

Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Shasta Valley Advisory Committee Meeting
Draft Meeting Summary

Wednesday October 25, 2023, 2:00 – 5:00 P.M.
In-person at the Siskiyou Transit and General Express (STAGE) Station or online via Zoom

Action Items:

- Laura Foglia, Larry Walker and Associates (LWA), will let the group know how many of the wells in Shasta are monitoring wells.
- Marisa Perez-Reyes, Stantec, to follow up with Matt Parker, Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and Laura regarding information on the previous in person public workshop that was held, to support successful planning for a late winter/early spring workshop in 2024.

Attachments/Links:

- PowerPoint Presentation Slides (attached)

Attendees: See last page

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Call to Order, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Chair John Tannaci conducted a roll call to establish quorum after calling the Shasta Valley Advisory Committee Meeting to order at 2:06 PM. Matt Parker, Siskiyou County GSA staff, welcomed attendees, reviewed the Agenda, and called attention to virtual attendees. Meeting attendance is provided on the last page.

2. Approval of Past Meeting Summary

Chair Tannaci presented the August 31, 2023 meeting summary for the Committee's approval. The minutes were approved without additional edits, with Committee members Grant Johnson and Gregg Werner motioning and seconding, respectively, for approval of the notes.

3. Public Comment Period on Non-Agenda Items, including Non-Agenda Updates from Committee Members and Other Agencies

Members of the public and representatives from other agencies were invited to provide comments unrelated to meeting agenda items and updates from their agencies, respectively.

A Committee Member inquired about the status of the well ordinance. Matt indicated that an update on that would be provided during a later agenda item.

4. DWR Updates

Alyse Briody, California Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff, reported that DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Program awards from the latest solicitation of applications had been finalized. The Financial Assistance Branch of DWR is currently working to draft the agreements for the awards and is hoping to complete and execute them soon.

5. District Staff Updates

Matt provided updates on the status of the vacant Committee seat, the status of coordination with the State Water Board about minimum instream flows, and other GSA business. In those updates, he noted that there were no new updates to provide regarding well permitting aside from the information that was provided to the group at the August 23, 2023 meeting. There is a Board of Directors meeting slated for November 14 on the topic where Laura will present on a potential tool for developing well permits. This group will be sent a reminder when the Board's agenda is ready, should they want to attend or listen in.

Matt noted that Rob Moser is no longer with Lake Shastina, and thus, will no longer be participating in this Committee. Additionally, there is a vacancy on the Committee for a municipal water user and a private pumper located west of Interstate 5. There will be an open call for applications from interested parties to fill the vacancies beginning in mid-November. Applications will be accepted until the end of December. Applications submitted will be presented to the Board for review and possible approval in January. As an aside, Matt said there are also

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vacancies on the Butte Valley Committee, but Scott Valley is full. (At the time of this meeting summary's development, that is no longer the case and a private pumper seat is open in Scott Valley.)

6. Technical Team Presentation

The technical team presented several updates to the group, including groundwater basin conditions for 2023, the region's geological modeling, and the final SGM grant awards, as well as a report-out from the ad hoc meeting on monitoring network expansion that was convened on October 17, 2023.

Laura shared about the visualized groundwater level data for 2023 and noted that some well data have been quality controlled and shared with the State Water Resources Control Board already.

Monitoring Wells

Shasta Valley has 19 wells that are measured continuously. The data is collected in 15-minute intervals, which takes some time to clean up and analyze. The technical team is translating that into a weekly format to make the data easier to digest.

In addition to those wells, there are 18 California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) wells that are monitored twice per year. While the other wells aren't calibrated to the CASGEM wells, the data from all can be included in the model. There are many areas across the basin where adding wells would help to help fill data gaps, including the communities of Montague, Grenada, and Gazelle to name a few.

SGM Awards

DWR has awarded \$3,462,800 to support SGMA compliance and implementation of the Shasta Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP):

- \$200,000 for the evaluation of fee or rate options, parcel-specific groundwater use and supply, fee or rate schedule development, and economic analysis.
- \$150,000 to support a well inventory, including development of the inventory, a risk assessment and mitigation program, and a database, and construction or instrumentation of wells. The team is requesting voluntary Committee support for the development and operation of a subgroup dedicated to this effort. The group would be comprised of Committee volunteers from the Shasta Valley, Butte Valley, and Scott Valley groups and the intent would be to discuss the most successful methods for conducting public outreach and engagement (e.g., surveys, emails, weekly contact, monthly contact) to increase the technical team's chances for success.
 - The technical team requires a number of data points from the public to accomplish this task, including which parcel their well is in, the type of well, well depth, and if or how often the well is used. Balancing the need for robust and consistent amounts of information with the need to make this process convenient and non-invasive for respondents is key. A successful approach may be to start with a limited number of questions and later request follow up information once respondents are engaged. Laura shared about a preliminary dry well survey that was distributed in Butte Valley and received a 30% response rate. Distribution methods for the survey can include posting a flyer at gas stations, post offices, and other public locations.
- \$670,000 for a groundwater-surface water connectivity study, including design, permitting, planning, instrumentation, monitoring, and data analysis.
- \$500,000 for uplands management, which is meant for studying land/forest management and using the model to study scenarios focused on how the watershed responds to various forest management methods. This task includes project planning and design, data collection, and data analysis and reporting.

Model Updates

The ad hoc group to discuss methods to address data gaps, including interconnected surface waters, met on October 17, 2023. Laura shared about the various updates to the model that are either planned or in progress. See the PowerPoint presentation for details.

Laura noted that Scott Valley received funds to investigate ditches, and they will translate applicable findings here.

