR dry well registration website and bottled water distribution events in Tehama County.

Following discussion, Tehama County staff stated they would follow up with Ms. Barry.

5. Groundwater Sustainability Agency Updates

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

TCFCWCD

- The regulation regarding well sealing and drilling depths for agricultural and domestic wells is currently being revised to be presented to the Board of Directors. Tehama County is using the emergency regulation for agricultural well permits.
- A Request for Proposals (RFP) is being developed for the GSP Annual Reports and updates.
- TCFCWCD is working with the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County for grant writing assistance for GSP implementation funding.
- Tehama County well registration program flyers are expected to be mailed in the next few months.

In response to Mr. Lester, Mr. Jenson stated the upcoming grant funds are primarily for projects but there may be funding for data collection related to GSP updates.

Brian Mori (Mr. Mori) asked about the steps after mailing the well registration flyers. Mr. Jenson stated the direction will be determined based on the responses received. Mr. Jenson stated the data is internal and confidential; PR will play a role in voluntary compliance. Mr. Jenson stated the goal is to advise the GSAs on how much water is being pumped on an annual basis.

Mr. Turnbull advised staff to confirm the ability to keep the information private, specifically regarding public records requests.

CSGSA

There was no update from the CSGSA.

6. Meeting Schedule

a. *Set meeting schedule for the remainder of 2022

Ms. Hunter stated the CSAB had previously adopted meeting dates through September and the proposed dates will go through December. Ms. Hunter stated meetings can be canceled if necessary but should be scheduled to address grant and project-related items.

Following discussion, motion by Mr. Mori, second by Mr. Turnbull to adopt the meeting schedule as presented.

Ayes: Members Turnbull, Lester, Williams, Mori

Noes: None

Absent: Members Gruenwald, Carmon, Violich

b. Discussion on 2023 meeting schedule frequency

Mr. Jenson stated this item is for CSAB members to identify their preferred meeting frequency.

Mr. Mori stated he supports keeping the monthly meetings. Mr. Lester concurred with monthly meetings, as required. Following discussion, it was determined a monthly meeting schedule will be presented at a future meeting.

7. Funding Plan for Corning Subbasin Shared Costs

a. Discussion on cost-sharing mechanism between the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

Mr. Jenson discussed the cost allocation approaches table and the challenges associated with identifying how to split the costs for some tasks. The example is based on the information provided in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, which estimated a cost of \$1 million per year. The costs for priority tasks in the first few years are expected to be lower than this estimate.

Mr. Mori asked if the dollar amount is being set to reach an assessment value and asked if funds will go into a contingency fund or be used for Projects and Management Actions (PMAs) during the ramp-up years. Mr. Jenson addressed the need for a conservative estimate to start due to the impact on the GSAs to identify funding. It is staff's goal to develop a recommendation on how to split funding. Ms. Hunter emphasized the focus is less on actual numbers and more on how GSAs should split the costs. Ms. Hunter added that grant writing and the 2022 Annual Report will be the first shared cost for the Corning Subbasin.

Ms. Hunter stated the Corning Subbasin is expecting to receive Facilitation Support Services (FSS) funds from DWR which, if granted, will be used for working through a long-term approach to address shared costs.

Mr. Mori asked if the \$100,000 identified on the 'Estimated Planning-Level Cost for First 5 Years of Implementation' slide is for the first year. Mr. Jenson responded it is the best estimate at this time.

In response to Mr. Mori, Mr. Jenson stated assessments to cover these costs would likely need to begin in early 2023.

Mr. Turnbull provided a correction to the acreage presented in the Groundwater-Using Acres Cost Share table, noting the dollar amounts are correct.

Mr. Mori stated the cost share tables lean toward a two-thirds one-third split.

Mr. Turnbull discussed the need to review the 'Estimated Planning-Level Cost for First 5 Years of Implementation' table from the GSP and determine which line items are shared costs.

Mr. Mori stated he is comfortable making a one-year funding recommendation for the Corning Subbasin.

b. *Recommendation to the GSAs on a funding plan for Corning Subbasin shared costs

Motion by Mr. Lester, second by Mr. Turnbull to recommend to split Corning Subbasin shared costs with one-third allocated to Corning Sub-basin GSA and two-thirds allocated to Tehama County GSA for one year.

Ayes: Members Turnbull, Lester, Williams, Mori

Noes: None

Absent: Members Gruenwald, Carmon, Violich

8. Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant

a. Discussion of grant application and project prioritization

Mr. Jenson stated the project list presented is to serve as a starting point for discussion of projects to include in the grant application. Mr. Turnbull clarified the projects are not ranked.

In response to Mr. Mori, Ms. Hunter stated there was some project prioritization in the grant with projects being categorized as priority or alternate projects. The projects were split primarily by project readiness and data available.

Ms. Hunter stated DWR is looking for a variety of project types, some of which should provide immediate benefit. Ms. Hunter discussed the scoring process and the need for all projects to score high individually.

Discussion ensued around the need for realistic feasibility studies for recharge projects and potential costs associated with the studies. Mr. Jenson stated the data from DWR's Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) survey should be available by early 2023.

Ms. Hunter stated projects that were not included in the GSP can be added to the Annual Reports.

Mr. Turnbull discussed the need for an improved monitoring network, specifically on the west side, and increased public outreach.

Mr. Mori suggested the CSAB review the project list holistically and set a priority list, with the expectation of reviewing at the October meeting. He further suggesting moving the October meeting to a later date if needed in order to have a productive meeting.

9. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Member Reports and Comments

There were no CSAB member reports.

10. Next Meeting

The next CSAB meeting will be on October 5, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

11. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.