

Corning Subbasin Advisory Board

September 1, 2021, 1:30 – 4:00 pm

Meeting #17 Meeting Summary

Pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Orders N-29-20, this meeting was conducted by teleconference/webinar.

Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

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Webinar: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/577971581>

Telephone: +1 (872) 240-3212

Meeting Access Code: 577-971-581

1. Welcome and Introductions

At 1:30 p.m., Julie Leimbach (Ms. Leimbach), facilitator for the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB), called the meeting to order.

Roll call

Nichole Bethurem (Ms. Bethurem) and Lisa Hunter (Ms. Hunter) took the roll call for the CSAB Members.

Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (TCFCWCD)

- Bob Williams - aye
- David Lester - aye
- Steven Gruenwald - aye

Alternate:

- Ian Turnbull – aye

Corning Sub-basin GSA (CSGSA)

- Julia Violich - aye
- Grant Carmon - no
- Brian Mori – arrived during agenda item #5

Alternate:

- John Amaro - aye

Agenda Review, Review of Groundrules

Ms. Leimbach welcomed meeting participants to the seventeenth CSAB meeting. She reviewed the agenda and reminded attendees that CSAB meetings are following Brown Act guidelines. To access the meeting materials, please go to September 1, 2021 CSAB Meeting Presentation.

2. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

The CSAB received comments from the public for items not on the agenda.

- Latisha Miller (Ms. Miller) – I am attending with Chris Payne, representing the Rolling Hills Casino. I live in Butte County. Recently, landowning farmers are applying for their own GSAs to monopolize the water resources. I am finding out that it is the Mormon Church that is buying up a lot of properties. I am concerned that this is also happening in Tehama County. Tribes have first rights, and so I am concerned about this effort to monopolize water.

3. Action Item: Approval of the Meeting Summary

CSAB Discussion

There were no CSAB comments at this time.

Public Comment

Members of the public made the following comments:

- Ms. Miller – Asked that we explain any acronyms in meetings and meeting summaries.

Bob Williams (Mr. Williams) made the motion: *The CSAB approves the CSAB August Meeting Summary.*
David Lester (Mr. Lester) seconded the motion.

Ms. Leimbach opened the CSAB debate on this motion, and hearing no further debate, she called a vote.

Roll call vote:

TCFCWCD

- Bob Williams – aye
- David Lester – aye
- Steve Gruenwald – aye

CSGSA

- Julia Violich – aye
- John Amaro – aye

The Board unanimously approved the motion with a 5-0 vote.

4. GSA Updates

Ms. Bethurem and Ms. Hunter reported to the CSAB on the TCFCWCD and CSGSA, respectively.

TCFCWCD

- Last week, TCFCWCD organized public webinars for the adjacent Tehama County subbasins. They are recorded and uploaded to the District's website in the library section.
- TCFCWCD approved the notice to adopt the GSP, posted the notice, and emailed interested parties.
- TCFCWCD will be hosting workshops on Nov. 8th and 9th to receive comments on the Draft GSP. Please email Nichole Bethurem (Ms. Bethurem) to sign up for interested parties.

CSGSA

- At the last meeting, the CSGSA did not have a quorum, so the CSGSA took no action. The CSGSA discussed priority actions for plan implementation and data gaps similar to what you heard at the last CSAB meeting. They also discussed interbasin coordination and outreach and engagement.
- Highlights of the discussion on preferred approaches for funding mechanisms will be deferred to when we discuss that topic again in this venue.
- CSGSA recently received correspondence from westside landowners related to their concerns regarding the funding mechanism for GSP implementation. The communications will be shared with the CSGSA.

CSAB Discussion

There were no CSAB comments at this time.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

5. Review and Release Final Draft GSP

Review Status and Next Steps for Final Draft GSP

Ms. Porta reviewed the Corning Subbasin GSP development update. She said the GSP development team is on track to finalize the draft in the next 10 days to meet the target release date.

Ms. Porta thanked everyone for their input that was vital for developing the GSP. She listed groups from which the team received data and technical feedback, including water districts, Orland Unit Water Users Association, Stony Creek Watermaster, County RCDs, City of Corning, and various members of the public.

Ms. Porta went over the schedule for release of the Public Draft GSP and review period as follows:

- September 1st – Respond to any remaining comments and CSAB vote to release the draft.
- September 10th – Release Corning Subbasin GSP Public Draft for a 45-day public review.
- October 25th – Deadline for Public Review period. This was originally noted as October 22nd but has since been corrected.

