



**COUNTY OF COLUSA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**GROUNDWATER COMMISSION**  
*100 Sunrise Boulevard Suite F*  
*Colusa, CA 95932*

**JOSEPH J. DAMIANO**  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Sealer of Weights & Measures

Lorraine Marsh, Chair | Matt LaGrande | Jeff Moresco | Bruce Rolen, Vice Chair | Darrin Williams

**REGULAR MEETING NOTICE OF THE COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER COMMISSION**

**Location:** Colusa County Farm Bureau – **Please note location!**  
520 Market Street, Colusa, CA 95932

**Date:** June 11, 2015

**Time:** 1:30-3:30 p.m.

**Meeting Agenda**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** (\*action item)
  - a. Pledge of Allegiance
  - b. Introductions
  - c. Roll Call
  - d. \*Acceptance of Agenda
  - e. \*Approval of Minutes from March 12, 2015
  - f. Period of Public Comment

*Any person wishing to address the Commission on any item not on today's Agenda may do so at this time. The Commission will not be making a decision or determination on items brought up during Public Comment.*

2. **GENERAL BUSINESS**
  - a. Staff Report and Discussion
  - b. Review Annual Statement of Goals and Objectives
3. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS** (\*action item)
  - a. Discussion – Groundwater Conditions
  - b. Discussion – SGMA Updates
  - c. Commissioner Comments and Updates
  - d. Items for next agenda

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

Next Regular meeting date: **September 10, 2015** at 1:30, location TBD

TO THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS: California Government Code Section 84308 requires you to disclose campaign contributions to Groundwater Management Commissioners if they amount to \$250 or more and were made within the last twelve months. Please announce your applicable campaign contributions when you speak. Any disabled person needing special accommodation to participate in the Commission proceeding is requested to contact the Colusa County Agriculture Department prior to meeting and arrangements will be made to accommodate you.

# Regular Meeting of the Colusa County Groundwater Commission

## **DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

March 12, 2015; 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Colusa County Farm Bureau, 520 Market Street, Colusa CA 95932

### 1. Call to order

*Meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by commissioner Lorraine Marsh*

### b. Introductions

*In attendance:*

*Mary Fahey: Colusa County Ag Department*

*Elly Guttierrez, Colusa County Ag Department*

*Joe Damiano, Colusa County Ag Commissioner*

*Bryan Busch: RD 108*

*Gene Beauchamp, Landowner, CDMWC Board Member*

*Kim Gallagher, Landowner*

*Robert Harper: Peterson Ranch*

*Shelly Murphy: CCWD*

*Oscar Serrano: CCIC*

*Roy Hull: DWR*

*Derrick Strain, Landowner*

*Jim LaGrande, Landowner*

*Ben Carter, Water Users Group member*

*Denise Carter, Colusa County Supervisor*

### c. Roll call

#### **Commissioners present:**

*Lorraine Marsh*

*Jeff Moresco*

*Mark Morris*

*Bruce Rolen*

*Darrin Williams*

**Commissioners absent:** *None*

### d. Acceptance of agenda

*Motion made by: Williams*

*Seconded by: Rolen*

*Vote: Approved unanimously*

### e. Approval of Minutes from January 15, 2015

*Motion accept Minutes as presented for January 15, 2015*

*Motion by: Williams*

*Seconded by: Moresco*

*Vote: Approved unanimously*

## **Approval of minutes from February 4, 2015**

*Motion on the table: To accept Minutes as presented for February 4, 2015*

*Motion by: Morris*

*Seconded by: Darrin Williams*

*Vote: Approved unanimously*

### **f. Comments by commissioners**

*There were no comments from commissioners*

### **g. Period of Public Comment**

*There were no comments from the public*

## **2. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **a. Staff report on upcoming meetings with Local Agencies to discuss Groundwater Legislation and Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) formation**

*Report by Mary Fahey: Staff is coordinating two meetings with local agencies that are eligible to be Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs). One meeting will be with Irrigation Districts and Reclamation Districts. The other meeting will be with local government agencies. The purpose of these meetings is to get an idea of the different agencies' thoughts and ideas regarding formation of the GSA/GSAs for the two groundwater basins we will need to manage. Meeting date with the Irrigation Districts will be April 17, 1:30-3:30. Meeting date with the Local Government Agencies is still to be determined.*

