

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Scott Valley Advisory Committee Meeting
MEETING SUMMARY – 3/16/2021**

Meeting date/time: March 16, 2021/ 3:00 – 6:00 pm

Location: Zoom Online Platform

Key contacts:

- Matt Parker, County Natural Resources Specialist, mparker@co.siskiyou.ca.us 530.842.8019
- Katie Duncan, Stantec Consulting – Facilitator. katie.duncan@stantec.com 916-418-8245
- 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 February meeting summary for posting on the Siskiyou County SGMA website.
- **Public Comment:** No public comments voiced at the outset of the meeting.
- **District Staff and Other Announcements:** Matt Parker announced that a legal team had been hired to advise the GSA on GSP development. Pat Vellines shared updates on various resources materials that had been recently made available by DWR. Surface Water and Irrigator Ad hoc committees convened in preparation for the Advisory Committee meeting.
- **Review of Chapter 3 Water Quality and Subsidence Sections:** The Facilitator provided an overview of comments received from the Advisory Committee and the public, comments would be reviewed and addressed as appropriate and updated chapter drafts would be distributed.
- **Presentation and Discussion of Project Management Actions (PMAs) in Scott Valley:** The technical team presented proposed PMAs to the Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Status/Deadline</i>
Matt Parker, on behalf of the GSA, will continue to work with the NCRWQCB to coordinate a potential water quality monitoring program.	Matt Parker	On going
Technical Team to continue to draft GSP content.	Technical Team	April
Technical Team to draft complete draft chapters 3 and 4 and distribute for review.	Technical Team	April

Next Meeting: April 27, 2021/ 3:00 – 6:00 pm. Due to current circumstances surrounding COVID -19 the meeting will again be held online with Zoom technology.

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

MEETING SUMMARY

Call to Order, Agenda Review and Zoom Meeting Platform

The Facilitator introduced herself and welcomed all to the meeting. She reviewed the virtual meeting platform procedures and called the meeting to order.

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Scott Valley Advisory Committee Meeting
MEETING SUMMARY – 3/16/2021**

Review/Approval of Past Meeting Summary

The Facilitator reviewed the previous meeting summary and obtained approval to post the previous meeting summary to the County website.

Review Action Items

The Facilitator reviewed action items from the previous meetings and informed the group that the Technical Team was working to address pertinent action items. Many of the action items had been addressed and would be discussed later in the meeting.

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 provided.

District Staff Updates and Other Announcements

- Matt Parker informed the group that the District had completed a contract with a legal firm to review various materials including chapter sections that the AC has reviewed.
- Pat Vellines provided updates on the CA Groundwater Bulletin 118 2020 Update, new resources posted to the DWR SGMA website, and Prop 68 funding and awards.

Review of Chapter 3 Water Quality and Subsidence Sections

The Facilitator indicated that the Draft Chapter 3 sections had been provided for initial public comment and comments were received and cataloged. Comments primarily were categorized under three topics: the definition of the monitoring network and future expansion, water quality constituents of concern, and consideration of the adjudicated and non-adjudicated zones. The Facilitator reviewed the comment incorporation process; comments are received and cataloged then the technical team discusses substantive comments and incorporates changes.

Chapter sections that currently only have placeholders are being finalized and will be released for review. A midsummer timeline was proposed for distribution and review of the entire document (all chapters). The Facilitator indicated that materials will be distributed per the interested parties list and would be posted to County website.

Discussion to coordinate between GSA and other groups on additional water quality monitoring to address data gaps followed. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) indicated they have funding available to perform laboratory analysis of water quality samples and are working with Matt Parker and the GSA to organize a program and sampling locations. This laboratory analysis would help identify data gaps and inform future monitor required as part of the GSP. This water quality monitoring effort will be defined as a management action in the GSP.

Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Scott Valley Advisory Committee Meeting
MEETING SUMMARY – 3/16/2021

Presentation and Discussion of Project Management Actions (PMAs) Scott Valley

The technical team presented on Projects and Management Actions (PMAs) that will be proposed and included in Chapter 4 of the GSP. Implementation of the proposed PMAs would help the basin achieve its interconnect surface water sustainability goal.

Each of the proposed PMAs has two fundamental goals: 1) to help achieve the defined thresholds of the Interconnected Surface Water SMC , and 2) to prevent future degradation of currently stable water table conditions.

