



# 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 Materials

**February 7, 2024 | 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.

### **Alternate Meeting Location:**

333 W Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101

### **Remote Public Participation Option:**

Microsoft Teams meeting

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## **1. Call to Order**

The meeting will be called to order.

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## **2. Roll Call**

Staff will conduct roll call.

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### **3. Meeting Minutes**

- a. \*Approval of November 1, 2023 meeting minutes
- b. \*Approval of December 6, 2023 meeting minutes

The November 1, 2023 and December 6, 2023 CSAB meeting minutes are attached.

Attachments:

- November 1, 2023 CSAB meeting minutes
- December 6, 2023 CSAB meeting minutes



# Corning Subbasin Advisory Board



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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

**November 1, 2023 | 1:30 p.m.**

**Location | 794 Third Street, Corning, CA 96021**

**Alternate Location | 1177 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 95939**

**And Teleconference**

## Meeting Minutes

### 1. Call to Order

Member 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)	
	Steven Gruenwald	x	Grant Carmon
x	Dave Lester	x	Brian Mori
x	Matt Hansen	x	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), Brandon Davison (Department of Water Resources), Marisa Perez-Reyes (Stantec), Todd Hamer (Tehama County Groundwater Commission), Evan Davis (LSCE), Bryan David (Water Exchange), Matt Brady (Ag Reserves), Evan Markey (Cal Water), Steven Stull (Cal Water), Del Reimers (Landowner), Martin Spannaus (Landowner), Curt Pierce (UC Cooperative Extension), Cody Lamb

### 3. Meeting Minutes

#### a. \*Approval of September 6, 2023 meeting minutes

Motion by Member Turnbull second by Member Lester to approve the September 6, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: Lester, Hansen, Turnbull, Carmon, Mori, Violich

Noes: None

Absent: Member Gruenwald

b. \*Approval of October 4, 2023 meeting minutes

Motion by Member Turnbull second by Member Lester to approve the October 4, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: Lester, Hansen, Turnbull, Carmon, Mori, Violich

Noes: None

Absent: Member Gruenwald

**4. Period of Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**5. Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Determination Status**

Ms. Hunter stated staff is still reviewing the determination letter and sorting through what is required.

Mr. Jenson stated the letter is primarily a request for additional information and staff from both GSAs will be having a consultation with DWR to ensure the agencies are responding effectively.

Mr. Jenson discussed there being concerns with how the Minimum Thresholds (MTs) were set and that a group will be formed to participate in discussions with DWR.

Member Mori commented on the universal language in all of the determination letters and asked if more information was needed or if the MTs needed to be re-evaluated. Mr. Mori noted the DWR determination letter includes the need for more tangible projects and management actions (PMAs).

Member Turnbull stated the determination letter states the need to re-evaluate the assessment of overdraft conditions.

Mr. Jenson noted the Tehama County Groundwater Commission is having a special meeting to form an ad hoc committee for the Tehama subbasins, noting the importance of involvement from those involved with developing the GSPs.

Member Mori expressed interest in being part of the ad hoc committee.

Ms. Hunter stated DWR wants to see basins succeed and that DWR is ready to meet at the GSAs' request.

Member Violich noted DWR is asking that current basin conditions be included and recommended reviewing the 2023 guidance documents.

Member Carmon stated the importance of meeting with DWR and getting accurate information before doing a lot of work.

DWR Engineering Geologist Brandon Davison discussed the FAQ sheet sent to staff and that specific questions should be directed to the SGMA office.

## 6. **Groundwater Sustainability Agency Updates**

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

### **TCFCWCD:**

- New well registration forms are being finalized for those APNs that did not respond to the first round of mailers.
- The three-year contract with Luhdorff & Scalmanini for annual reports, response to DWR comments, and GSP implementation activities is being presented to the Board of Directors on November 7, 2023.

Member Hansen stated public outreach meetings continue to have low attendance.