Ms. Porta outlined the methods for providing comments during the Public Draft GSP Review period. Comments should be submitted to the GSA staff. Excel and PDF comment forms can be accessed at the corningsubbasingsp.org website or GSA staff will email the form to interested parties if requested.

Comment may be submitted by:

- Email the comment form or provide a general comment via email, or print the PDF comment form and fill it out, or submit a written general comment and mail it to the GSA staff office.

GSA Staff

Ms. Hunter thanked everyone for their feedback throughout GSP development. The comments were heard and incorporated as much as possible into the document. This is a beginning point and it's meant to be adjusted and adapted along the way. We have done the best we can with the information that is available. The GSP is ready for release for public review.

Ms. Bethurem echoed Ms. Hunter's comments and thanked everyone for their contributions and hard work on developing the GSP.

CSAB Discussion

Comments on GSP to make it ready for public review.

- Steve Gruenwald (Mr. Gruenwald) – Are we going to get a chance to see Section 8 prior to release of the draft?
 - Ms. Porta – There shouldn't be anything in Section 8 that will be a surprise or new.
 - Today is the day to approve the release because we don't have another meeting until October 10th.
- Julia Violich (Ms. Violich) – Since the draft is coming out on the 10th, could we have something in our hands on the 7th? Would like to be able to review Section 8 and the Executive Summary before it goes public. I want to thank everyone as well. I am very grateful for all the hard work, and especially Ms. Hunter for answering questions offline.
 - Ms. Porta – GSA staff are currently reviewing the Executive Summary. We could still have the action item to release next week but pending your review and input so we can make sure we incorporate your comments. It would be a very quick turnaround - like 2 days.
 - Ms. Violich – we can still vote to approve the draft, but we want to have some review before it is released.
- Brian Mori (Mr. Mori) – It would be nice to have the initial review of the remaining draft sections before it is released. What is the CSAB role during the Public Review period?
 - Ms. Porta – We are not going to have a CSAB meeting in October. Instead, we will have a couple of public workshops. CSAB members are welcome to take another look at the sections to make sure their comments were incorporated. We also encourage CSAB members to reach out to their stakeholders to let them know about the GSP and collect any feedback from stakeholders that we can discuss at the next CSAB meeting November 10th.

Public Comment

- Tamara Williams (Ms. Williams) – Where will the Draft GSP be available to the public? Will there be a hard copy at the library or the water district?
 - Ms. Hunter – We will print a hardcopy and it will be available at the Planning and Community Development Services Agency office in Willows.
 - Ms. Bethurem – We will have a copy at the Public Works office. We can make a copy available at the City Hall or the Library.
 - Ms. Williams - Yes, I would appreciate that. It would be consistent with the public outreach. The public needs to know where they can locate these documents.

- Matt Brady (Mr. Brady) – The 45-day comment period might be short if it is October 22. The full 45 days would be October 25. Are the other adjacent basins on the same schedule for the public review period.
 - Ms. Porta – I will change the deadline to October 25 to make it a full 45-day public review period.
 - Ms. Bethurem – Yes, we will be releasing the other Tehama subbasin GSPs.
- Ms. Miller – If the tribe hasn't had a chance to comment, will we have a chance to comment?
 - Ms. Porta – Yes, the Tribe is invited to provide comments during this 45-day public comment period.
- Jaime Lely (Ms. Lely) – In the last meeting, there was a lot of discussion about how to fund the GSP. I am assuming this Section 8 is where that will be addressed. Where are they headed with that since there was not one direction and no decisions were made yet?
 - Ms. Porta – Section 8 only includes the activities that are required during GSP implementation during the first five years. It will include some rough cost estimates. There is no decision on funding mechanisms yet. This was intentional because the development of this mechanism is under the GSP implementation. Decisions will be made next year sometime once they have more information and legal review.

Possible Action Item

Mr. Gruenwald made the motion to approve the release of the Draft GSP for a 45-day public review on September 10th on the condition that the CSAB has three days to review and comment on Section 8 and the Executive Summary. Mr. Mori seconded the motion. Ms. Leimbach restated the motion and opened it to public comment.

Ms. Leimbach opened the motion to Board debate. Hearing no comments from the CSAB members, she called a vote.

Vote:

TCFCWCD

- Bob Williams - aye
- David Lester - aye
- Steven Gruenwald - aye

CSGSA

- Julia Violich - aye
- Brian Mori – aye
- John Amaro – aye

The Board unanimously approved the motion with a 6-0 vote.

6. Review Outreach Activities

Stephanie Horii (Ms. Horii) and Mariana Torres (Ms. Torres), Consensus Building Institute, reviewed the recent outreach activities and clarifying questions from the July meeting.