### **b. Staff report on upcoming Public Meeting to provide information on groundwater activities**

*Ms. Fahey reports that staff is also coordinating a public outreach meeting. People are concerned about new Ground Water legislation and there is misinformation circulating. We are trying to address that. The public outreach meeting will be May 12<sup>th</sup> at the Colusa Fairgrounds from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Items on the agenda will be a brief overview of water law; Roy Hull from DWR will be giving a presentation about groundwater conditions in the local area. Also someone from DWR will present information about SGMA. There will also be a supervisor there to discuss the County perspective on the new Groundwater Legislation.*

*Ms. Fahey also reports that the TST is still working on the monitoring network. They have broken the county out into 4 quarters and have started with the south west quarter of the county. There are a lot of data gaps in that area. They will move on and solicit land owners to volunteer monitoring their wells to fill those data gaps. Roy Hull from DWR reports that we know where we are monitoring and where we need to monitor. Commissioner Darrin Williams asked if they have a good mix of depths. Roy answers, yes they do. Commissioner Rolan mentions that is the "hotbed" area of this county. It is very important to see if they can get a lot of information from land owners in that area. Ms. Fahey mentions that is why they centered the focus on that area. Several landowners have stepped forward who are willing to have the county monitor their wells for groundwater levels. Ms. Fahey would like to put together a voluntary monitoring network so they can merge more data into the monitoring program. The county would monitor the voluntary wells.*

*Question from public: what town is monitored? Ms. Fahey explains that the monitoring network will include the entire county. They are in the process of updating the monitoring grid, starting with the quadrant of the county that is south of Hwy 20 and west of I-5. The Southeast quadrant will be evaluated next. It's a program we will continue to build on over time.*

*Commissioner Morris asks: if the county is going to have money to monitor wells?*

*Joe Damiano reports that they are working on the budget now and will see what resources are available.*

*Ms. Fahey further reports that DWR is still completing their 2014 land and water use report, which will help us evaluate groundwater and surface water use in the county.*

*Ms. Fahey mentions that she had a conversation with MBK Engineers and at this point they are not aware of any proposed out-of-county groundwater substitution transfer proposals from Colusa County.*

*There was brief discussion on groundwater sustainability agencies.*

*Commissioner Rolan asked if all GSA's have to coordinate together?*

*Ms. Fahey answered, yes and if not, the County and basin will lose local control.*

*Roy Hull mentions the state looks at the procedure of how they will evaluate all these plans and see if the plans will manage sustainably. DWR will be evaluating these plans. He also stated there is going to be an opportunity to adjust basin boundaries. The draft will be coming out this summer. The final regulations are due Jan. 1, 2016. They are also working on best practices on how to establish plans.*

*Ben Carter (WUG member) asked if there are any other agencies that want to be a GSA?*

*Shelly Murphy, Colusa County Water Agency states that her District is planning a public hearing to start the process to become a GSA.*

*Commissioner Rolan replied that GCID may be interested.*

*Ms. Fahey explains that eligible agencies can partner together to be one GSA.*

*Commissioner Morris asked if there are plans to coordinate with Glenn and Yolo Counties.*

*Ms. Fahey responded that she has been communicating with both counties.*

*Commissioner Marsh asked where we are on the process of the County's GSA.*

*Ms. Fahey replied that the county is planning the outreach meetings and starting those conversations and that ideally the county would like to see a partnership with other agencies but it is still an ongoing discussion. There will be an update at the next meeting.*

### **3. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

#### **a. Review proposed updates to the GW Management Ordinance**

*Ms. Fahey handed out copies of the suggested amendments to the ordinance. She mentions she would like to go through the document item by item. Ms. Fahey mentioned that whatever recommendation the commission comes up with today will go to council for legal review by an attorney with Water Law expertise. After Council review, the document will then be presented at two public hearings and the Board of Supervisors will have the ultimate say.*

#### Changes discussed:

*43-1 (a) Date change. July 2012.*

*43-1 (b) Grammatical. The word "The" on the second line.*

*43-1 (c) Updated crop estimates for 2013*

*43-1(e) Section was stricken. It is no longer relevant.*

*Ms. Fahey asked for consensus on all the above changes from commission and all agreed.*