Member Mori requested a presentation on how grant funding can be used for Projects and Management Actions (PMAs). Mr. Jenson stated the proposed PMAs will be presented to the CSAB.

### **CSGSA:**

- The new GSA fee has been placed on the Glenn County tax roll; staff is responding to calls regarding how the fees were calculated.

## 7. **Presentation: Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) for Mitigation and Climate Adaptation**

This presentation was removed from the agenda at the request of the presenter and will be rescheduled.

## 8. **Facilitation Support Services for the Corning Subbasin**

### **a. Corning Subbasin Operations Plan Update**

Stantec Associate Facilitator Marisa Perez-Reyes thanked Members Turnbull and Violich for providing comments on the Operations Plan.

Associate Facilitator Perez-Reyes discussed final edits to the Operations Plan which refined the GSAs' roles and responsibilities and defined the activities shared between the two GSAs.

Associate Facilitator Perez-Reyes stated comments are still being accepted but the Operations Plan will be considered final and submitted to DWR, though it is a living document and can be updated at the GSA's request.

Ms. Hunter stated this is a good document to reflect on how roles and responsibilities have been shared and how the agencies can move forward.

Member Hansen stated the dispute resolution section can be updated as the need arises.

Associate Facilitator Perez-Reyes proposed including language that dispute resolution is not needed at this time.

## **9. Corning Subbasin Monitoring Network**

### **a. Receive update on status of Corning Subbasin Monitoring Network**

Ms. Hunter stated the wells presented are monitored by DWR staff but have ownership issues, safety/access issues, and well construction/failure issues preventing groundwater level collection.

Member Turnbull stated three of the wells are RMP wells and asked how removing them would impact the GSP.

Mr. Jenson stated the Proposition 68 grant funding includes funding to expand the monitoring network.

Member Carmon suggested adding a question about well monitoring to the well registration form.

### **b. \*Make a recommendation to the GSAs to approve changes to the Corning Subbasin Monitoring Network and include updates in the Annual Report**

Motion by Member Mori, second by Member Carmon to recommend approving the changes to the monitoring network and including the changes in the Annual Report.

Ayes: Lester, Hansen, Turnbull, Carmon, Mori, Violich

Noes: None

Absent: Member Gruenwald

## **10. Discussion: Prioritization of Basin-Wide Tasks**

Mr. Jenson stated LSCE will present the PMAs included in the GSP to the CSAB and determine how to move forward and what activities can be re-prioritized as it relates to grant funding.

Member Mori stated part of correcting the GSP will include revising the PMAs.

Member Carmon discussed the need to get started on any recharge projects to take advantage of a wet winter and available surface water due to the time required to implement projects.

Member Turnbull discussed the Governor's Executive Order and county emergency declaration requirements for recharge projects. Discussion ensues among staff, CSAB members, and the public around the challenges of implementing recharge projects, emergency declaration thresholds, and other recharge opportunities that do not require emergency declarations.

Member Hansen stated the PMAs don't seem reasonable to offset overdraft.

A resident discussed the challenges and pushback he has faced trying to do recharge projects with runoff water on private property, specifically with permitting. The resident stated many landowners are willing to participate in recharge projects.

Del Reimers discussed the Orland Project, noting Black Butte Lake needs to evacuate water before flood season starts and noted there are options to put water into the district.

Member Carmon discussed complications with that option due to the number of agencies involved.

**11. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Member Reports and Comments**

Member Turnbull discussed the Glenn County Community Wildfire Protection Plan which is currently in public review. Member Turnbull stated there are two projects aimed at Arundo eradication on Stony Creek.

Martin Spannaus announced the Healthy Forest Grant for restoration projects.