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- A Committee member said that rain comes with a lot of wind in Shasta and asked if the group should account for immediate evaporation or perhaps look at net rainfall rather than gross rainfall. Laura responded that they will be getting closer to the point where the model can provide better information on this and other related topics. She said she would let the group know how many wells in Shasta Valley are monitoring wells, and said there are opportunities to install more monitoring wells. The technical team agreed with a suggestion from the Committee that installing wells in groups as opposed to one at a time is more expedient.

Key metrics the monitoring wells will evaluate are potential sources for groundwater recharge (for example, springs and ditch infiltration). The technical team highlighted that the grant funds available do not cover expenses to drill new wells, but rather cover the use of existing, inactive wells. LWA is also using pesticide test data to evaluate groundwater quality conditions.

Available Data

The updated PRMS and AEM data are available for Shasta Valley, and the team is using it to incorporate automatic updates to extend model into the new water year. AEM data can be difficult to interpret between granite or basalt with gravel due to their similar resistivity values. The technical team are working directly with the team that collected DWR's AEM data to clarify what they can.

As for the PRMS, the team is incorporating local monitoring stations from the California Data Exchange Center and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with the Practical, Robust Implementation and Sustainability Model, which will include precipitation, temperature, and snowpack information. Laura shared about various calibration efforts. Their goal is to use local data to groundtruth everything.

Mobile Irrigation Lab

A land efficiency study opportunity has arisen through the mobile irrigation lab (MIL). It will evaluate agricultural irrigation systems. The technical team could get a list of available farmers, and the lead for the MIL will work from that list at a rate of two farms per day to help them gain a better understanding of their systems. If this is something this group and the surrounding community would like to pursue, they would need to book the MIL's time sooner rather than later so that the lab's lead isn't booked up by other priorities. Information collected by the MIL can feed into the model as well.

The MIL lead is willing to come up to the basin in January to explain how the MIL process works and begin conducting farm and irrigation efficiency assessments. The group will send out a flyer for an in-person presentation. The technical team is also connecting with a similar group in the Corning Subbasin that can serve as a back-up if MIL's capacity is limited.

A Committee member commented that the group's GSP update should incorporate this as a management action.

7. Update on Strategy Document and 2024 Facilitation Support Activities

Marisa Perez-Reyes, Stantec Consulting, provided an update on the final Multi-Basin Management Strategy Document and an overview of planned activities for 2024.

Multi-Basin Management Strategy Document

In the fall of 2022, Stantec interviewed members of the Advisory Committees and GSA Board and conducted a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) analysis. The SWOT analysis, Vision Statement, Goals, and Strategies were presented to the GSA Board in winter 2022/2023 and the Committees in spring 2023. The Tactics/Actions were presented to the GSA Board in summer 2023, after which, Stantec finalized the plan. The Board is slated to adopt the final document at an upcoming meeting. The goal of the overall decision-making process is to clarify decision making roles and responsibilities within the GSA and the support processes that inform GSP implementation. Marisa proceeded to review each of the decision-making goals along with each goal's strategies, and near term or long-term tactics for success. There were no comments or questions from the Committee on the goals, strategies, or tactics outlined.

2024 Facilitation Support Activities

Marisa then outlined the 2024 activities approved through the SGMA Facilitation Support Services Program. That support includes multi-basin support in the form of a governance summary and agency and interagency meetings;

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continuing facilitation of the Committee, ad hoc, and public meetings; engagement with Shasta Indian Nation and the Karuk Tribe; and development of informational materials, including newsletters, a website audit, and a Communications and Engagement Plan Update.

- Grant Johnson commented that a public workshop focused on why groundwater monitoring in some of the locations proposed by the technical team might be beneficial next year. Marisa asked what the appropriate timeline for that would be and Chair Tannaci responded that usually January or February would work best with the schedules of the nearby schools as well as ranchers and irrigators.
 - Laura noted that the well inventory would be a good discussion topic for the meeting, also, and that previous workshops had been conducted in November or February.
- Tristan Allen expressed a desire for the Committee to not lose momentum and interest from the public. Another mentioned the rate/fee study may generate renewed interest in engaging with the GSA.
- Committee members remember the area's last public workshop was for all three subbasins and was held at the Miner's Inn in Yreka, prior to COVID.
- Matt expressed appreciation for the conversation and said the team would contemplate the next best steps.
- Laura mentioned that a fee study may be the best course of action and that perhaps an educational workshop would suffice at this time.
- Marisa will follow up with Matt and Laura to learn more about the previous in-person public workshop that was conducted.

8. Updates on Groundwater Related Projects not led by the GSA

No updates were provided at this time.

9. Committee Member Discussion

Matt will keep the group apprised of when the next Advisory Committee meeting will be held, and said it would likely be on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday in the final week of either January or February.

In response to the technical team's call for volunteers to support development and operation of a Well Inventory Ad Hoc Group, Tristan volunteered his time and Chair Tannaci said he would be happy to be considered an optional participant.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.

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MEETING PARTICIPANTS:

* online participant

Advisory Committee Members Present:

Grant Johnson, Vice-Chair
Gregg Werner
John Tannaci, Chair
Lisa Faris
Tristan Allen

Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Blair Hart
Justin Holmes
Justin Sandahl
Steve Mains

Agency Staff and Members of the Public:

Alyse Briody, California Department of Water Resources
Angelina Cook, California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance
David Webb, Friends of Shasta River
Ethan Brown, Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District
Janae Scruggs, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kyle Mattingly, Larry Walker and Associates
Linda Söller, UC Davis
Nick Joslin, Mt Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center

Project Team:

Haydee Yonamine, Stantec
Kelsey McNeill, Larry Walker and Associates
Khandriale Clark, Stantec
Laura Foglia, Larry Walker and Associates
*Marisa Perez-Reyes, Stantec
Matt Parker, GSA Staff
Olin Applegate, Larry Walker and Associates