*43:1 (f) Change language: "for any transfer purposes" language inserted*

*-Consensus from commissioners.*

*Page 2. At top of page: (for in-county transfers) language "... Also essential for information gathering and monitoring purposes...". This language is formally saying we will have review for in-county transfers.*

43-1 (g) "...and other stakeholders within the groundwater basin..." language inserted

-Consensus from Commissioners

43-1 (p) "for any transfer purposes" language inserted in two places

Page 4. There was a reference to Glenn County that wasn't necessary. Struck out.

Page 5. Added Section 43-3 Administrative review for export for sale for use within the county.

Replace "export" with "transfer." Brief discussion involving two scenarios when dealing with transfers, groundwater substitution transfers vs. groundwater transfers such as Warren Act contracts. Commissioners agree that language is needed which considers both scenarios.

-Consensus from commission on all the above.

43-4 "for any transfer purposes" language inserted

43-6 Administrative Structure. Updated language to reflect current structure.

43-7 Application for permit. For ease of reading, the following language was struck: "...for out of county groundwater substitution transfers..."

Page 7, Drought language:

Ms. Fahey provided options for changes to choose from.

Commissioner Williams: sec 43-5 exclusions for permit requirements paragraph C.) page 6 allows local agencies to continue with historical practices. With option 1, does it prohibit that?

Ms. Fahey thought that it will not preclude districts with contiguous lands from transferring across county boundaries, but this will be referred to Council.

Commissioners agree that this language should be taken to County Council.

Mr. Busch, RD 108 (WUG member) expressed concerns for having blanket drought language, that it does not address whether or not a particular transfer is causing impact to the aquifer

Suggestion by Commissioner Williams that the drought language should pertain to out of basin transfers rather than out of county.

Suggestion by Commissioner Williams to add a fourth scenario, "a zero allocation for north of delta contractors."

Commissioner Marsh commented: what we are addressing during a zero allocation is the situation where the aquifer is under significant pressure; we need to take additional steps to protect it. It seems to be a valuable addition to option 1.

Commissioner Moresco commented: change language to address some of the other concerns. At this point in time we don't have enough data to demonstrate that we won't cause effect. Would like option 1 and change "prohibit" to something more flexible.

Roy Hull commented: if you can demonstrate recharge to the basins, it gives you some latitude in respect to being able to do transfers because you're mitigating the harm.

Suggestion from Commissioner Moresco: change "prohibit" to "restricted"

Commissioner Rolan suggested that Ms. Fahey and Mr. Damiano take this to council to put in the proper language and we will go from there.

Ben Carter suggested: Put the quality criteria under section 10 to say extraction will not diminish the water quality.

Roy Hull will look into the part that describes "critical year" because we only know what was critical last year.

Consensus from commission on Drought Language, Option 1 with the addition of out of basin language and the scenario of a zero allocation for north of Delta water districts

Bottom of Page 8 –Ben Carter mentions that there are two (d), change the second (d) to (e)

Page 9. 43-11 a list of conditions that will apply to all permits

Commissioner Williams: On the Monitoring Plan, we should set criteria on monitoring during the transfer so we can stay on top of any problems. We need to know if there will be some mitigation needed.

Ms. Fahey: Darrin at MBK has agreed that they can provide monitoring information monthly. It's just a matter of adding someone to their email list when sending that information out.

*Roy Hull adds that sometimes the pumps go on before DWR is notified and there is no baseline for monitoring.*

*Commissioner Marsh suggested we should establish criteria for monitoring.*

*Mr. Hull adds: Water transfers will sometimes get ignored in some cases because the concern is getting the water transferred.*

*Commissioner Marsh commented: That is why we need to have this in our permit process because we are concerned with effective data gathering. Put into our conditions that we do require monitoring before pumping begins.*

*It was determined to put into the Conditions Item g. Baseline groundwater levels will be provided to the Commission prior to pumping resuming.*

*43-15 Change Permit Term "not to exceed one water year" rather than "three years"*

**a. Possible action to recommend proposed Ordinance updates, and forward to Council for review prior to presenting to BOS.**

