

Corning Subbasin Advisory Board

October 5, 2022 | 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Location | 794 Third Street, Corning, CA 96021

Alternate Location | 1177 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 93939

And Public Participation via Teleconference

Meeting Materials | CorningSubbasinGSP.org/CSAB-meetings

1. Call to Order

Bob Williams (Mr. Williams) called the meeting to order at 1:37 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	Brian Mori
x Bob Williams	x Julia Violich
x 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 (TCFCWCD), Holly Dawley (GCID), Pete Dennehy (Montgomery & Associates), Jamie Lely (Landowner), Brandon Davison (DWR), Ryan Fulton (Larry Walker Associates), Ben King, Martin Spannaus

3. Meeting Minutes

a. *Approval of September 7, 2022 meeting minutes

Motion by Member Turnbull (Mr. Turnbull), second by Member Carmon (Mr. Carmon) to approve the September 7, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: Members Lester, Williams, Turnbull, Carmon, Violich

Noes: None

Absent: Members Gruenwald, Mori

4. Period of Public Comment

Ben King (Mr. King) discussed the Colusa County Flood Control District which was recently funded by the Colusa County Board of Supervisors and began meeting. Mr. King discussed meetings he attended, the consultant agreement being developed, and the potential impacts on the Sites Reservoir and Tehama Colusa Canal.

5. Groundwater Sustainability Agency Updates

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

TCFCWCD

- DWR has opened the Proposition 68 Round 2 Grant solicitation period.
- The Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Tehama County is providing grant writing services at no cost to the GSAs.
- The Tehama County well regulation program, which includes drilling, screening, and sealing depths for ag and domestic wells has been approved.
- The \$0.29 per acre fee was included on the recent tax roll; well registration flyers will be mailed out in the coming month.

Mr. Williams asked if GSA staff can assist the public with completing the registration forms. Mr. Jenson stated staff can help explain how to measure well diameter but not conduct well depth pinging. Mr. Jenson noted this is a three-year program and more assistance may be available in future years.

Mr. Turnbull asked about the status of the Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Board reviewing the well registration fee again. Mr. Jenson stated the fee was approved as is but will likely be brought back to the Board for discussion next year.

Mr. Carmon asked if the GSA has determined the funding mechanism to be used after the initial three-year funding. Mr. Jenson stated the primary discussion has been a wellhead fee based on size but will need to be approved by the Board of Directors.

CSGSA

There was no update from the CSGSA.

6. Approve 2023 Meeting Schedule

a. *Approve 2023 Meeting Schedule

Motion by Mr. Turnbull, second by Mr. Lester to approve the 2023 meeting schedule as presented.

Ayes: Members Lester, Williams, Turnbull, Carmon, Violich

Noes: None

Absent: Members Gruenwald, Mori

7. Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant

a. Discussion of grant application and project prioritization

Mr. Jenson stated the list of projects presented in the meeting packet came from the Corning Subbasin GSP. Mr. Jenson presented a similar list developed for the other Tehama County subbasins that was developed and prioritized by the Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) consultant team.

Mr. Jenson noted informational projects like annual reports, long-term planning studies for five-year planning updates, monitoring network expansion, and grower education were ranked the highest.

Mr. Jenson stated the goal is to determine the project priorities to provide to RCD staff for use in developing the grant application.

Mr. Turnbull asked how long the CEQA Exemption in the Governor's Executive Order is expected to last. Mr. Jenson stated he has not received any additional information. Mr. Turnbull requested any legislative

updates be shared with CSAB. Mr. Carmon stated he will ask for updates at the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) conference.

Mr. Jenson proposed the top two to three projects on the LSCE developed list (Annual Reports, Five-Year GSP Updates, Monitoring Network Expansion) be included in the grant application, as they are items that do not have funding sources identified, are required, and appear to have a high likelihood of being approved. Mr. Jenson further stated items that can be funded through these grants reduces future costs to be passed on to landowners billed for a wellhead fee (in Tehama County).

