



COUNTY OF COLUSA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT,
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
100 Sunrise Boulevard Suite A, Colusa, CA 95932
530-458-0719

**COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER
COMMISSION**

Darrin Williams, Dist. 1 | Deke Dormer, Dist. 2 | Matt LaGrande, Dist. 3 | Tom Charter, Dist. 4 | Jeff Moresco, Dist. 5

Meeting Minutes

Location: Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room
100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932

Date: July 11, 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m. - Noon

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Moresco opened the meeting at 10:06 a.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, a Roll Call of Officers and introductions of others in attendance.

Introductions

Staff and public in attendance:

Mary Fahey, Colusa County Water Resources Manager
Tana Loudon, Colusa County Community Development Department
Elaine Rominger, Arbuckle
Winston Peterson, Arbuckle
Perry Charter, T&P Farms
Oscar Serrano, Colusa Indian Community Council
Michael Doherty, Chamisal Creek Ranch LLC

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Charter, Dormer, Moresco and LaGrande
Commissioners Absent: Williams

Approval of Minutes from the April 4, 2018 Meeting

Motion: Commissioner Dormer moved to approve the April 4, 2018 Meeting minutes. Commissioner LaGrande seconded. The motion passed 4-0 (1 absent).

Acceptance of Agenda

Motion: Commissioner LaGrande moved to accept the agenda. Commissioner Dormer Seconded. The motion passed 4-0 (1 absent).

Period of Public Comment

Vice-Chair Moresco opened the Period of Public Comment.



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Ms. Elaine Rominger introduced herself and stated that she had received a release from the Almond Alliance yesterday. She stated that no matter what our plans are or what we have in place, the State Water Resources Control Board can still do a water grab. She added that she just wanted everyone to be aware that unelected people with the State are deciding about water allocations.

Discussion is held regarding how this can affect our area.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Presentation/Discussion from Colusa Groundwater Authority Long-term Funding Committee Representatives regarding Landowner Participation on the Committee

Commissioner Moresco stated that the CGA (Colusa Groundwater Authority) is starting a Proposition 218 process to fund the GSA (Groundwater Sustainability Agency). A request for proposal went out to find a firm for that process. Provost and Pritchard was the only firm to submit a proposal.

Ms. Fahey provided a brief description of the CGA Board make up and how the current day to day operations are currently funded. She added, in July of 2019 that the agency funding will run out. The Proposition 218 process is to assess the landowners as little as possible for the day to day functions of the CGA. If the CGA can't remain up and running the State will come in and take on groundwater management at a very high price to landowners. If the Proposition 218 vote fails it would be the same consequence.

Question: Mr. Michael Doherty asked who will be voting in the 218 process.

Answer: Ms. Fahey responded, the landowners that are subject to SGMA. The Cities may add an assessment to their water fees so parcels within city limits would not be part of the 218 vote.

Question: Mr. Oscar Serrano asked if it was a weighted vote.

Answer: Ms. Fahey replied that it was and added that landowner participation is crucial.

Question: Commissioner Charter inquired about the irrigated land outside of district boundaries.

Answer: Ms. Fahey replied that it would apply to all land within the Colusa County portion of the Colusa Basin.

Ms. Fahey stated if the Proposition 218 assessment passes we anticipate the first assessment will come in December of 2019. That will leave about a six month funding gap between the end of the fiscal 2018/19 year and when assessment funds would be available to the CGA for operations, however that has been accounted for in the budget.

Question: Commissioner Dormer asked if there was any talk of how much the assessment would be.

Answer: Ms. Fahey replied that we won't know until the engineer's report comes in, but probably close to \$1.00 per acre.

Question: Commissioner Dormer asked if there was any match of funding by the State.

Answer: Ms. Fahey replied that there was not. There are grant opportunities. We have already received a one million dollar grant from DWR for development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

Ms. Fahey stated that this assessment would be for day to day operations of the CGA. For special projects it would be likely that another assessment would be necessary at the localized area of the project.



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Unfortunately there is a lot we don't know at this time. We will be learning a lot over the next couple years as the GSP is developed.

Question: Ms. Rominger asked if there would be any tax credits.

Answer: Ms. Fahey replied that she did not know. She will inquire about this.