*Ms. Fahey asked for other comments from commission or others*

*Motion to approve changes as discussed*

*Moved by: Commissioner Moresco*

*Seconded by: Commissioner Williams*

*Vote: Approved unanimously*

**c. Items for next agenda**

*Ms. Fahey mentions we will be discussing Groundwater Legislation at the next meeting in June.*

*Supervisor Denise Carter addressed the GWC thanking everyone for their time and effort addressing these changes. It has been difficult work, but very important.*

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion to adjourn*

*Moved by: Commissioner Rolan*

*Seconded by: Commissioner Morris*

*Voted: Unanimous*

*Meeting was adjourned at 3:17 pm.*

**Next regular meeting date: June 11, 2015 at 1:30pm Location TBD**

## **Groundwater Commission, regular meeting June 11, 2015, 1:30-3:30 @ Colusa County Farm Bureau**

### **STAFF REPORT**

#### **Groundwater Commission**

Commissioner Morris' term expired in March. Thank you to Commissioner Morris for his years of generous service on the Commission. Welcome new Commissioner, Matt LaGrande.

#### **Water Users Group**

The Water Users Group met May 19, 2015. Discussions included groundwater conditions, subsidence and the need for more surface water in the problem areas of the county. Their next meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2015

#### **Groundwater Ordinance**

At their March 12, 2015 meeting, the Groundwater Commission approved recommended changes to the County Groundwater Management Ordinance and voted to forward those recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. The Ordinance revisions were presented to the Board of Supervisors, after review by Council, as a discussion item at their May 12, 2015 meeting. The Board of Supervisors approved the changes with a few minor adjustments, and directed staff and County Council to move forward to get the document prepared for a first reading which took place at the June 2, 2015 BOS meeting. A **public hearing** will be held at **9:30 a.m. on June 16, 2015** at the Board Chambers. The Board recognized all of the hard work by Commission and WUG members.

#### **Technical Support Team**

Staff continues to work with the TST to update the groundwater level monitoring network. This is a work in progress. We will review the recent updates under Agenda Item 3a.

We are still waiting on DWR's 2014 Land and Water Use report for Colusa County, which will help us to estimate groundwater and surface water use in the County. Staff is working with GCID to facilitate the development of a water balance for Colusa County.

Public Works has recently completed several GIS maps for the Water Resources Department that will be a foundation for future work to help with our water use estimates and monitoring efforts, as well as the new GW Sustainability Plan(s).

#### **Groundwater Legislation Outreach**

##### **SGMA Outreach to Local Agencies**

Two meetings were facilitated with local agencies in Colusa County that are eligible to be Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs). The purpose of these meetings was to get an idea of the different agencies' thoughts and ideas regarding formation of the GSA/GSAs within county boundaries. We will follow up with future meetings, possibly utilizing a meeting facilitator, to determine a path forward. Staff has submitted an application for meeting facilitation services to DWR.

The following local districts have elected to be, or plan to be, GSAs:

Provident and Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation Districts have elected to form a joint GSA

Colusa County Water District has elected to be a GSA  
Westside Water District is planning to be a GSA  
RD 1004 is planning to be a GSA

The Colusa County Board of Supervisors will be deciding on adopting a Resolution to form a groundwater sustainability agency to cover the county at their June 16, 2015 meeting.

### **Public Outreach Meeting**

A Groundwater Public Outreach Meeting to inform the public on groundwater issues was held **May 12 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Colusa County Fairgrounds**. Speakers included: Robert Donlan – Water Law overview; Roy Hull, Groundwater Conditions update; Kate Williams – SGMA; Supervisors Carter and Vann – County perspective. The meeting was very well attended with approximately 110-120 people, mostly landowners as well as water agency folks. When polled, the majority of the audience agreed that evening meetings were best for them. We will consider evenings for future outreach meetings. Should the Commission consider evening meetings?

### **2015 Water Transfers**

There are currently no known proposals for out of county groundwater substitution transfers in Colusa County in 2015. There are proposed in-county transfer(s) to TCCA, as occurred last year.