**12. Next Meeting**

The next CSAB meeting will be on December 6, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

**13. Adjourn**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.



# 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

**December 6, 2023 | 1:30 p.m.**

**Location | 794 Third Street, Corning, CA 96021**

**Alternate Location | 1177 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 95939**

**And Teleconference**

## Meeting Minutes

### 1. Call to Order

Member Carmon called the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (TCFCWCD)		Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CSGSA)	
	Steven Gruenwald	X	Grant Carmon
X	Dave Lester (1:54)	X	Brian Mori
	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), Eddy Teasdale (LSCE), Mel Figueroa (California Open Lands), Ryan Brannon, Toni Longley, Ryan Fulton (LWA), Brandon Davison (DWR), Lisa Porta (Montgomery & Associates), Evan Markey (CalWater), Karen Jones

A quorum of members was not present at the start of the meeting.

### 3. Period of Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### 4. Groundwater Sustainability Agency Updates

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

#### TCFCWCD:

- Kickoff meetings for GSP determination responses have been scheduled for the week of December 18.
- The second round of Well Registration Forms will be mailed soon. The forms have been modified and sent to those who did not respond in the first round.



- A well registration and SGMA update webinar will be held on December 19.

#### **CSGSA:**

- Staff has been coordinating with DWR to schedule the Corning Subbasin determination response kickoff meeting.
- The GSA fees have been placed on the tax roll. Staff is fielding phone calls about the fee and conducting related outreach.
- The user classification change request form has been posted online for landowners to request their classification be reviewed.

In response to Member Turnbull, Ms. Hunter stated there have been fewer phone calls than expected but suspects some will complete classification requests.

#### **5. Presentation: Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) for Mitigation and Climate Adaptation**

California Open Lands Conservation Director Mel Figueroa provided an overview of California Open Lands and gave a presentation on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) for Mitigation and Climate Adaptation.

The presentation included the following slides: Indigenous Presence in CA, What is TEK, The Science of TEK: Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Chico Traditional Ecological Stewardship Program, Key Executive Actions – Indigenous Stewardship, Key (CA) State Policies – Indigenous Rights, Key (CA) Executive Orders, Climate Change in California, Climate Cycles in California, Simulated and Actual Satellite Images of California, TEK Approach, Disaster Mitigation, Tribal-Led Climate Adaptation in CA, Verbena Fields, Chico, CA, Indigenous-led Riparian Restoration, Willow – Beaver Biomimicry, Cultural Keystone Species Tended at Verbena Fields, Native Pollinator Species at Verbena Fields, Tribal TEK -> Sole Source Contracting, TEK – East Sand Slough Restoration, Private Conservation Land & Easements.

Conservation Director Figueroa stated projects are priority projects, regardless of location, when utilizing Native crews.

Member Lester arrived at 1:54 p.m. A quorum of members were present.

Conservation Director Figueroa discussed the ability to do fee-for-service contracts on public lands for one-time restoration projects and ongoing maintenance activities.

#### **6. Presentation: Overview of Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation Scope of Work**

Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) Project Manager Eddy Teasdale gave a presentation on the GSP Implementation Scope of Work. The presentation included the following slides: Grant/Scope Overview, Task 1. Grant Management and Administration, Task 1 Schedule, Task 2. GSP Implementation, Outreach, and Compliance

Activities, Task 2 Schedule, Task 3. Ongoing Monitoring, Data Gaps, and Enhancements, Task 3 Schedule, Task 4. Projects and Management Actions – Recharge Focused, Task 4 Schedule, Task 5. Projects and Management Actions – Corning Regional Conjunctive Use, Task 5 Schedule, Task 6. On Call, and Questions.

Member Mori asked if wells included in community monitoring networks need to be deemed sustainable as outlined in the GSP. Mr. Teasdale stated the importance of having truly representative wells.

Ms. Hunter emphasized the short timeframe to complete a significant amount of work. Mr. Jenson clarified grant closeout work will need to be completed by April 2026 and that project work will need to be completed in January 2026.

Member Turnbull asked what data could be used in expanding the geologic understanding of the Corning Subbasin. Mr. Teasdale responded that in addition to AEM data, existing well completion reports, information from drillers, and communication with local, knowledgeable landowners will be used to enhance the geologic understanding of the basin.