Mr. Turnbull spoke about the importance of expanding the monitoring network, particularly on the west side, with multi-completion wells. Mr. Turnbull discussed using DWR's Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) data to identify where individual alluvial formations recharge from.

Mr. Williams added the need to determine where groundwater recharge projects will work.

Mr. Jenson stated part of this would fall under the Projects and Management Actions (PMAs) for multi-benefit recharge projects.

Mr. Lester asked how much data will be gathered from DWR's AEM surveys. Mr. Jenson stated it will show resistivity similar to e-log data and help identify the best areas for recharge. Mr. Jenson added it's unknown how deep the data will show.

Ms. Hunter stated the AEM survey is a statewide reconnaissance level survey and additional surveying may need to be done for specific sites. Ms. Hunter added a portion of the Corning Subbasin was part of the Butte County pilot project, which has lines flown closer together than the recent AEM study.

Mr. King discussed the need for additional multi-completion wells and encouraged the GSAs to refer to similar work completed by Allan Fulton.

Mr. King stated the need to groundtruth the AEM data and the need to study water quality issues in addition to groundwater levels.

Ms. Hunter added DWR encourages applicants to include up to 10% of the total grant amount for grant administration costs.

Ms. Hunter encouraged the use of grant funding to respond to DWR's comments on the GSPs, which has been done in other basins. Mr. Jenson added the majority of comments in other basins were related to surface water groundwater interactions.

Discussion ensued around the types of projects and each CSAB member's priority. Ms. Hunter discussed the potential benefits of wrapping several projects into a single component to make a well-rounded application.

In response to Mr. Williams, GSA staff stated the grant deadline is expected to be the end of November.

Director Williams identified the top three tasks as annual reports, five-year updates, and monitoring network expansion.

Mr. Turnbull stated the project list will take the recharge projects to the initial feasibility and environmental stage. Mr. Jenson stated there is a lot of groundwork to be done for many of the projects and discussed the permitting process and the agencies involved. Mr. Jenson stated this will allow the GSAs to determine if a project is feasible.

Discussion ensued around the types of projects and each CSAB member's priority.

Mr. Turnbull asked what the GSA's target is for grant funding. Ms. Hunter stated DWR has encouraged GSAs to submit their requests up to \$20 million, but to prioritize projects in the grant, as cuts will likely need to be made.

Mr. Hunter stated the consultant team will be helping to develop project costs and review the critically overdraft basins for a better idea of actual costs.

In response to Mr. Turnbull, Ms. Hunter stated subbasins that did not receive funding in the first round have a higher priority in Round 2.

Mr. Turnbull discussed concerns with lumping projects together as DWR need the ability to cut items if need be.

In response to Mr. Turnbull, Mr. Jenson stated that if awarded, funds must be expended by 2027.

b. *Recommendation to the GSAs on a list of projects to include in the SGM Round 2 grant application

Motion by Mr. Carmon, second by Mr. Lester to recommend the GSAs prioritize the annual report, five-year update, and monitoring network, and combine projects to cover data gaps and investigative and pre-planning for recharge projects and direction to staff to group other components for the application.

Ayes: Members Lester, Williams, Turnbull, Carmon, Violich

Noes: None

Absent: Members Gruenwald, Mori

In response to Mr. Williams, it was noted there is no cost share required by the GSAs.

Ms. Violich stated projects should be prioritized to be close to shovel-ready upon completion of the grant.

c. *Recommendation to the GSAs on a grant applicant

Motion by Mr. Lester, second by Mr. Carmon to recommend the Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District serve as the grant applicant for the Corning Subbasin Prop 68 SGM Round 2 grant application.

Ayes: Members Lester, Williams, Turnbull, Carmon, Violich

Noes: None

Absent: Members Gruenwald, Mori

8. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Member Reports and Comments

There we no CSAB member reports.

9. Next Meeting

The next CSAB meeting will be November 2, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

10. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.