

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Butte Valley Advisory Committee Meeting  
MEETING SUMMARY**

Meeting date/time: September 4, 2019 | 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Dorris City Hall, 307 S. Main St., Dorris

Key contacts:

- Matt Parker, County Natural Resources Specialist | [mparker@co.siskiyou.ca.us](mailto:mparker@co.siskiyou.ca.us) | 530.842.8019
- Rich Wilson, Sacramento State University Senior Facilitator | [r.wilson@csus.edu](mailto:r.wilson@csus.edu) | 415.515.2317
- Laura Foglia PhD, U.C. Davis Technical Team Lead | [lfoglia@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lfoglia@ucdavis.edu) | 530.219.5692

**MEETING RECAP**

- **Action Item Update and Approval of Past Meeting Summary.** CCP facilitator Rich Wilson recommended a new process for committee members to review and approve meeting summaries upon distribution of the draft document. The committee agreed to the new approach, which will open up more time in future agendas for substantive groundwater discussions. The committee then approved its April meeting summary, for which there were no outstanding comments or questions.
- **Public Comment.** No comments were received during the initial public comment period. During the course of the meeting members of the public participated in the draft map review exercise, questioned the validity of some of the data and figures that inform the maps, and made inquiries about how the SGMA Technical Team does its work.
- **District Staff and Other Updates.** Matt Parker provided updates on a range of issues, including grant opportunities, the District’s ongoing efforts to engage tribes in the SGMA process, and recent changes to the county website.
- **Water Budget Presentation and Discussion.** The SGMA Technical Team presented on its initial estimation of the groundwater budget in Butte Valley. The team, as in past meeting, described the main elements of a water budget, showed the different tools used to date to make an estimate for Butte Valley, and then fielded a range of questions from committee members. All present agreed that the team should follow up with key growers to help look at key crop types and subsequently refine budget numbers.
- **Proposition 68 Grant Opportunity.** Matt and Laura briefly updated the group that they will soon have an outline prepared for the Proposition 68 grant proposal. The proposal will focus on data collection and monitoring, but may also include one or two pilot projects for each basin, including Butte Valley.

**SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS**

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Status/Deadline</i>
Continue to help identify volunteers, or volunteer one of your own wells, for participation in the voluntary well monitoring network. Interested parties should get in touch with Matt Parker no later than early October.	Committee members	Ongoing
Follow-up again to identify publicly-owned well in Trinity area for possible inclusion in the voluntary groundwater monitoring network.	Matt Parker	Before next meeting

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Butte Valley Advisory Committee Meeting  
MEETING SUMMARY**

Email key growers across the valley to help refine questions surrounding estimated water budget numbers. Key growers (committee members or non-committee members) help Laura and Bill identify who can help on what topic/crop type.	Bill Rice; growers	End of September
Review and provide any additional feedback on the draft stakeholder communication and engagement plan.	Committee members	September 18
Circulate a summary of action items followed by a draft version of the meeting summary.	Rich Wilson	End of September

**Next meeting:** November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 3:00 – 6:00pm, Dorris City Hall, 307 S. Main St., Dorris

View [Siskiyou County's groundwater website](#) for posted meeting materials.

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Agenda Review, Action Item Update and Approval of Past Meeting Summary**

CCP Facilitator Rich Wilson opened the meeting, welcomed all committee members and the public, and briefly reviewed the agenda.

**Public Comment Period**

Time periods for receiving public comment are regularly built into advisory committee meeting agendas. At the outset, members may address the committee on matters not on the consent agenda. During the course of the meeting, time permitting, the public may also comment on any agenda items. No public comments were offered at the outset or during the course of the meeting. Just under a half dozen members of the public attended the meeting. Supervisor Brandon Criss, who represents District 1 which includes the Butte Valley area, also attended the meeting.

**District Staff and Other Updates**

Matt Parker provided updates on a range of issues:

- **Tribal advisory committee concept.** District staff conducted outreach and secured useful feedback from tribes on the SGMA tribal advisory concept. Varying opinions of how the committee would function and be effective were offered, with some noting logistics, busy schedules and a big geographic region may present challenges. Many tribes expressed interest to develop a MOU or Coordination agreement with the District. The District is currently developing an MOU with the Karuk Tribe and this process and document may serve as example for how such agreements can be developed with other tribes. Matt fielded a range of questions about perceived lack of tribal participation at committee meetings;

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Butte Valley Advisory Committee Meeting  
MEETING SUMMARY**

how tribes, if interested, may come and share information at committee meetings; and efforts being made to better understand tribal interest in SGMA.

- **Bureau of Reclamation Grant Opportunity.** The District has been awarded a BOR WaterSMART grant, which the proposal was for equipment for both soil moisture sensors and continuous well monitoring instruments. The grant budget is for 10 pairs of both devices for each basin. Staff is optimistic that the grant finalization can be completed in time for installation to start in early November. Well owners who volunteer their wells for inclusion in the groundwater monitoring network will get the opportunity to install a soil moisture sensor. Owners that use sensors can go online and regularly track data. That said, the data does not have to be published. Although collected data may come well into the GSP development process, this data is important given that, following GSP submission to DWR, Butte Valley will have 20 years to demonstrate sustainability.
- **County Website Updates.** Matt described recent updates to the SGMA webpage on the county website. The SGMA section of the website will house local and statewide technical reports, links to statewide SGMA information, public workshops, and, as needed, provide regulatory information about SGMA. The District still maintains an interested party's email list and will now be sent through a new SGMA specific email ([sgma@co.siskiyou.ca.us](mailto:sgma@co.siskiyou.ca.us)) that will also be used for District staff to receive comments during public comment periods of GSP development. Committee members will still see email communication directly from Matt.
- **DWR Technical Support Services Program Update.** DWR has a Technical Support Services (TSS) program whereby they will pay for monitoring wells. The District is still working through the application process with DWR and working to locate possible sites. The District is hoping to utilize this funding to get wells in on public access property.
- **Other Grant/Funding Opportunities.** District staff made aware of the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Program Applied Science Grants Funding Opportunity program as an additional funding opportunity. District staff encouraged interested parties or entities that have the grant management capacity to approach the county about eligible or relevant project ideas that could assist in the SGMA and GSP development process. One committee member suggested monitoring the state well located in Trinity.

