

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Shasta Valley Advisory Committee Meeting
MEETING SUMMARY – 3/17/2021**

Meeting date/time: March 17, 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:** Public provided general comments on the SGMA and GSP development process.
- **District Staff and Other Announcements:** Matt Parker announced that a legal team had been contracted with to advise the GSA on GSP development. Pat Vellines shared updates on various resources materials that had been recently made available by DWR.
- **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.
- **Interconnected Surface Water Sustainable Management Criteria Proposal:** The technical team presented the initial interconnected surface water SMC proposal.
- **Presentation and Discussion of Modeled Scenarios:** Technical team reviewed initial model scenarios.

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 28, 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.

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Call to Order, Agenda Review and New Online Meeting Platform

The Facilitator welcomed participants and thanked all for joining. She reviewed Zoom Platform features and protocol, called the meeting to order, and reviewed the agenda.

Review/Approval of Past Meeting Summary

The Facilitator obtained approval to post the February Meeting Summary to County Webpage.

Review Action Items

The Facilitator notified the meeting members that the relevant parties were working to address February AC Meeting Action Items.

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. The public voiced concerned about residential representation on the committee. Also, a request was made that all meeting materials, included presentation slides, were requested to be distributed prior to the meeting.

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

Facilitator announced that Chapter 3 Sections had been posted for public review; many comments had been received and there would be opportunity for comment on additional sections. Comments received were primarily categorized under three topics: the definition of the monitoring network and future expansion, water quality constituents of concern, and other. Other included comments suggesting language to emphasize local action and control, defining allowable subsidence trends, and roles and responsibilities of various agencies in the basin. 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.

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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.

Interconnected Surface Waters Sustainable Management Criteria Proposal

The technical team presented on a proposed interconnected surface water SMC. The technical team acknowledge the interconnectivity of the Shasta River and the groundwater system and explained that quantifying groundwater vs. surface water inputs in the Shasta River system is complicated. In general, there is a lack of high-quality data to inform flow metrics.

The technical team proposes to define the interconnected surface water SMC by calculating baseflow contributions for specific segments of the Shasta River. *Impaired baseflow contribution is the amount of groundwater contributing to the river system during irrigation season.* This SMC is designed to be adaptive and to be refined during subsequent 5 year check-ins.

The technical team reviewed calculation examples and walked through the SMC approach and definition including data sources, monitoring locations, and assumptions. The technical team coordinated closely with the water master to obtain data related to surface water diversions in an effort to better quantify groundwater contributions to the system.

The group discussed the proposed SMC. Main discussion points are listed below:

- Advisory Committee asked why gross diversion numbers were being used instead of accounting for tailwater, net consumptive use, applied water, etc. The technical team indicated that there is limited data related to these variables and there is currently not a way to accurately quantify these variables.
- Advisory Committee discussed the defined minimum threshold and expressed concern that it was set too high. Minimum threshold is set at 100 cfs, and impaired flows for August in 2020 were calculated to be 90 cfs.
- An Advisory Committee member that current flows do not allow for full allocation of current water rights and environmental needs. Therefore, flow threshold cannot be set lower than it already is because the current levels are not sufficient. Request to define threshold for individual water-year types.
- Clarification on impaired flow and SMC calculation was provided. An Advisory Committee member noted that the impaired baseflow calculation allows for the

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potential of zero outflow. Having streamflow is essential and so the technical team should re-evaluate this approach.

$$\textit{Impaired Baseflow} = \textit{Outflow} - \textit{Inflow} + \textit{Diversions}$$

- An Advisory Committee member indicated that the existing data is only available for one gauge and indicated that direct measurements and comprehensive data are critical to understanding basin conditions and achieving sustainability. The use of models may not portray the complete picture of what is happening. The technical team noted this concern and re-emphasized that they are working with limited data and must define SMCs with available information. The SMC definition can be adaptive and refined in future updates. Matt Parker indicated that the technical team has endeavored to set up a starting point from which more refined and detailed metrics can be incorporated. SGMA is a tool to build to a watershed wide goal.
- Advisory Committee discussed the consideration of what flow levels are sufficient for desired fish habitat and whether those flows would be built into the SMC. ~~An Advisory Committee member~~ A member of the public voiced that there is currently no prescribed in-stream minimum flow for the Shasta River and current goal of GSA is to define such a flow. ~~Members of the group discussed~~ and that current conditions are unacceptable for fish habitat and recommended referencing other programs in the state (San Joaquin River Restoration Program) as guidance for setting minimum flows.

In general, the Advisory Committee ~~agreed with the approach, especially given the limited data and complexity of the system, however most members~~ needed more time to think about the proposed thresholds and approach. Advisory Committee members emphasized the need to submit a successful GSP on time, use best available data, and set-up the GSA for success in implementing the plan which includes being competitive for available funding.

Present agency representative voiced that they would need to review the material in order to comment but were encouraged by the discussion that was occurring during the meetings. Public indicated that they were happy with the process and the technical team was doing a good job with the information they have available and voiced that the SGMA effort would not solve the problem alone, but concurrent efforts and implementation of multi-benefit projects would help the basin and watershed as a whole reach sustainability.

Meeting Adjourns

The facilitator, technical team, and Matt Parker thanked everyone for their participation and feedback.

MEETING ATTENDEES

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Advisory Committee Members

Justin Sandahl, Shasta River Waters Users Association
John Tannaci, Residential
Justin Holmes, Edson-Foulke Ditch Company
Blair Hart, Private Pumper
Lisa Faris, Big Springs Irrigation District
Steve Mains, Grenada Irrigation District
Tristan Allen, Montague Water Conservation District
Gregg Werner, Environmental/Conservation

Absent Committee Members

Robert Moser, Municipal/City (Lake Shastina Community District)
Pete Scala, Private Pumper

District Staff

Matt Parker, County of Siskiyou Natural Resources Specialist

Technical Team

Dr. Laura Foglia, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates
Dr. Thomas Harter, UC Davis
Cab Esposito, 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
Kevin DeLano, State Water Resources Control Board

Facilitator

Katie Duncan, Stantec
Elizabeth Simon, Stantec

Members of the public

Angelina Cook
Ayn Perry
Brad Gooch
Brandy Caporaso
Dave Webb
Ethan Brown, Shasta RCD

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Grant Johnson, Karuk Tribe
Linda Webb
Nick Joslin
Theo Whitcomb
Ginger Sammito
Leah Easley, Watermaster District
Steve Griset