Clarify Questions from July Meeting

Ms. Horii and Ms. Torres reviewed the proposed outreach activities including responses to some questions that arose in the July CSAB meeting.

Ms. Torres reviewed a potential framework for neighboring basins to coordinate during GSP implementation. The menu of interbasin coordination topics and activities include: 1) Information sharing, 2) Joint analysis & evaluation, 3) Coordination on mutually beneficial activities, 4) Coordinated communication and outreach, and 5) Issue-resolution process.

Provide Information on Upcoming Public Workshop During GSP Public Review Period

Ms. Horii provided information on upcoming public workshops during GSP Public Review Period.

- Two options/ opportunities for participation
 - Offer in-person and virtual participation opportunities, on separate days
- Tentative timing
 - Week of October 4th – in-person workshop
 - Week of October 11th – online webinar
- Topics/scope
 - Intended to be high-level and non-technical
 - Help orient to the Draft GSP
 - Provide an opportunity to gather public input
 - Provide information on how to comment
 - Information on how to be involved going forward through GSP implementation
- Coming Prepared
 - Develop materials to help attendees prepare

GSA Staff Remarks

The GSA staff had no additional remarks at this time.

CSAB Discussion

- Ms. Violich suggested conducting two in-person meetings and two webinars for the public workshops.
- Mr. Mori – How do you deal in the public comment period with people who are late to the game and don't understand the basic principles. If they haven't been engaged to this point, how do we document their comments?
 - Ms. Porta – We will have to see what comments we get. This is the beginning of a longer process. Even though this GSP will be adopted, it is an open document; it will be revised every 5 years. There are plenty of opportunities to adapt. Anytime is a good time to start getting engaged in the process. It will be a collective effort to get participants engaged.
 - Ms. Horii - With all of these processes, the expectation is that there are going to be folks that are new. A major objective of these outreach materials is to help those folks as much as possible. We want to help people understand the meaning of this process and why they should care, and how they can be involved. All submitted comments are documented and the GSA will identify how their comments are being considered.
 - Ms. Porta - It is not a requirement, but we will do our best.
 - There has been good participation in these meetings. Advisory members represent groups and stakeholders in the subbasin. Through that we have hopefully considered

everyone as best as we could. We didn't just ignore groups if they were not able to participate right now.

- Brian Mori – I agree with you. Is there anything that could bog down this process or disrupt this timeline to wrap up the GSP on time?
 - Ms. Porta – The main item is that the Boards are comfortable with adopting the GSP. It is important the Boards are brought up to speed and they have the information they need to make that decision. Public comment will be taken into consideration at the hearings. Between now and the Board hearings in December, we need good education and outreach.

Public Comment

- Ms. Miller – I know there were probably meetings held. Tad Williams and I are the contacts for the Tribe on anything that has to do with water. I want to be included in this process. The Tribe has first rights, and I am going to assert that law on behalf of the Tribe. I am thankful that you have included the Tribe in this process. How long ago did you start this outreach process?
 - Ms. Horii – I am wondering if Ms. Hunter or Ms. Bethurem would please comment on the timeline?
 - Ms. Hunter – After the passage of SGMA, we started convening to meet about forming the GSA in 2015. Ms. Bethurem could speak better to the tribal piece. This may be a longer conversation outside of this meeting.
 - Ms. Miller – I was elected to the Council in 2014. I understand what is going on, and it won't take a lot of time for me to get caught up. I want to be involved, and I think there are ways the Tribes can get involved in sustainability. I want to reach out to landowners and farmers to discuss traditional land management to offer to help with water sustainability.
 - Mr. Williams - The Paskenta Tribe was at the first meetings in Tehama County. For whatever reason, Tad had not participated in further meetings.
 - Ms. Miller – I stand corrected. When it comes to water I am the contact.
 - Ms. Bethurem – Invited Latisha to contact her outside the CSAB.
 - Ms. Miller – I will be making comments on Latter Day Saints (LDS) Church again. I am finding out that the Church is strategically buying up property where they can control water. They are applying to be a new GSA in that area. That is not right that there are five farmers that will be deciding about water in that area. I suggest using the Central Valley Tribal Advisory Group as an entity through which to do outreach.
 - Mr. Mori – There is another side to this story. I would like to invite you to a meeting to discuss the issue.
 - Ms. Miller – I already know the other side.
- Ms. Williams - It is incredibly important to include people who do not have access to electronic communication in your outreach. I look at my notes from earlier in the year. I see nothing about community marquees. There is a news article coming, and people might see it. The weekly Corning paper is not well subscribed. To serve the underserved group in this process you have to reach out to the users with domestic and small agricultural wells. If we get public outcry, the state might create barriers to approval of the GSP.
 - Ms. Horii – Suggested running a list of potential news outlets by Ms. Williams when they talk outside the meeting.

