



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.