

COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER COMMISSION

February 12, 2020 | 10:00-Noon | Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room

Agenda Support Materials

Agenda Item 1.d: Approval of Minutes from the November 6, 2019 Meeting

ACTION ITEM

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Minutes from the November 6, 2019 Groundwater Commission Meeting



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: November 6, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m. - Noon

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Williams opened the meeting at 10:05 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

Denise Carter, Supervisor, District V

Greg Plucker, Director, Colusa County Community Development Department

Tana Loudon, Colusa County Community Development Department

Lewis Bair, RD 108

George Pendell, Stony Creek Watermaster

Elaine Rominger

Oscar Serrano, Colusa Indian Community Council

Mathew Jones, T&P Farms

Erin Smith, Department of Water Resources, Northern Region Office

Lenore Kitts

Elizabeth Yerxa

Bruce Houdeseldt, Northern California Water Association

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Dormer, Moresco, LaGrande and Williams

Commissioners Absent: Charter



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PUBLIC FORUM

**Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan Updates and Sacramento River Basin Voluntary Agreements;
*Lewis Bair, RD 108***

Mr. Lewis Bair provided an update that included:

- Volunteer Agreements
- State Proposal vs. Volunteer Agreements
- Habitat and the Flood control System

Discussion is held regarding timing, how properties are identified, negotiation strategy, and predation.

Update on the Nature Conservancy's (TNC) multi-benefit groundwater recharge project in severely disadvantaged communities in Colusa County; *Julia Barfield, TNC*

Ms. Fahey stated that Ms. Barfield was unable to make it today. She updated the Commission and the public on the multi-benefit project. She stated a pilot project was done at Davis Ranches and the results are being analyzed now.

Question: What sort of land are they looking for?

Answer: Alfalfa is ideal, row crops.

Question: Where does the water come from?

Answer: Surface water.

Groundwater Conditions Update: *Erin Smith, California Department of Water Resources, Northern Region Office*

Ms. Smith provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding groundwater conditions and precipitation.

It was asked how the western edge of the Colusa basin boundary was defined.

Ms. Smith replied that it was defined by soil and rock types. Alluvial material indicated a basin.

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

Ms. Fahey stated that the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) for the critically overdraft basins are due January 2020. The plan for the Colusa Basin is due in January 2022. David's Engineering is preparing the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model and Water Budget and after an extensive RFP process, the Colusa and Glenn Groundwater Authority Boards chose Davids Engineering to complete the GSP for the Colusa Subbasin. Stakeholder input is critical to development of the Plan. The estimated cost for the GSP is 1.5 million dollars. A \$1 million Proposition 1 grant has been awarded and another \$1 million Prop 68 grant is being applied for. She then added that DWR offers technical support services which enabled the basin to obtain a groundwater level monitoring well in the Arbuckle area.

BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes from the February 13, 2019 Meeting

Motion: Commissioner Dormer moved to approve the February 13, 2019 Meeting minutes. Commissioner Moresco seconded. The motion passed 4-0 (1 absent).



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Period of Public Comment

Mr. Bruce Houdeseldt of the Northern California Water Association (NCWA) stated that on December 16th NCWA is hosting a forum regarding SB200 and sustainable drinking water at the Yuba County Board of Supervisors Chambers.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Set 2020 Meeting Schedule

Discussion was held amongst the Commissioners and it was decided on the following dates for the 2020 meeting schedule with all meetings to be held from 10 am to Noon:

February 12, 2020

May 2, 2020

August, 5 2020

November 4, 2020

Motion: Commissioner Moresco moved to approve the 2020 Groundwater Commission meeting schedule as discussed. Commissioner LaGrande seconded. The motion passed 4-0 (1 absent).

Legislative Update: NCWA October, 2019 Water Briefings: State Legislation

Ms. Fahey referred to the Northern California Water Association's recent Legislative Update newsletter. Mr. Houdeseldt provided information which included information about a new water bond initiative that will be on next year's ballot.

UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Commissioner Comments and Updates

Commissioner Williams stated that the new monitoring well that was installed by DWR under their Technical Support Services started taking measurements on October 1 and is monitoring at four different depths. He then describes the makeup of the well.

Items for Next Agenda

- i. Election of Officers
- ii. Legislative Update
- iii. Goals and Objectives for 2020
- iv. SGMA Update
- v. Public Forum; DWR to give overview of a GSP

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular meeting date: February 12, 2020 at 10:00 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 p.m.

COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER COMMISSION

February 12, 2020 | 10:00-Noon | Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room

Agenda Support Materials

Agenda Item 2: Election of Officers

ACTION ITEM

The Chair shall call for nominations of a Chair and Vice Chair of the Groundwater Commission for the 2020 year.

Text from the Colusa County Groundwater Commission Bylaws:

OFFICERS

I. Officers of the Commission shall consist of a Chair and Vice Chair, who shall be elected by the Commission members. The Secretary/Clerk shall be the Director of the County's Development Services Department or his/her assigned representative.

II. Nomination and election of officers shall be held at the first meeting following the adoption of these Bylaws and thereafter in January of each year; and may be held at other times as vacancies occur after giving members fourteen (14) day notice.

III. The Chair and Vice Chair shall take office immediately after election.

IV. Duties of officers shall be as follows:

- A. Chair - shall preside over all meetings of the Commission and appoint special committees, the Chairs of those committees and set the duration and tasks of those committees as special advisory needs of the Commission may arise and require such support.
- B. Vice Chair - shall perform the duties of the Chair during absence of Chair.
- C. Secretary/Clerk - shall keep and attest to records of the proceedings of the Commission.

Agenda Item 3: Public Forum

INFORMATION ONLY

The Public Forum portion of the meeting is an opportunity for local water resources managers and others to share relevant and timely water-related information with the Commission and interested stakeholders.

COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER COMMISSION

February 12, 2020 | 10:00-Noon | Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room

Agenda Support Materials

Agenda Item 4a: Review and consider approval of Annual Goals and Objectives

ACTION ITEM

Text from the Colusa County Groundwater Commission Bylaws:

ANNUAL GOALS

I. The Commission shall adopt a statement of goals and objectives annually, not later than March I. Such statement may be amended no more than once each year.

A redline version of draft 2020 Goals and Objectives for the Colusa County Groundwater Commission is attached below. Commissioners should review and provide any suggested edits to Staff as needed to finalize the document.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft 2020 Annual Statement of Goals and Objectives



COUNTY OF COLUSA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

100 Sunrise Boulevard Suite A, Colusa, CA 95932

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Colusa County Groundwater Commission

Annual Statement of Goals and Objectives

For the period of March 1, ~~2018~~2020 – February 28, ~~2019~~2021

Adopted by the Groundwater Commission on ~~July 11, 2018~~February 12, 2020

As per Colusa County Groundwater Commission Bylaws, page 6, Annual Goals: *The Commission shall adopt a statement of goals and objectives annually, not later than March 1. Such statement may be amended no more than once each year.*

Goal 1: Comply with SGMA Regulations and Deadlines

- a. The Groundwater Commission will coordinate with the Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA) and support their activities to maintain sustainable groundwater conditions in Colusa County.
- b. The Groundwater Commission will coordinate with, provide input to, and support the Colusa Groundwater Authority and other GSAs during development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the Colusa and ~~West~~ Butte Subbasins.

Goal 2: Public Outreach Program

- a. The Groundwater Commission will support and participate in outreach activities to inform the public and solicit public input about groundwater conditions, and SGMA implementation activities. The Commission will coordinate with and support the Colusa Groundwater Authority's ~~Public Outreach~~Communication and Engagement Plan, and utilize all outreach options as feasible, including email, social media, mail, newspaper articles, community meetings, partnering with other local water-related organizations, and face-to-face interactions with landowners.
- b. The Groundwater Commission will review Colusa Groundwater Authority Communication and Engagement Plan and identify opportunities to coordinate efforts with the CGA.

Goal 3: Review and Assess County-wide Groundwater Conditions



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a) At one Commission meeting each year, Staff will provide a report on local groundwater levels, based on the County groundwater level monitoring network

b) The Commission will receive periodic reports on groundwater conditions from the California Department of Water Resources, Northern Region Office

Goal 4: Review and Assess potential Projects in Coordination with the Colusa Groundwater Authority

- a. The Groundwater Commission will assist the CGA by reviewing and making recommendations on proposed projects that could benefit the groundwater basins, including groundwater recharge projects and others.