**Understanding the Butte Valley Groundwater System**

Dr. Laura Foglia, SGMA Technical Team Lead in Siskiyou County, reminded the group how at the last meeting the technical team and committee members began talking about data, updating area maps, and using local knowledge to improve and produce new versions of these maps. One of the main tasks for the technical team was to come back with initial water budget numbers. Although the meeting took place in early versus late September, the technical team was able to generate preliminary numbers. She cautioned the group to consider the information her team presented as a first calculation. The numbers will be refined. Today's meeting would focus on what a water budget is and how it is calculated. Feedback by committee members, she noted, would help refine the numbers.

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Butte Valley Advisory Committee Meeting  
MEETING SUMMARY**

Bill Rice, also a member of the Technical Team, focused most of his presentation on the water budget, since this is an immediate task to build the foundation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). He reminded the group of the three sub-systems—the soil, the aquifer and surface water—that are considered when estimating a water budget. The team also looks at how rainfall and evapotranspiration affects the system. A primary goal is to build a model that looks at all information holistically and thereby provides a better understanding of the water budget. Bill provided an overview of the different data sources used to prepare the initial Butte Valley groundwater basin water budget, and the Technical Team’s status in using each. These include:

- **DWR Land Use (spreadsheet budget).** Very Low resolution, simple to build, fast to calculate, easy to update, decisions from this are difficult. *Status: Done.*
- **Integrated Demand Calculator (IDC).** Medium resolution, complicated to build, fast to calculate, complicated to update, basic decisions are possible. *Status: In progress.*
- **Satellite-based (Davids Engineering).** Medium resolution, complicated to build, slow to calculate, complicated to update, basic decisions are possible. *Status: In progress*
- **Klamath Basin USGS Models.** Medium resolution, complicated to build, fast to calculate, complicated to update, decisions from this are difficult, basin-wide (i.e. not specific to Butte Valley). *Status: Model complete. Analysis ongoing.*

Bill took time to review, explain and field questions about each data source. At various points throughout the discussion of each tool, committee members offered suggestions as to how the data could be ground-truthed and refined. All present agreed that the Technical Team should follow up with key landowners to help refine questions surrounding estimated water budget numbers and identify different persons (committee members and non-members) who can help on what topic/crop type. Bill and Laura jointly spent the latter part of the discussion explaining the USGS model and fielding questions about both its use and limitations for informing the Butte Valley groundwater budget.

**Stakeholder Communication and Engagement**

Facilitator Rich Wilson introduced the first draft of the Butte Valley SGMA Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan. SGMA requires GSAs to conduct robust stakeholder outreach in order to identify and consider the needs and interests of all beneficial groundwater uses and users in Butte Valley. He briefly reviewed the following key sections of the plan:

- Goals and objectives
- GSA decision-making
- Target audiences
- Communication strategies, forums and tools

The group voiced support for the plan goals and objectives. Several stakeholder groups were suggested for inclusion in the stakeholder identification chart. The facilitator concluded by requesting the committee members review and provide any additional comments or suggested edits over the next few weeks following the meeting.

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Butte Valley Advisory Committee Meeting  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**GSP Development Schedule**

Matt Parker briefly reviewed a detailed schedule and flowchart of activities that has been developed to guide the GSP development process. The advisory committee will play a key role in reviewing, providing input and at time putting forward recommendations on draft GSP material for consideration by the GSA Board (District Board). Public meetings will be held at key milestones, and after the GSA Board and all interested parties (e.g. committee members, tribes, the wider public) have had an initial opportunity to weigh in, draft GSP chapters will be updated and put out for public comment. Matt concluded by stressing that the GSP schedule will be adaptive, as there are many moving parts, and thus it is expected that flexibility to adapt the schedule will be needed at various times throughout the planning process.

**Proposition 68 Grant Proposal**

Matt and Laura jointly noted that they are in the final stages of getting an outline together for the Proposition 68 grant proposal. Matt showed previous project ideas that were put forward at the last meeting. He noted that the proposal will focus on monitoring and data collection, but may also include a pilot project or two for each basin, including Butte Valley.

**MEETING ATTENDEES<sup>1</sup>**

***Advisory Committee Members***

Don Bowen (Vice Chair), Residential  
Carol Mckay, City of Dorris, Municipal/City  
Don Crawford, Private pumper  
Patrick Graham, CDFW Butte Valley Wildlife Refuge  
Steve Albaugh, Private pumper

***Absent Committee Members***

Sami Jo Difuntorum, Shasta Nation (Tribal representative)  
Richard Nelson (Chair), Private pumper  
Greg Herman, Private pumper  
Steve Lutz, Butte Valley Irrigation District

***District Staff***

Matt Parker, County of Siskiyou Natural Resources Specialist

***Technical Team***

Dr. Laura Foglia, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates  
Bill Rice, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates  
Bradley Simms, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates

<sup>1</sup> Four members of the public attended the meeting. Siskiyou County Supervisor Brandon Criss, who represents the Butte Valley area, also joined the meeting.

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Butte Valley Advisory Committee Meeting  
MEETING SUMMARY**

***Facilitator***

Rich Wilson, Sacramento State University – Consensus and Collaboration Program