

Corning Subbasin Advisory Board

April 6, 2022 | 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Location | 794 Third Street, Corning, CA 96021

And 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 1:40 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Lisa Hunter (Ms. Hunter) took the roll call for the CSAB members.

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 Bob Williams	x Julia Violich (1:45)
x Ian Turnbull (Alternate)	x 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), Pete Dennehy (Montgomery & Associates), Tamara Williams (Landowner), Derrik Williams (Montgomery & Associates), Brandon Davison (DWR), Michelle Peacher (Landowner), Ryan Fulton, Ed Baker (Landowner), Jaime Lely (Landowner), Jenny Scheer, Holly Dawley (GCID), Del Reimers

3. Meeting Minutes

Motion by Grant Carmon (Mr. Carmon) second by Member Steven Gruenwald (Mr. Gruenwald) to approve the November 10, 2021 CSAB meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously by members present.

4. Period of Public Comment

In response to public comment, introductions were made by CSAB members, staff, and consultant.

5. Groundwater Sustainability Agency Updates

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

TCFCWCD

- The Data Management System is being finalized to allow public access to data incorporated into all Tehama County GSPs, including the Corning Subbasin.
- The GSA is working on current regulatory issues including managing well installation sustainably.
- The GSA continues to work on funding mechanisms.

CSGSA

- The last CSGSA meeting was held in March; the focus is shifting from planning to implementation and focusing on high priority tasks, specifically funding and administration.
- Following the release of Executive Order N-7-22, Glenn County and the GSA are working to determine how the GSA will fit into the County well permitting process.

In response to questions, Mr. Jenson provided an overview of Tehama County's proposed well regulation, noting permits that meet the sustainability requirements outlined in Sections 9a and 9b of the Executive Order will be issued.

Brian Mori (Mr. Mori) discussed the polygon approach being used for the Tehama County well ordinance. Mr. Jenson discussed the data gathering and influence areas comprised of nine 640-acre square sections developed by Luhdorff & Scalmanini.

In response to Mr. Carmon, Mr. Jenson stated the Commission approved the regulation and it will be presented to the TCFCWCD Board and follow the required public hearing process.

Julia Violich joined the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Mr. Gruenwald stated he would like to see Glenn and Tehama collaborating on well permit regulations.

Mr. Gruenwald and Mr. Turnbull discussed concerns about not having exemptions for replacement wells and replacements being considered new wells.

Tamara Williams requested clarification that new ag well permits will not be issued in Tehama County until the well permit process is approved. Mr. Jenson stated no non-domestic wells can be drilled. In response to Mr. Gruenwald, Mr. Jenson stated permits that have been issued remain valid until the expiration date.

6. Approve 2022 Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Meeting Schedule

Ms. Hunter stated the schedule presented was developed by staff; discussion from the CSAB is appreciated.

Following discussion, it was determined the CSAB should meet every other month and re-consider the schedule at the September meeting.

Motion by Mr. Lester, second by Mr. Carmon to set the next CSAB meetings for June 8 and September 7, 2022. The motions passed unanimously by members present.

7. Presentation: Corning Subbasin Annual Report- Water Year 2021

Pete Dennehy (Mr. Dennehy) gave a presentation on the Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Water Year (WY) 2021 Annual Report. The [presentation](#) included the following slides: Annual Report Purpose, Presentation Outline, WY 2021: Precipitation and Water Use, Groundwater Extraction (~257,200 AF), Surface Water Use (~12,200 AF), Total Water Use (~270,000 AF), Groundwater Conditions Summary, Groundwater Levels, Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water, Change in Groundwater Storage, Groundwater Quality, Land Subsidence, Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) Review, Sustainability Indicators & Metrics, Managing Groundwater with Groundwater Levels SMC, Progress Towards Sustainability, and Other GSP Implementation Tasks.

Following Mr. Dennehy's presentation, the following discussion ensued:

Mr. Mori discussed the anomaly in the DWR contour map in the Stony Creek area does not take into account the physical characteristics and depth of the gravel strata. Mr. Gruenwald asked if the anomaly extended north. Discussion ensued on methods for contour mapping and groundwater levels in the area.

A meeting participant asked if there is data available on the wells going dry south of Woodson Bridge. Mr. Dennehy stated dry well data was not compiled as part of the annual report. In response, Mr. Jenson discussed the dry well data shown on the DWR data portal.

Ed Baker (Mr. Baker) discussed global warming and aero spraying to block weather patterns going west to east.

Del Reimers asked if the number of acres being flood irrigated or using micro-sprinklers was studied as part of the annual report. Mr. Dennehy stated irrigation practices were not studied as part of this process.

Mr. Reimers commented on the current dry period and Stony Creek flow and expressed interest in beginning recharge projects, capitalizing on studies that have already been done.

Mr. Williams discussed a lack of communication between the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Department of Water Resources regarding Black Butte Lake and water coming through the Corning Canal. Mr. Williams discussed the cost of surface water and the need for communication to develop effective recharge projects.

Jenny Scheer (Ms. Scheer) commented on the Total Water Use ~270,000 AF slide, and discussion ensued about surface water use, model data, and water use information included in the annual report. Discussion continued regarding the difference in methodology and assumptions used to calculate water use in the GSP versus the annual report and it was clarified this topic would be explored further in future updates.

Due to technical difficulties, Ms. Williams submitted the following questions via chat:

1. Total Water Use graph seems misleading, given the differing computation methodologies pre- and post-2015. How big an increase in GW extraction do you think really happened since 2014?

Mr. Dennehy stated relative water use can give you an idea of how much groundwater extraction has increased over that time period (how much water is used each year and subtracting surface water use). Mr. Dennehy the data will be reassessed when the model is updated.

2. The use of DWR broad-brush GW level maps seems to really give us a scary picture in terms of WL decline and change in storage. How will we address that in future annual reports? Are other subbasins having the same problem?

Mr. Dennehy commented he is unaware what other GSAs have included in their annual reports. Mr. Dennehy stated the consultant team can produce future contour maps.

3. On slide #19, it seems like we are turning a blind eye by not calling out the Fall 2021 decline below the MT. (I do think it is addressed in the text of the report). Can we consider changing the Fall comparison to September so that the Annual Report discussions aren't a year behind for the 3 WL-based SMCs, or is the October comparison dictated by the State?

Mr. Dennehy stated the Fall comparison is what was included in the GSP as it is when levels are typically the lowest and DWR typically consistently collects data in October. Mr. Dennehy commented measurements could be collected at the end of September.

In response to Mr. Gruenwald, Mr. Dennehy stated the crop data was obtained from the 2018 Land IQ crop map and uses the crop coefficients from the groundwater model.

Mr. Jensen emphasized the data will be re-evaluated as part of the 5-year update.

Mr. Williams suggesting adding a line showing "normal" conditions to the graphics as shown on slide 5. Mr. Dennehy responded the water year type designation comes from DWR, but could be clarified. If was further suggest that "normal" may be defined as "average" conditions.

8. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Member Reports and Comments

Mr. Carmon asked Tehama County representatives to provide an update on the Tehama County funding mechanism discussions. Mr. Lester responded that a 29 cent per acre fee will be placed on the tax roll and will be reviewed in three years with the goal of having a well charge in the future based on size and use. Mr. Mori asked with proposition this fee mechanism follows; whereby, Mr. Jensen stated Proposition 26 requirements.

9. Next Meeting

The next CSAB meeting will be held June 8, 2022.

10. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

DRAFT