CSAB members and staff engaged in discussion about groundwater recharge and in-lieu recharge and grower incentives to offset costs for surface water and incentivize switching between surface and groundwater through the season.

Mr. Jenson discussed recent meetings with the Corning Water District and noted the District is willing to assist with outreach through their mailers.

## **7. Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Determination Response**

Mr. Jenson provided an overview of the GSP Determination Response Ad Hoc Committee, which had its first meeting to prepare for the DWR consultation call. Mr. Jenson noted staff are required to provide an agenda and any presentations to DWR one week before the meeting.

Member Lester asked how much of the revisions will be changes to GSP versus clarifying MTs. Mr. Teasdale stated the hydrologic period may need to be adjusted to address the concept of overdraft. Mr. Teasdale added lower aquifer MTs may need to be revised and documentation provided for the methodology used.

Mr. Teasdale discussed the October 2023 DWR Semi-Annual Conditions Report, which shows Tehama County as the County with the third highest reports of dry wells.

In response to comments about water quality issues in the Antelope Subbasin, Mr. Jenson stated residents in the Antelope Subbasin have been applying for new well permits but cannot meet current setback requirements.

Ms. Hunter noted DWR staff has been very responsive to requests for scheduling consultation meetings.

Mr. Jenson stated other agencies have gone through the incomplete or inadequate determination and now have approved Plans.

Ms. Hunter stated the Colusa Subbasin received similar comments, with additional comments related to the subsidence sustainability indicator .

**8. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Member Reports and Comments**

There we no CSAB member reports or comments.

**9. Next Meeting**

The next CSAB meeting will be on February 7, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

**10. Adjourn**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

DRAFT

**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.

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**5. 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.

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**6. Groundwater Sustainability Agency Updates**

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

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**7. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation**

- a. Update on Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Implementation Grant
- b. Update on Water Year 2023 Annual Report development
- c. Discussion on prioritization of basin-wide tasks

Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) are leading the Tehama County GSP Implementation Project, which includes the Corning Subbasin. This project is generally funded through the SGM Implementation Grants awarded to the Corning Subbasin and other subbasins in Tehama County. The following tasks are included in the project:

- Task 1. Grant Management and Administration
- Task 2. GSP Implementation, Outreach, and Compliance 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 will provide an update on the SGM Implementation Grant tasks and the development of the Water Year 2023 Annual Report.

Discussion on prioritization of basin-wide tasks has been a standing CSAB item and may continue to be discussed if desired.

Attachments:

- GSP Implementation Status Presentation (Draft)

# GSP Implementation Status

Corning Subbasin Advisory Board

Meeting



February 7, 2024



**Luhdorff &  
Scalmanini**  
Consulting Engineers

## Task 1. Grant Management and Administration

- Internal team established
- Standardized invoice templates
- Preparing environmental Information
- Preparing compliance strategy (NOE/CEQA)
- CEQA Review – NOE is with Tehama/Glenn Counties for legal review



2

## Task 2. GSP Implementation, Outreach, and Compliance Activities

- Task 2.1 – GSP Annual Reports: Collected data & created report template
- Task 2.2 – Update GSP based on DWR Determination Letters: Discussed project and management actions, overdraft and sustainable management criteria.
  - DWR consultation meetings (Corning): 12/20/2023, 1/24/2024
  - DWR consultation meetings (Tehama Basins): 12/19/2023, 1/29/2024
  - Ad Hoc meetings: 11/30/2023 & 1/11/2024
- Task 2.3 Stakeholder Engagement and Community Outreach: Created an informational flyer



3

## Task 2.2 Update GSP

- Deficiencies:
  - 1. Overdraft conditions** – no reasonable assessment of conditions or means to mitigate overdraft.  
**Corrective Actions:** A. Reevaluate the assessment of overdraft conditions in the Subbasin. B. Provide a reasonable means to mitigate the overdraft that is continuing to occur in the Subbasin.
  - 2. Chronic Lowering of GW Levels** –SMC is not compliant with GSP Regs for MO's and MT's.  
**Corrective Actions:** A. Refine the description of undesirable results to clearly describe the significant and unreasonable conditions the GSAs are managing the Subbasin to avoid. B. The GSAs should remove the water year type requirement from the GSP's undesirable result definition. C. The GSA should revise minimum thresholds to be set at the level where the depletion of supply across the Subbasin may lead to undesirable results and provide the criteria used to establish and justify minimum thresholds. D. Provide an evaluation of how minimum thresholds may affect the interests of beneficial uses and users of groundwater or land uses and property interests.



