



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.