

Corning Subbasin Advisory Board

April 27, 2020, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Meeting #1 Meeting Summary

Pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Orders N-29-20, this meeting was conducted by teleconference/webinar.

Webinar: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/468803013>

Telephone: +1 (872) 240-3212

Meeting Access Code: 468-803-013

1. Welcome and Agenda Review

At 11:01 a.m., Julie Leimbach, facilitator for the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB), called the meeting to order.

Roll call

Ryan Teubert (Mr. Teubert) and Lisa Hunter (Ms. Hunter) took the roll call for the CSAB Members. All CSAB members were present.

Tehama GSA

- ✓ Bob Williams
- ✓ Steve Gruenwald
- ✓ David Lester
- ✓ Ian Turnbull (Alternate)

Corning Sub-basin GSA

- ✓ John Viegas,
- ✓ Lisa Hunter
- ✓ Julia Violich
- ✓ John Amaro (Alternate)

Introductions

Ms. Leimbach introduced the Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Corning GSP) project team: Julie Leimbach (Kearns & West, Facilitator), Sharon Hu (Kearns & West, note taker), Lisa Porta (Montgomery & Associates, Project Manager), and Peter Dennehy (Montgomery & Associates, technical staff). Ms. Leimbach asked public participants to introduce themselves (a list of meeting participants is included at the end of this document).

2. Agenda and Ground Rules Overview

Ms. Leimbach informed all meeting participants that the meeting materials are available on corningsubbasin.org. She noted that there will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of each agenda item and invited attendees to provide comments according to the ground rules.

Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

- Jaime Lely stated that she is part of a group of landowners on the west side of the subbasin in Newville, by Black Butte Lake. This group has been following the GSP processes for other neighboring subbasins and asked to work with the CSAB on addressing groundwater concerns related to water levels and water quality.

3. Overview of the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board

Overview of SGMA and the CSAB

In her presentation ([available on the corningssubbasingsp.org website](http://www.corningssubbasingsp.org)), Ms. Leimbach provided an overview of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the CSAB purpose and membership.

Action Item: Approval of the Monthly Meeting Schedule

Ms. Hunter reviewed the proposed 2020 CSAB meeting schedule for recurring dates set for the first Wednesday of each month: June 3rd, July 1st, August 5th, September 2nd, October 7th, November 4th, and December 2nd.

Mr. Viegas made the motion to approve the meeting schedule, seconded by Mr. Lester. The Board approved the meeting schedule with a 5-0 vote. (Steve Grunewald could not be reached at this time and abstained from the vote. Mr. Teubert noted that Steve Grunewald had indicated in an earlier email that he approved the proposed CSAB meeting schedule.)

4. Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Road Map

Introduction to GSP Development

Ms. Porta introduced the GSP development process including:

- Guiding principles for successful GSP development, noting that these are based upon the SGMA requirement to “consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater.”
- Proposed organization of the GSP to include seven sections to allow for the separation of water budgets, monitoring, and sustainable management criteria to ease discussions during board meetings.

Required parts of GSP, as outlined in the DWR Guidance Document	GSP Sections Development, proposed by the project team
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Part 1: Describe <u>who you are</u>● Part 2: Describe the basin’s <u>geology and hydrogeology</u>● Part 3: Define how you will <u>measure</u> sustainability● Part 4: Identify <u>programs and projects</u>● Part 5: GSP <u>implementation</u> information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Section 1: Introduction● Section 2: Plan Area and Basin Setting (HCM and GW conditions)● Section 3: Water Budgets (with descriptions of modeling tools)● Section 4: Monitoring Networks● Section 5: Sustainable Management Criteria● Section 6: Projects and Management Actions● Section 7: Plan implementation

GSP Timeline and Process

Ms. Porta then proceeded to review the draft timeline for the GSP making the following key points:

- October 2021 - Draft GSP.
- Oct-Dec. 2021 - 90-day public review period starting at the release of the Draft GSP.

- December 2021 - Adoption of the GSP by the two GSAs, followed by submission of data and documentation to DWR by January 31, 2022.

Ms. Porta mentioned that there will be extensive interbasin coordination with the five neighboring subbasins in the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin: Red Bluff, Los Molinos, Vina, Butte, and Colusa. The project team is anticipating coordination primarily on technical tools, but also on sustainable management criteria, and projects and management actions, as needed.

Data Collection

The project team has already started gathering data from sources published by DWR, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the Bureau of Reclamation. Water Districts and Cities may be receiving requests for data to inform planning. Residents may provide applicable data as well.

CSAB Discussion

Board members made the following comments:

- This is a lot of information and the presentation was concise.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

5. Hydrologic Conditions and Tools

Ms. Porta reviewed the hydrologic conditions of the Corning Subbasin highlighting the following points:

- Most of Corning Subbasin is bound by creeks and the Sacramento River.
- There are higher amounts of agricultural activity in the southeast corner of the basin, the center of the basin (citrus and olives), and between I-5 and the Sacramento River.
- The western part of the basin and foothills have more ranches and natural areas.
- Three major water flows provide habitat and surface water supply.
- Intermittent streams and canals run through Corning Subbasin.
- Production and domestic wells are on the eastern side of Corning Subbasin.

Ms. Porta reviewed the hydrologic conditions related to each of the following:

Water Levels

- During the drought between 2010-2015, there was a 25-foot decrease in groundwater levels in some areas, followed by rebounding groundwater levels from 2015-2018.
- There are different groundwater level depletion and recharge patterns as shown by hydrographs of different parts of the subbasin.
- There is a potential data gap on the western side of the subbasin where there is not a lot of pumping and water level information. The project team is interested in working with landowners to develop ways to share water level and water quality data to fill data gaps.

Water Quality

- There are some areas of concern, but there is generally decent water quality in the subbasin.