Goal 4: Remain informed of Legislative Activities

- a. Groundwater Commissioners will remain up to date on Statewide Groundwater legislative activities and report relevant information at Groundwater Commission meetings.
- b. A presentation on current legislative activities will be given to the Groundwater Commission each year by an expert speaker at one regular meeting.

COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER COMMISSION

February 12, 2020 | 10:00-Noon | Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room

Agenda Support Materials

Agenda Item 4b: Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors

Text from the Colusa County Groundwater Commission Bylaws:

REPORTS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

II. The Commission shall report to the Board of Supervisors annually on the activities of the previous year. Such report shall be made not later than March 1 and shall include the progress made on the items reflected in the annual statement of goals and objectives.

Agenda Item 4bi: Review and provide input on draft Staff Report **INFORMATION ONLY**

A summary of 2019 activities is provided below. A status report on 2018/2019 Goals and Objectives is also provided. Commissioners should review and provide any suggested edits to Staff as needed.

STAFF REPORT:

The Colusa County Groundwater Commission consists of the following members:

- District 1: Darrin Williams (Chair)
- District 2: Deke Dormer
- District 3: Matt LaGrande
- District 4: Tom charter
- District 5: Jeff Moresco (Vice Chair)

Mr. Williams and Mr. Moresco each serve as a Private Pumper representative on the Board of the Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA). The CGA is the Groundwater Sustainability Agency responsible for implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in the Colusa County portions of the Colusa Subbasin and portions of the Butte Subbasin.

In 2019, the Colusa County Groundwater Commission meeting schedule was as follows:

- February 13, 2019 – This meeting included the first public information forum at a Groundwater Commission meeting. The forum featured the following presentations:
 - The Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan Updates and Sacramento River Basin Voluntary Agreements (Lewis Bair, Reclamation District 108)
 - Results of the 2017 GPS Survey of the Sacramento Valley Land Subsidence Network (Bill Ehorn, California Department of water Resources, Northern Region Office)

COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER COMMISSION

February 12, 2020 | 10:00-Noon | Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room

Agenda Support Materials

- Colusa Groundwater Authority SGMA update and Fee Assessment Information (Commissioners Williams and Moresco, Supervisor Carter [CGA Chair] and Mary Fahey [Staff])
- May 1, 2019 – this meeting was cancelled due to weather conditions affecting the farming operations of the Commissioners such that a quorum was not available to attend
- August 7, 2019 – this meeting was cancelled due to weather conditions affecting the farming operations of the Commissioners such that a quorum was not available to attend
- November 6, 2019 – This meeting included the second public information forum featuring the following presentations:
 - Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan Updates and Sacramento River Basin Voluntary Agreements (Lewis Bair, Reclamation District 108)
 - Groundwater Conditions Update (Erin Smith, California Department of water Resources, Northern Region Office)
 - Colusa Groundwater Authority SGMA update (Commissioners Williams and Moresco and Mary Fahey [Staff])

Milestones achieved in 2019:

- Election of officers
- The Groundwater Commission meeting structure was revised to include a public information forum to enhance public outreach, education and engagement
- The first two public information forums were held, and there was good public participation at both meetings. These forums were successful and the Commission plans to build on them in 2020.
- In March, 2019, the Commission coordinated three Town-hall style public meetings to help the Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA) inform the public about SGMA implementation efforts and about the CGA's pending Operations Fee. Meetings were held in the evening in Arbuckle, Colusa and Maxwell, and Commissioners participated in these meetings.
- The Groundwater Commission unanimously passed **Resolution 2019-01, A Resolution of the Colusa County Groundwater Commission Recognizing the Critical Role of Surface Water Supplies as they Relate to Sustainable Groundwater Management and the Importance of Developing Additional Surface Water Storage**

COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER COMMISSION

February 12, 2020 | 10:00-Noon | Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room

Agenda Support Materials

PROGRESS ON

Annual Statement of Goals and Objectives

For the period of March 1, 2018 – February 28, 2019 (and continuing through December 31, 2019). Adopted by the Colusa County Groundwater Commission on July 11, 2018

Due to meeting cancellations in 2019, an updated Annual Statement of Goals and Objectives was not adopted in 2019. The Goals and Objectives adopted in July 2018 remained relevant through 2019. The Commission will be updating the Goals and Objectives for 2020 at their February 12, 2020 meeting.