Question: Mr. Doherty asked if there will be a change in votes on the CGA Board when the assessment goes into effect.

Answer: Ms. Fahey replied there would not be, that is why it is so important landowners get involved in the process and provide input.

Ms. Fahey stated that she has reached out to landowners and some are here today. She then asked if any landowners in attendance were interested in joining the CGA Long-Term Funding Committee.

Commissioner Moresco added that the Long-Term Funding Committee will be providing input on the budget as well as getting the 218 process going.

Michael Doherty, Perry Charter, and Winston Peterson volunteered to serve on the CGA Long-Term Funding Committee. Oscar Serrano from the Colusa Indian Community stated that he would have to check with the Tribal Council and if they agree, he is willing to participate on the committee.

Review and Adoption of Annual Statement of Goals and Objectives

Commissioner Dormer stated that Goal number 5 should be number 4.

Mr. Serrano stated that Goal number 3b should be 3a.

Motion: Commissioner Charter moved to Adopt the Annual Statement of Goals and Objectives with the numbering changes. Commissioner Dormer Seconded. The motion passed 4-0 (1 absent).

Discussion and Potential Action to support Water Storage/Shasta Dam Raise Project

Ms. Fahey stated that Commissioner Williams had requested at the last meeting that the Commission provide a Resolution in support of new surface water storage in California, including raising the Shasta Dam. This Commission would offer a resolution of recommendation to the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Supervisors would then need to approve the Resolution.

Motion: Commissioner Charter moved to direct staff to coordinate with Mr. Williams to prepare a Resolution Recommending Support of the Water Storage/Shasta Dam Raise Project. Commissioner LaGrande Seconded. The motion passed 4-0 (1 absent).

UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Staff Report

Ms. Fahey provided a brief Staff Report which included:

- SGMA Update
- Basin Boundary Modifications
- Basin Reprioritization



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The Colusa Subbasin has been reprioritized from a medium priority to a high priority basin in the draft 2018 Basin Prioritization recently released by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Ms. Fahey explained that there currently is no difference in SGMA requirements for medium and high priority basins, but the concern is that in the future, high priority basins could be held to a higher standard with stricter regulations. The Colusa Basin moved to a high priority mostly based on a criteria that any basin that had participated in groundwater transfers in the last ten years was automatically given enough points to place that basin in the high priority category. Discussion was held regarding past groundwater substitution transfers.

Question: Mr. Doherty asked if there is a chance our basin will be looked at again and rerated to go back to a medium priority basin.

Answer: Ms. Fahey replied that she was unsure. The CGA will provide comments to DWR disputing the prioritization.

Ms. Rominger stated that these transfers were approved by the State at the time and now they are holding it against us. If they were to do that for future transfers that would make sense but to retroactively penalize us is wrong.

A general consensus is agreement with Ms. Rominger's statement.

Ms. Fahey stated that the CGA will be providing a comment letter. Citizens can provide them as well.

Other topics discussed from the Staff Report included:

- Technical Support Services/Subsidence
- Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP)
- Proposition 1 Stressed Basins Grant
- NexGen Utility Management; Proposed Recharge Project on west side

Ms. Fahey briefly provided an overview of a recharge project that involves installing drain tiles below the root zone in almond orchards and providing a slow, continuous supply of water for recharge. Commissioner Charter fills the Commission in on what he knows about the potential recharge project.

Mr. Doherty states that maybe they should be invited to the next meeting.

Ms. Fahey stated that she has asked them to come to the September CGA Board meeting.

Commissioner Charter stated that he would like to talk to others that have implemented this.

Discussion was held regarding the probability of this type of project working in this area.

Reminder; Commissioner Terms of Office

Ms. Fahey stated that this is just a reminder that two of the Commissioners terms are up at the end of the year and they would need to reapply to be reappointed by the Board of Supervisors.



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Commissioner Comments and Updates

None.

Items for Next Agenda

- Review/approve year-end Groundwater Commission Update to be presented to the Board of Supervisors
- Draft Resolution Recommending Support of the Water Storage/Shasta Dam Raise Project (possible earlier Special Meeting)
- Subsidence Study
- NexGen Utility Management Recharge Project

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular meeting date: November 28, 2018

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.