Subsidence

- Although water levels have declined during the drought, subsidence data from DWR and InSAR Satellite data show that there is no measurable subsidence currently observed.

CSAB Discussion

Board members made the following comments:

- Request for more detail about the two stations in Glenn County that show some subsidence and related implications.
 - Ms. Porta - There is one station within the subbasin that has shown less than 0.4 feet of subsidence over a 10 year period. This area will be reviewed more closely and addressed in the Sustainable Management Criteria on land subsidence.
- Is the project team collecting data on depth of wells along with data on water availability?
 - Ms. Porta - The project team will include more detail from DWR's well density data in the development of the Basin Setting and the Sustainable Management Criteria.

6. Analysis Tools Development

Ms. Porta provided an overview of the primary tools that will be used as part of the GSP development.

- Data management system (DMS) – The project team is evaluating options.
- Integrated hydrologic model – The project team will develop the model to develop water budgets and to inform predictions on impacts to groundwater based on a range of scenarios.
- Interbasin Coordination – Adjacent subbasins are developing their own tools and models. The project team is evaluating modeling tools based on what is used in other subbasins as well, for better comparison of conditions between adjacent subbasins.
- All GSAs will continue to update these tools even after the final GSP is submitted.

CSAB Discussion

Ms. Porta asked the board members if there is any additional information that they would like to understand for the Corning Subbasin GSP. Board members key points included:

- Appreciation for the preview of the GSP process and a lot of good information.
- The schedule is aggressive. It will be important to stay on task and make swift decisions based on technical information provided.
- It may be to the Corning Subbasin's advantage to learn from other Subbasins that have already started their GSP processes.
- It will be good to be updated on completed work and efforts in the surrounding subbasins.
- Looking forward to meeting in person in the future but the remote presentation format is good given the current circumstances.

Public Comment

- Ritta Martin stated that she is relatively new to the GSP process and that this presentation provided a clear overview with enough detailed information.
- Jaime Lely stated that the project team is doing a great job with both facilitating the meeting and presenting the information.

7. Interests and Concerns

Ms. Leimbach asked board members to provide their interests and concerns for the Corning Subbasin. The interest and concerns provided by CSAB members have been summarized below:

Process Interests

- Local control.
- Establish a working relationship with the Bureau of Reclamation.

Groundwater Planning Interests

- Protection of groundwater against future pressures and limitations of surface water.
- Incorporate flexibility in the 20-year plan to reach sustainability.
- Recharge and maintain aquifers.
- Develop projects and management actions in the GSP that can be sustainably implemented.
- Economic viability throughout the diversity of groundwater areas within Corning Subbasin.
- Examine cost-effectiveness and components of the plan that address economics.

Technical Investigation Interests

- Use water modeling to understand the predictability of groundwater recharge, change in storage, and produce an estimate of sustainable yield.
- Hydrological aspects: It is important to identify water conditions, address groundwater pumping, assess the impact and economic viability of orchards, particularly in Glenn County.
- Identify how much we can pump and how to maintain groundwater levels.
- Understand hydrogeology and different water conditions throughout Corning Subbasin to inform actions, particularly on the west side.

Public Comment

Interests & Concerns Expressed in the public comment period included:

- Flexibility for compliance over a 20-year planning horizon - Todd Hamer, Tehama County Groundwater Commission.
- Economic viability based on regional distinctions and capacity to recoup costs - Jaime Lely, landowner.
- Cost effectiveness - Jaime Lely, landowner.
- Concern about groundwater substitution in the basin - Pat Vellines and Michelle Dooley, DWR.

8. Action Items and Next Steps

Next Steps

Ms. Leimbach invited participants to visit the corningsubbasingsp.org website to find the following emails to request to be added to the interested parties list:

- If you have property or interests in Tehama County, email: rteubert@tcpw.ca.gov.
- If you have property or interests in Glenn County, email: glennsgma@countyofglenn.net.

Agenda items for the next CSAB meeting include Sustainability Goals and Basin Setting Overview.

CSAB Discussion

There were no comments from the board at this time.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public at this time.

Adjourn

Ms. Leimbach thanked meeting attendees for their flexibility in participating in the CSAB meeting remotely and adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Action Items

1. Consider and address Jaime Lely's westside landowner organization concerns. - Project Team
2. Post CSAB meeting schedule on corningsubbasingsp.org. - Project Team

Meeting Participants

CSAB Members

- Lisa Hunter, Corning Sub-basin GSA
- John Viegas, Corning Sub-basin GSA
- Julia Violich, Corning Sub-basin GSA
- John Amaro (Alternate), Corning Sub-basin GSA
- Steve Gruenwald, Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Private Citizen)
- David Lester, Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Groundwater Commissioner)
- Bob Williams, Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Board Member)
- Ian Turnbull (Alternate), Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (TAC Member)

Other Participants

- Nichole Bethurem, Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Thad Bettner, GCID
- Bernadette Boyle, LSCE
- Christina Buck, Butte County
- Hal Crain, landowner & Tehama County Groundwater Commission
- Zac Dickens, GCID
- Michelle Dooley, DWR Northern Region
- Todd Hamer, Tehama County Groundwater Commission
- Jaime Lely, landowner
- Ritta Martin, leasee
- Vince Minto, Glenn Co. Board of Supervisors
- Susan Silveira, landowner
- Sharla Stockton, Glenn County
- Eddy Teasdale, LSCE
- Ryan Teubert, Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Manager)
- Todd Turley, landowner
- Pat Vellines, DWR Northern Region

Consultants and Project Team

- Lisa Porta, Montgomery & Associates
- Peter Dennehy, Montgomery & Associates
- Julie Leimbach, Kearns & West
- Sharon Hu, Kearns & West