7. Review Next Steps for GSP Adoption and Implementation

Ms. Porta reviewed the next steps for GSP adoptions and implementation.

Review Schedule of Near-Term Activities

Ms. Porta reviewed the schedule of activities as follows:

- First two weeks of October: public workshops
- October 25th-November 5th – incorporate public comments and finalize GSP
- November 10th – CSAB meeting to review public comments incorporation and CSAB vote on recommendation to adopt Final GSP
- December 2021 – hold GSA board public hearings for GSP adoption
- By January 31st, 2022 – submit final adopted GSP to DWR
- By February 2022 – start GSP implementation
- By April 1st, 2022 – submit first Annual report

It takes a couple weeks to upload the GSP because they require that each section and all Appendices be uploaded using a certain sequence and format. The GSA staff need the month of January to upload the GSP.

Review Expectations for GSP Implementation

Ms. Porta outlined GSP implementation activities in the list below. It is important to note that the funding mechanism for GSP implementation will not be decided until after the GSP is adopted.

- GSA Governance:
 - Review MOU/MOA
 - Subbasin GSA Coordination
 - Budget Planning and Funding Oversight
- Outreach and Coordination:
 - Public Outreach and Notifications
 - Interbasin Coordination
 - CSAB and GSA Committee and Board Meetings
- Monitoring and Reporting
 - Required annual and 5-yr. updates
 - Coordination with DWR
 - Data collection and address data gaps
 - Oversight of consultants or contractors
- Project and Management Actions
 - Grant applications and management
 - Coordinate with partner agencies

It was also noted that the CSAB will continue to function as an appointed advisory board to advise the GSAs during GSP implementation.

GSA Staff

There were no GSA staff remarks at this time.

CSAB Discussion

There were no CSAB comments at this time.

Public Comment

- Ms. Williams – Could you describe in some detail the GSP plan for adoption?
 - Ms. Porta – Yes, slide 24 provides more details on the process and dates for the GSP adoption. We have two GSAs adopting the same GSP.
 - Ms. Williams – What rules apply to those public meetings? Is that dictated by SGMA?
 - Ms. Bethurem – TCFCWCD will host the meeting at the regular meeting time. There will be five separate public hearings on each of the basins' GSPs. We will discuss and then open a formal public comment period. The TCFCWCD will take action on each individually.
 - Ms. Hunter – There will be a very similar process to what Ms. Bethurem described, following general process used at other public hearings.
- Ms. Porta – Thank you for your patience, input, and hard work in reviewing.
- Ms. Hunter – Echoing Lisa Porta's comments. This is a major milestone wrapping up this phase.
- Ms. Bethurem – I echo what both Lisas just said. I am looking forward to seeing people at the in-person workshop.

9. Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Ms. Leimbach thanked Ms. Porta, CSAB members, and the public for participating in this great discussion and adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

Meeting Participants

CSAB Members

- Bob Williams, TCFCWCD (Board Member)
- Brian Mori, CSGSA
- David Lester, TCFCWCD (Groundwater Commissioner)
- Julia Violich, CSGSA
- Steven Gruenwald, TCFCWCD (Private Citizen)

Alternates

- John Amaro, CSAB alternate for CSGSA, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
- Ian Turnbull, CSAB alternate for TCFCWCD, Member of the AB3030 TAC for the District

Other Participants

- Brandon Davison, DWR
- Chris Payne, Rolling Hills Casino
- Erin Smith, DWR
- Holly Dawley, GCID
- Holly Reimers, Member of the Public
- Jaime Lely, landowner
- Jim Simon, Executive Director, TCFCWD
- Kathryn Vogt-Haefelfinger, landowner
- Latisha Miller, Vice-Chair, Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians
- Leros Lane, landowner
- Lisa Humphreys, Glenn County Farm Bureau
- Lisa Hunter, Glenn County Water Resources/CSGSA
- Matt Hansen, landowner
- Matt Brady, Farmland Reserve
- M. Haefelfinger, Member of the Public
- Nichole Bethurem, TCFCWCD
- Ritta Martin, landowner
- Tamara Williams, landowner
- Todd Hamer, Tehama County Groundwater Commission
- Tom Nielsen Jr., Westside Tenant

Consultants and Project Team

- Lisa Porta, Montgomery & Associates
- Julie Leimbach, Kearns & West
- Stephanie Horii, Consensus Building Institute
- Mariana Rivera-Torres, Consensus Building Institute