

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

Meeting date/time: May 30th, 2019 | 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Location: Dorris City Hall, 307 S. Main St., Dorris

Key contacts:

- Matt Parker, County Natural Resources Specialist | mparker@co.siskiyou.ca.us | 530.842.8019
- Rich Wilson, Sacramento State University 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

- **Action Item Update and Approval of Past Meeting Summary.** CCP facilitator Rich Wilson recommended a new process for committee members to review and approve meeting summaries upon distribution of the draft document. The committee agreed to the new approach, which will open up more time in future agendas for substantive groundwater discussions. The committee then approved its April meeting summary, for which there were no outstanding comments or questions.
- **Public Comment.** No comments were received during the initial public comment period. During the course of the meeting members of the public participated in the draft map review exercise, questioned the validity of some of the data and figures that inform the maps, and made inquiries about how the SGMA Technical Team does its work.
- **District Staff and Other Updates.** Matt Parker provided updates on a range of issues, including the GSA Board approval of data collection and well access agreement forms, the committee’s charter, and a Tribal Advisory Committee concept being considered by the Board. The committee formally adopted its charter by consensus.
- **Water Budget, Outreach and Anticipated Next Steps.** The Technical Team provided a presentation, followed by an interactive group exercise, which outlined how a water budget is developed; described key considerations for developing a hydrogeological conceptual model; and allowed committee members to inform the team’s work by viewing various draft area maps, identifying data gaps and potentially incorrect information, and suggesting ways to improve and validate how the maps illustrate current conditions in Butte Valley.
- **Proposition 68 Grant Opportunity.** Matt Parker and Laura Foglia provided a brief update on the Proposition 68 grant opportunity. The committee then conducted an initial brainstorm of potential pilot projects that could be included in the proposal. Matt noted that there may be additional opportunities for the committee to weigh in on the proposal’s final content.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Status/Deadline</i>
Share digital copies of the GSA Board approved data collection agreement and well access forms.	Matt Parker	Complete
When again sharing data and information initially presented in its PPT presentation at the May committee meeting—create bigger, easier to	Technical Team	Prior to next meeting

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understand slides (e.g., diagrams and maps) with legends, graphs and tables.		
Keep the advisory committee informed as the Proposition 68 proposal comes together, and whether or not any additional feedback is needed from committee members. Committee members will provide Matt Parker with any additional project concepts or ideas for consideration in the proposal by.	Matt Parker and Committee Members	June 24 th
Distribute the Butte Valley stakeholder ID chart and adopted charter. Committee members will review the stakeholder ID chart and let Rich Wilson and Matt Parker know if there are any key groups or individuals missing.	Rich Wilson and Committee Members	June 7 th
Provide committee members with digital versions of the draft outreach brochure and all maps shared at the May meeting. Committee members will review the draft Butte Valley outreach brochure and provide feedback by to Laura Foglia (lfoglia@ucdavis.edu or lauraf@lwa.com), with a CC to Matt Parker and Rich Wilson. Committee members will review and provide any additional feedback on draft area maps. The Technical Team will work with Matt Parker, once committee feedback has been received and incorporated on the outreach brochure and draft maps, to post materials on the county website. The Technical Team will 1) seek to validate the 300' groundwater elevation (overdraft) listed in the draft outreach brochure; 2) prepare a 2019 groundwater use estimate map; and 3) prepare a map of apparent streams that require field validation. Committee members will help the Technical Team identify unique or interesting hydrological features across the basin that could be monitored (ongoing).	Matt Parker and Committee Members	June 12 th for brochure feedback June 24 th for proposal ideas
Prepare and distribute the May advisory committee meeting summary and establish a deadline for review by committee members. Committee members will let Rich Wilson and Matt Parker know, by the established deadline, if they have any comments, questions or feedback on the meeting summary. Matt Parker will, if no comments are received, post the meeting summary on the county's website.	Rich Wilson, Matt Parker and Committee Members	By deadline established in distributed summary

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Next meeting: TBD September, 2019 from 3:00 – 5:30pm, Dorris City Hall, 307 S. Main St., Dorris

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

MEETING SUMMARY

Agenda Review, Action Item Update and Approval of Past Meeting Summary

CCP Facilitator Rich Wilson opened the meeting, welcomed all committee members and the public, and briefly reviewed the agenda. He suggested a new approach for the committee to review and provide approval of past meeting summaries as well as stay informed about the status on action items that emerge at each meeting. Moving forward, the facilitation team will send a draft copy of the meeting summary for committee review in the weeks following the meeting. At this time, an established deadline for review and feedback will be set for the committee. If feedback is received, it will be addressed and an updated meeting summary will either be resent or shared at the outset of the following meeting. If no feedback is received, it will be assumed that the summary has been reviewed by the committee, is acceptable in its current condition, and may be posted on the county's website. All committee members supported this new approach. The facilitator noted that the process for drafting, securing committee review and consent, and posting of the summary can be revisited as needed.

Public Comment Period

Time periods for receiving public comment are regularly built into advisory committee meeting agendas. At the outset, members may address the committee on matters not on the consent agenda. During the course of the meeting, time permitting, the public may also comment on any agenda items. No public comment was offered at the outset. During the course of the meeting members of the public weighed in on the mapping exercise, posed questions about the validity of data on some of the draft maps presented, and made a few inquiries about how the SGMA Technical Team does its work.