The technical team presented the PMA components as required by SGMA regulations and the methodology of developing PMAs for Scott Valley. PMAs are categorized by type: demand management, supply augmentation, (stream) habitat improvements, and recharge. The categories are further organized into prioritization tiers (1-existing, 2-near term or in first 5 years of implementation, 3-future or in years following first 5 years). Projects that were recently completed in the basin but that benefit defined sustainability criteria are described in Chapter 2.

The technical team indicated that the GSA role in implementing PMAs can be highly variable (advisory, planning, meeting).

The technical team stepped through the outlined PMAs. Both Advisory Committee members and public participants provided feedback on defined PMAs and additional details. Discussion captured below.

The group discussed how DWR will evaluate proposed PMAs. DWR is looking to see PMAs written into the plan to determine whether the GSA is prepared to act in situations when negative outcomes need to be avoided. The GSP will include all potential PMAs, but not all are required to be implemented. The GSA can be strategic in its implementation plan to achieve SMC thresholds.

In discussing PMAs, the group discussed the importance of the monitoring network and future expansion. Monitoring network design should be strategic to ensure it provides appropriate and necessary data for future needs. The technical team agreed that monitoring network is an important factor in accurately evaluating PMA benefits.

The Advisory Committee noted that implementation of multiple smaller projects would provide cumulative benefits.

The group discussed and brainstormed PMAs. Main discussion points are captured below:

- The Advisory Committee provided support of Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) and In-lieu Recharge projects. The Advisory Committee discussed the need to identify willing participants to better quantify project benefits. The technical team indicated that this will be necessary, but not needed immediately.

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Scott Valley Advisory Committee Meeting
MEETING SUMMARY – 3/16/2021**

- Reservoir storage should be considered to augment instream flows. To avoid water quality – particularly temperature - issues, it was proposed to consider reservoir storage water for irrigation in lieu of groundwater pumping (in lieu recharge).
- Modernization of irrigation systems and efficiency improvements. Important to understand what types of crops can be irrigated via LESA, pasture cannot due to likely damage caused by livestock. Also, some center pivots are outdated and operating very inefficiently and need updates.
- Cofferdams should be considered in cases where BDAs would not work, as BDAs have caused property damage in the past.
- Recontouring of stream beds to increase flow and fish passage.
- Water leasing was discussed whether to be considered a long-term solution.
- Potential of converting agricultural land to lower ET crops, for example sugar beets.
- Pumping management may have to adapt to dry years by utilizing less water.
- Consider ecological feasibility of increasing floodplain area to allow of fish access to floodplains. It was discussed that in the past contractors have increased floodplain area by removing gravel (occurring from 1970s-2000s). In general, the group agreed that increase in fish habitat would be positive.

The technical team emphasized that PMAs will be implemented in an adaptive management framework.

Meeting Adjourns

The Facilitator indicated that the substance of this discussion will be written up in Chapter 4. She then provided closing comments and thanked everyone for their participation and thoughtful discussion.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Advisory Committee Members

Brandon Fawaz, Private pumper
Tom Menne, Scott Valley Irrigation District
Crystal Robinson, Quartz Valley Tribe
Drew Braugh, CalTrout, Environmental/Conservation
Paul Sweezey, Member-at-Large
Michael Stapleton, Residential
Jason Finley, Private Pumper

Absent Committee Members

Bill Beckwith, Fort Jones, Municipal/City
Tom Jopson, Private Pumper

District Staff

Matt Parker, County of Siskiyou Natural Resources Specialist

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Scott Valley Advisory Committee Meeting
MEETING SUMMARY – 3/16/2021**

Technical Team

Dr. Laura Foglia, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates
Dr. Thomas Harter, UC Davis
Claire Kouba, UC Davis
Kelsey McNeill, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates

Agency Staff

Bryan McFaddin, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Eli Scott, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Janae Scruggs, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jessica Boyt, Department of Water Resources
Pat Vellines, Department of Water Resources
Chris Watt, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Shari Whitmore, National Marine Fisheries Service
Joe Croteau, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Alex Sweat, State Water Resources Control Board

Facilitator

Katie Duncan, Stantec
Elizabeth Simon, Stantec

Members of the public

Leah Easley, Watermaster District
Jack Rice
Betsy Stapleton
Charnna Gilmore
Joshua Saxon, Karuk Tribe
Giuliano Galdi
Susan Fricke, Karuk Tribe
Bonny Nichols, Watermaster District
Preston Harris
Toz Soto, Karuk Tribe
Earl Crosby, Karuk Tribe
Jeff Fowle
Grant Johnson, Karuk Tribe

Blair Hart
Theo Johnson
Jim Morris