## Colusa County Groundwater Commission

# Annual Statement of Goals and Objectives

For the period of September 1, 2014 – August 31, 2015

Adopted by the Groundwater Commission 10/23/2014

As per Colusa County Groundwater Commission Bylaws, page 4, Annual Goals: *The Commission shall adopt a statement of goals and objectives annually, not later than September 1. Such statement may be amended no more than once each year.*

## Status Update, June 11, 2015

With the passing of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), focus has shifted from implementing the GMP to complying with the new legislation, although the GMP is still in effect until adoption of the new Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Going forward we will focus on elements of the GMP that will tie in with the GSP.

### Goal 1: Execute the Groundwater MOU

- a. MOU is approved and signed off by Colusa County Board of Supervisors
- b. MOU is signed by:
  1. Cities of Colusa and Williams
  2. Public Utility Districts in Arbuckle, Grimes, Princeton and Maxwell
  3. MOU is presented by staff at District Board meetings and signed agreements are executed with as many of the 26 water purveyors listed in the GMP as feasible

Status: Partially completed. The MOU was signed by the Colusa County Board of Supervisors on May 6, 2014. It was signed by the following entities: RD 108 (6/24/14); RD 1004 (8/7/14) Colusa County Water District (8/13/14); Maxwell Irrigation District (9/9/14); Westside Water District (9/11/14); TCCA (10/10/14)

### Goal 2: Revise Groundwater Ordinance

- a. Water Users Group develops recommendations for revisions to the current Groundwater Ordinance
- b. At least two reports by staff on the progress of the Groundwater Ordinance revisions is given to the Board of Supervisors
- c. Groundwater Ordinance is updated and approved by Board of Supervisors

Status: Completed. Through a series of meetings, the WUG and Commission developed suggested revisions to the Ordinance. Staff has provided updates to the BOS during the update process. At their May 12, 2015 meeting, the Board of Supervisors voted to bring the proposed changes to a public hearing, with minor revisions. The first reading will take place at the June 2, 2015 BOS meeting.

### **Goal 3: Monitoring Program**

- a. Technical Support Team (TST) begins development of a formal monitoring program, including gw levels, gw quality, land subsidence and groundwater/surface water interaction
- b. TST develops a monitoring network of wells that will provide adequate data to analyze groundwater levels county-wide

Status: In progress. The TST has developed an initial well monitoring network for groundwater levels. This has proven to be more complicated than anticipated and will be a work in progress as our program develops. We will begin looking at subsidence data in the next year when DWR completes a subsidence study for the Sacramento Valley. We will work with the ILRP to gather groundwater quality data.

### **Goal 4: Public Outreach Program**

- a. A formal outreach program is developed to inform the public and solicit public input about activities related to GMP implementation, and local and Statewide Groundwater Management
- b. Water Resources website section is added to the Colusa County website and updated regularly

Status: Partially completed. We have conducted public outreach via public Commission and Water Users Group meetings over the past year. A public Groundwater Meeting was held on May 12, 2015 to disseminate information on groundwater law, groundwater conditions and SGMA. The meeting was very well attended. We hope to be working with a meeting facilitator this next year to help with our outreach program. The Water Resources website section was added to the County site and is updated regularly. Staff is also developing a Water Resources newsletter as part of the outreach program.

### **Goal 5: Seek Funding**

- a) Staff and TST will pursue grant funding for GMP implementation, monitoring and modelling activities, technical studies, and development of a formal outreach program
- b) Staff will partner with other agencies to pursue grant funding for GMP implementation, monitoring and modelling activities, technical studies, and development of a formal outreach program

Status: Ongoing as grant opportunities arise. Staff has submitted an application to DWR for facilitation services to assist with GSA development and public outreach. We are also working with GCID and possibly other water agencies to facilitate development of a water balance for Colusa County.

### **Goal 6: Remain informed of Legislative Activities**

- a. Staff will remain up to date on Statewide Groundwater legislative activities and report relevant information to the Commission and Water Users Group at their regular meetings
- b. A presentation on current legislative activities is given to the Groundwater Commission by an expert speaker at one regular meeting of the Commission

Status: Ongoing. Staff remains up to date on legislative activities and information is presented at regular Commission and WUG meetings. We have had several presentations on SGMA provided at Commission and WUG meetings.