



COUNTY OF COLUSA

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

COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER COMMISSION MEETING

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

Meeting Minutes

Location: This meeting was held remotely via Zoom

Date: February 10, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Williams opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The meeting began with a Roll Call of Officers and introductions of others in attendance.

Introductions

Staff and public in attendance:

Mary Fahey, Colusa County Water Resources	Karen Biane
Jennifer Wallace Sanders	Julia Barfield

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Dormer, Moresco, Williams

Commissioners Absent: LaGrande

Approval of Minutes from the November 4, 2020 Meeting

Motion: Commissioner Dormer moved to approve the November 4, 2020 meeting minutes. Commissioner Moresco seconded. The motion passed 3-0, with 1 absent and 1 vacant seat.

Period of Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Dormer moved to retain the current Chair (Commissioner Williams) and Vice Chair (Commissioner Moresco) for 2021. Mr. Moresco seconded. The motion passed 3-0, with 1 absent and 1 vacant seat.

PUBLIC FORUM

DWR Update, Brandon Davison, California Department of Water Resources, Northern Region Office

Mr. Davison was called to a well installation job and was not able to present at today's meeting.



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

Update: The Nature Conservancy's Multi-benefit Groundwater Recharge and Shorebird Habitat Program; *Julia Barfield, The Nature Conservancy*

Julia Barfield from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) provided an informative presentation about the multi-benefit pilot program that TNC is implementing in cooperation with the Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA). She began by describing the Pacific Flyway and the many birds that depend on wetlands along the Flyway in the Sacramento Valley. Due to large losses of bird species over the last 50 years, TNC developed a program called *Bird Returns* in which they work with landowners to provide "pop-up wetlands" during bird migration to give the birds a place to rest and feed. When the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was passed in 2014, TNC began to think about adding a groundwater recharge component to these bird habitat programs. They received grant funding from the California Department of Water Resources and partnered with the CGA to launch the current multi-benefit groundwater recharge and shorebird habitat pilot program in Disadvantaged Communities in Colusa County.

Ms. Barfield described the Colusa County program and showed preliminary results from the fall, 2020 projects. She explained that the projects involve a lot of community outreach and coordination with a variety of agencies including the CGA, U.C. Davis, water districts and others. There are many variables involved in implementing and quantifying benefits of these projects, including soil types, crop types, crop history, and timing of water applications. Their goal is to gain an understanding of the benefits of these projects and to put together a road map for Groundwater Sustainability Agencies throughout the State to be able to implement these types of projects.

Commissioner Williams asked about the sphere of influence of monitoring wells on these projects and if data loggers could be installed in wells at varying distances from the project sites to get an understanding of how far reaching the benefits are. Ms. Barfield said that they will take data from existing monitoring wells in the areas of the projects and this is being considered by U.C. Davis in their modelling efforts.

Commissioner Williams asked if consideration is being given to historical records of groundwater levels when quantifying benefits of the projects. Ms. Barfield said yes, the consultant team will be analyzing this.

Commissioner Dormer said he would like to see the project expand to the west where there are greater groundwater declines. Ms. Barfield said that the project is tied to a specific project area under the grant terms.

Commissioner Dormer suggested that the project areas have been in places that are surrounded by rice fields during flood up and this could have an effect on the results. Ms. Barfield said that this



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

year they are leaving pressure transducers in the monitoring wells for a full year in order to get a better data set.

Colusa Groundwater Authority SGMA Update; *Commissioner Moresco, Commissioner Williams, Mary Fahey (Staff)*

Ms. Fahey provided a SGMA update which included information about Groundwater Sustainability Plan development, upcoming meetings, Sustainable Management Criteria, a Well Monitoring Pilot Program, Projects and Management Actions, Management Areas, public outreach and interbasin coordination.

Commissioners Williams and Moresco both expressed the importance of stakeholder involvement in the GSP development process.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Review and consider approval of annual Goals and Objectives

Motion: Commissioner Dormer moved to approve the 2021 Annual Goals and Objectives. Commissioner Moresco seconded. The motion passed 3-0, with 1 absent and 1 vacant seat.

Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors

Review and provide input on Staff Report

Discussion was held. There were no suggested changes to the draft report.

Authorize Commission representative or Staff to present the Annual Report to the Colusa County Board of Supervisors at the next available date that the Board agenda will allow

Motion: Commissioner Dormer moved to authorize Commissioner Williams and Ms. Fahey to present the Annual Report to the Colusa County Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Moresco seconded. The motion passed 3-0, with 1 absent and 1 vacant seat.

UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Commissioner Comments and Updates

Commissioner Williams commented on concerns about the upcoming year looking very dry.

Items for Next Agenda

Brandon Davison from DWR's Northern Region Office will provide an update on groundwater conditions. Commissioners suggested for future agendas: a legislative update, inviting local representatives Gallagher and/or Aguiar-Curry, and potentially someone from the California Farm Bureau Federation.



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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Next Regular meeting date: May 5, 2021 at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted;

Mary Fahey
Secretary