

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

Meeting date/time: May 28th, 2020 | 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Online Platform

Key contacts:

-Matt Parker, County Natural Resources Specialist | mparker@co.siskiyou.ca.us | 530.842.8019

-Rich Wilson, Seatone Consulting Senior Facilitator | r.wilson@csus.edu | 415.515.2317

-Laura Foglia PhD, U.C. Davis Technical Team Lead | lfoglia@ucdavis.edu | 530.219.5692

MEETING RECAP

- **Approval of Past Meeting Summary.** The committee approved its April meeting summary for posting on the Siskiyou County SGMA website.
- **Public Comment.** A small number of public comments interspersed the discussion, most during the course of the presentations.
- **District Staff and Other Updates.** Matt provided standard grant updates and introduced new committee member Howard Wynant, who fills the Tribal seat.
- **Revisit and Review Key Groundwater Models and Application in Butte Valley.** Multiple members of the SGMA Technical Team shared a presentation focused on revisiting and reviewing the integrated hydrologic groundwater model. A number of questions were put forward, as well as offers of data sharing. Many are interested to learn more about how the model can help explain and foster understanding of how the Butte Valley system works.
- **Model Scenarios and Sustainable Management Criteria.** Dr. Thomas Harter and Dr. Laura Foglia grounded the committee again in the concept, under SGMA, of sustainable management criteria. They described preliminary model runs which would occur over summer and welcomed input from committee members on why type of model runs they would like to see considered.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Status/Deadline</i>
Identify well data which shows 15 feet or more of drop in groundwater elevation is measured in the spring. If available, send information to the technical team for review and analysis.	Committee members; Technical team	Ongoing
Share information on applied water on crops	Eric Levesque	ASAP
Share link to USGS model reports.	Technical team	ASAP
Share ideas on potential model runs with the technical team	Committee members	Ongoing

Next Meeting: September 3rd, 2020. Due to circumstances surrounding covid-19 the meeting will again be held online with Zoom technology. More information is forthcoming.

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

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Agenda Review and Approval of Past Meeting Summary

Facilitator Rich Wilson welcomed all participants to Zoom, an online platform being used temporarily during the covid-19. He reviewed the agenda then, following one comment catching a substantive typo in the April meeting summary, secured consent to post the summary on the county's SGMA webpage. No questions or comments were put forward on the meeting agenda.

Public Comment Period

At the outset, members of the public may comment on items not on the consent agenda. The public is asked to wait until the appropriate item to comment on issues directly related the current meeting agenda. No comments were offered during the initial public comment period.

District Staff and Other Updates

Matt Parker introduced Howard Wynant to the group. Howard is a member of the Shasta Nation and fills the tribal seat on the committee. Howard subsequently introduced himself to the group and talked about his local roots in the area.

Matt noted the final Proposition 68 agreement between Siskiyou County and the Department of Water Resources is finalized. The environmental review associated with the Bureau of Reclamation grant was recently completed and equipment installation likely to occur in June. Finally, Matt let the committee know that there will be a GSA/Flood Control District special board meeting on June 23rd where both he and the technical team will present SGMA progress to date.

A committee member put forward a question regarding wells he thought were being used to guide and inform the groundwater model. Dr. Laura Foglia, SGMA Technical Team Lead, clarified that the reference wells are only plotted examples and are not guiding the model. The wells, she noted, simply provide an example of data being collected and considered.

Revisit and Review Key Groundwater Models and Application in Butte Valley

Dr. Foglia shared a presentation that covered a range of issues. She provided a status update on GSP development, covered foundational information about groundwater model development and application, and described the need for an integrated hydrologic groundwater model for Butte Valley. She showed preliminary model results and, towards the end of her presentation, described expected model development steps ahead. Bradley Sims, and member of the technical team, provided key elements of the presentation.

A range of comments and questions interspersed the presentation, from both committee members and the public. Laura, Bradley and Thomas each offered responses at times.

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- Question: Lower groundwater levels are mentioned in the presentation. Do we have recorded rainfall data? Is it less rainfall or are we using more groundwater?
 - Response: Precipitation is decreasing in the valley. The system may be responding to droughts. The trend is the same in flow direction. Looks like more changes are occurring in the southern region. The model will help connect precipitation data with understanding groundwater.
- Question: Are the contour maps presented based on the five well examples mentioned earlier?
 - Response: The maps are based on all available data.
 - Additional comments followed with questions around drop in groundwater elevation and available data in the Mt. Hebron area
 - Technical team scientist Thomas Harter said that it would be helpful to identify well data which shows 15 feet or more of drop in groundwater elevation measured in the spring. If available, send information to the technical team for review and analysis.
 - Additional comments: The technical team should further consider data from 1986 – 2008.
 - Response: Laura Foglia reminded the group that the model starts in 1991. Thomas Harter noted the maps show depth to groundwater, not change in groundwater levels.
- Question: Are times in the contour maps across the calendar year?
 - Response: Data are two points per year, spring and fall.
 - Additional comment: Make sure that spring doesn't include April because pumping is happening all over the valley at that time.
- Question: Does recharge near Mt. Shasta make it to Butte Valley?
 - Response: The short answer is yes, however, it's mostly rain and snow infiltrating.
- Question: On the recharge modeling, will this serve a purpose for Butte Valley?
 - Response: It shows recharge for land that is not Ag. Also gives us streamflow inputs.
- Question: How do we know how accurate the USGS model is?
 - Response: Reports on these models are available. They go through rigorous calibration. It's some of the best data we have.
- Comment: Some of our wells only show one foot of lowering. Recharge is perhaps higher than your model is predicting?
 - Response: Bill Rice recently acquired this data.

Model Scenarios and Sustainable Management Criteria

In the last moments of the meeting, Thomas and Laura briefly revisited and explained the concept of sustainable management criteria under SGMA. They talked about model scenario runs that would be conducted over the summer. He welcomed committee input on scenarios they would like to see the model run.

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Advisory Committee Members

Steve Albaugh, Private pumper
Don Bowen (Vice Chair), Residential
Don Crawford, Private pumper
Patrick Graham, CDFW Butte Valley Wildlife Refuge
Carol Mckay, City of Dorris, Municipal/City
Richard Nelson (Chair), Private pumper
Jeffrey Volberg, Environmental
Howard Wynant, Tribal

Absent Committee Members

Greg Herman, Private pumper
Steve Lutz, Butte Valley Irrigation District

District Staff

Matt Parker, County of Siskiyou Natural Resources Specialist

CDFW Staff

Janae Scruggs

DWR Staff

Pat Vellines

NCRWQCB Staff

Chris Watt

Technical Team

Dr. Laura Foglia, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates
Dr. Thomas Harter, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates
Brad Gooch, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates
Bill Rice, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates
Bradley Simms, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates
Cab Esposito, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates

Facilitator

Rich Wilson, Seatone Consulting

Members of the public

John Bennett
Eric Levesque
Erin (did not get last name)
Megan Root