Goal 1: Comply with SGMA Regulations and Deadlines

- a. The Groundwater Commission will coordinate with the Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA) and support their activities to maintain sustainable groundwater conditions in Colusa County.**

GOAL 1a PROGRESS REPORT: Two Commissioners serve on the CGA Board; updates on CGA activities and SGMA in general are provided at each Commission meeting. The Commission held two successful public information forums at their meetings in 2019. The Commission also coordinated three public town-hall style meetings to inform their constituents about the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and local SGMA implementation efforts. These public meetings were very well attended and reached a different audience than the regular CGA Board meetings.

- b. The Groundwater Commission will coordinate with, provide input to, and support the Colusa Groundwater Authority and other GSAs during development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the Colusa and West Butte Subbasins.**

GOAL 1b PROGRESS REPORT: Groundwater Sustainability Plan development is just getting underway locally. There will be many opportunities for the Commission to be involved.

Goal 2: Public Outreach Program

- a. The Groundwater Commission will support and participate in outreach activities to inform the public and solicit public input about groundwater conditions, and SGMA implementation activities. The Commission will coordinate with and support the Colusa Groundwater Authority's Public Outreach and Engagement Plan (Communication and Engagement Plan), and utilize all outreach options as feasible, including email, social media, mail, newspaper articles, community meetings,**

COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER COMMISSION

February 12, 2020 | 10:00-Noon | Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room

Agenda Support Materials

partnering with other local water-related organizations, and face-to-face interactions with landowners.

GOAL 2a PROGRESS REPORT: The CGA's Communication and Engagement Plan was completed in August, 2019 and the Commission will review this Plan in 2020 and identify opportunities to coordinate efforts with the CGA. There have been many discussions at Groundwater Commission meetings regarding public outreach. As mentioned above, the Groundwater Commission has restructured their meetings in 2019 to provide a public information forum for landowners, and the Commission provided three small-scale town-hall style meetings in three Supervisorial Districts to provide meetings that were specific to each of the small communities in the County.

Goal 3: Review and Assess potential Projects in Coordination with the Colusa Groundwater Authority

- a. The Groundwater Commission will assist the CGA by reviewing and making recommendations on proposed projects that could benefit the groundwater basins, including groundwater recharge projects and others.

GOAL 3a PROGRESS REPORT: There have not been any opportunities to review potential projects. This will become more important during GSP development.

Goal 4: Remain informed of Legislative Activities

- a. Groundwater Commissioners will remain up to date on Statewide Groundwater legislative activities and report relevant information at Groundwater Commission meetings.

GOAL 4a PROGRESS REPORT: The Commissioners have reported on various legislation during the regular "Comments and Updates" portion of their agenda, and Staff has included legislative updates provided by the Northern California Water Association in the agenda packets.

- b. A presentation on current legislative activities will be given to the Groundwater Commission each year by an expert speaker at one regular meeting.

GOAL 4b PROGRESS REPORT: This is still to be arranged for 2020.

COLUSA COUNTY GROUNDWATER COMMISSION

February 12, 2020 | 10:00-Noon | Colusa Industrial Properties Conference Room

Agenda Support Materials

Agenda Item 4bii: Authorize Commission representative or Staff to present the Annual Report to the Colusa County Board of Supervisors at the March 24, 2020 meeting, or as soon as the Board agenda will allow

ACTION ITEM

The Commission shall appoint a representative to provide the Commission update to the Colusa County Board of Supervisors. This can be a Commission member or Staff. Staff will coordinate getting the agenda item onto the Board of Supervisors agenda as soon as the schedule allows.

Agenda Item 5b: Reminder – Commissioner terms of office

INFORMATION ONLY

Text from the Colusa County Groundwater Commission Bylaws:

TERMS OF OFFICE

- I. The Commission will be comprised of five (5) members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Each Supervisor shall nominate one member to the Board Chair for ratification by a majority vote of the Board. The term shall coincide with the term of his/her Supervisor which the member represents at the time of appointment. Reelection of the Supervisor of that district shall not constitute automatic reappointment of the Commission member and shall require a majority vote of the Board.
- II. Any member may apply to the Board of Supervisors for reappointment at the end of his/her term.
- III. Commission members will serve voluntarily without compensation or reimbursement.

The following Commissioners' terms expire on **December 31, 2020:**

- Dormer, District 2
- LaGrande, District 3
- Charter, District 4

Applications are available from Water Resources Staff and/or the County Board Clerk's office.