4

## Task 2.2 Update GSP

- GSPs contain PMAs and describe benefits
- Annual Reports include updates on PMAs
- DWR wants specificity and details
- DWR wants commitment
- PMAs focused in special zones
- Considering implementing PMAs commensurate with conditions (triggers), from recharge to demand management Limited time to develop details, legal review and stakeholder engagement
- Could a MOU or Board resolution, be the method of making commitment, yet have time to plan, deliberate and better engage the community?
- MOU or Board resolution would spell out agreement, a plan with specific timeline and conditions for action



5

## Task 2.2 Update GSP

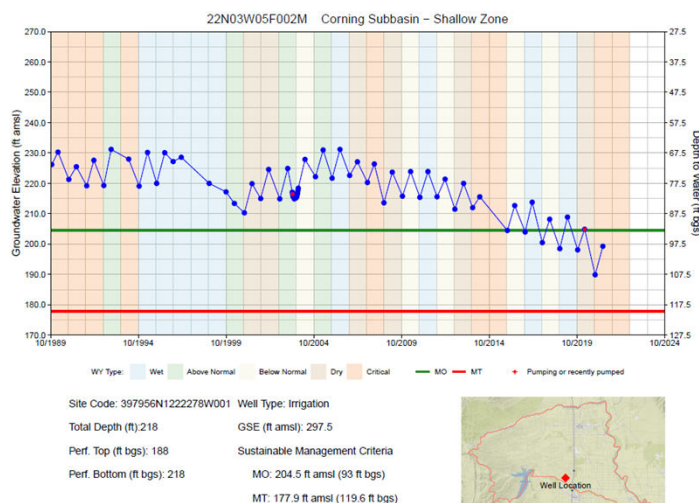
- **MTs**
- **Stable wells** (2010 and 2019 stable groundwater elevations): Minimum fall groundwater elevation since 2012 minus 20-foot buffer
- **Declining wells** (2010 and 2019 stable groundwater elevations): Minimum fall groundwater elevation since 2012 minus 20% of minimum groundwater level depth.



6



## Task 2.2 Update GSP



7

## Task 3. Ongoing Monitoring, Data Gaps, & Enhancements for Corning & Antelope Subbasins

- Evaluated the siting of monitoring wells
- Analyzed county assessor's role and well registration (Tehama County) responses to plan video logging and domestic monitoring program participation
- Scheduled to obtain water quality samples from RMS wells (1/23-1/25) (Antelope Subbasin only)



8



## Task 4. Projects and Management Actions – Recharge Focused in Corning, Red Bluff, and Los Molinos Subbasins

- Gathered information for feasibility studies
- Established weekly meeting with key Task 4 and 5 staff
- Conducted initial visit to potential recharge property (Red Bluff Subbasin)
- Tested a computer application for field data collection



9

## Task 5. Projects and Management Actions – Corning Regional Conjunctive Use

- Conducted meetings with government agencies and regional water districts:  
Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District, Corning Water District, US Bureau of Reclamation, Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, and Orland Unit Water Users Association
- Created an informational flyer
- Pursuing streambed permitting with regional approach - ongoing



10

## Questions?



11

## **8. Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Determination Response**

On October 26, 2023, the Department of Water Resources (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 during GSP Implementation Item.

An update will be given on the Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Determination Response.

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## **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.

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## **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.

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## **11. Adjourn**

The meeting will be adjourned.

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