District Staff and Other Updates

Matt Parker provided updates on a range of issues, including:

Well access agreement and data release form. The GSA Board approved two documents, a well access agreement and data release form, at its May meetings. At the request of a committee member, District staffer Matt Parker pulled up the documents and reviewed them on the projector screen. The forms, he noted, are available to persons interested in providing groundwater elevation data or other water data relevant to GSP development to the District and its SGMA Technical Team as it develops the water budget for Butte Valley. Anyone interested in participating in the volunteer groundwater monitoring network should contact Matt Parker.

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Charter Adoption. The GSA Board, at its May 21st meeting, approved the charter with some minor edits from county counsel. Matt briefly reviewed and described the rationale for the new edits. He also noted that the Board did not approve the use of alternates. Following Matt's update, the committee adopted its charter by consensus.

Tribal Advisory Committee Concept. Based on interest in multiple groundwater basins expressed by several tribes in the Klamath River watershed, the GSA Board has discussed possible formation of a Tribal Advisory Committee to provide advice and recommendations to the Board related to GSP development and SGMA more generally. The Board tasked staff to conduct initial outreach to gauge interest in the concept from different tribes in the area and then report back to the Board at its late June meeting. One committee member asked questions about the committee structure and function, and expressed concern regarding the late timing of when such a committee might start its work. Another inquired about whether the existing Butte committee would need to coordinate with this committee. Still another asked why tribes do not get to participate on the Butte Valley Advisory Committee. Matt clarified that the concept is preliminary, and early outreach is currently being conducted to tribes in the area. He reminded the group that one tribal seat has been filled on the current committee. He stressed to committee members that their input during the GSP development process will not be outweighed by any other committee, and that if another committee is formed it need not slow down the timely work that this committee is currently engaged in.

Water Budget, Outreach and Anticipated Next Steps

Laura Foglia revisited the goals and approach to building the volunteer groundwater monitoring network. She acknowledged the feedback received by the committee at the April meeting, and noted how it informed development of a draft brochure that once approved committee members can use to outreach and recruit volunteer participants in the network. Committee members were tasked to review the draft and provide the Technical Team input by mid-June. Laura and her colleague Bill Rice then introduced a presentation and exercise designed to help inform development of the Butte Valley water budget and hydrogeological conceptual model (HCM). Various draft maps were laid around tables. Committee members reviewed the draft maps and helped refine information and identify or fill data gaps associated with these maps.

Bill answered a few questions from committee members as he described how the Butte Valley water budget and HCM will be developed. Some committee members asked clarifying questions about presented charts while others inquired about how well data informs the water budget. Bill then described how the Technical Team prepared questions associated with each map so that committee members could help the team identify gaps, incorrect information, areas which require additional or otherwise newer data, and any other information based on local knowledge of Butte Valley. He also noted how it would be helpful to identify interesting hydrological features (e.g. Shafter campground) that could be monitored and studied.

Open group discussion followed the map exercise. Key questions and findings that emerged from the exercise included the following:

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- Validate groundwater elevation. A graph in the draft brochure suggests groundwater elevation decline is based on one monitoring well. And some information shows pumping occurs at 300 feet. Pumping in many locations around the valley does not occur below 50 feet. It seems something may be wrong and thus the Technical Team should validate the 300 foot figure. The Technical Team agreed to make the plots also show land surface elevation so as to avoid confusion.
- Acquire updated crop information, and thus improve maps that show crop use type, with information from the Agriculture Commissioners office. (It was noted that the commission may be sensitive to sharing certain information.) . The committee asked the Technical Team to include all the feedback and develop an updated 2019 crop map and land use map.
- Provide the committee an assessment of groundwater inflow into the valley. Then, based on crops grown in Butte Valley, and reference evapotranspiration rates (ETOs), we should be able to get a pretty good sense of the water budget in the valley. The Technical Team responded by nothing that this will be a key element of its work in the months ahead.
- Consider that it may be difficult to estimate the water budget in the valley on surface water because there isn't much here. In response the Technical Team noted that a water budget will be built and include both numbers and outstanding questions for the committee to consider. The team will look at what exchange occurs between the different elements of the system (e.g. soil, aquifer, surface water), how much water comes in, and where it goes.
- Consider reviewing the data from our CIMIS stations in Butte Valley as a means to determine evapotranspiration rates.

Members of the public also offered a few comments after the map exercise, including:

- If we're dealing with here and now, and the most recent maps are 2014, we really need to look at what we're doing today.
- The maps we viewed today make the same mistake of USFS maps. If there's a declivity, it's assumed there's water in that geography. But that's not usually the case. Maybe streams run in spring, but not necessarily throughout the year.
- From my observations, if farmers have a thousand gallons a minute pivot (use), they might run as many days as a grower that has 800 gallons a minute. You can use ETO estimates, but that's not necessarily indicative of what's being put on the ground.
- Somehow the state thinks we are applying 55 inches in Butte Valley. This incorrect information links to today's conversation about the need to validate information that we see on these draft maps.

The Technical Team concluded the discussion by suggesting the group take a few more weeks to look at digital copies of the maps and provide any additional insights in advance of a late June field trip back to the region. The group agreed on sharing the maps on the Siskiyou County website once they are further refined.

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Following the Technical Team discussion, facilitator Rich Wilson reminded the group that the Butte Valley SGMA Communication and Engagement Plan (C&E Plan) will be developed over the summer months. He suggested formation of an ad hoc subcommittee, with the goal of ensuring that local knowledge and insights be brought into the plan development process. However, no members agreed to participate in an ad hoc committee. CCP will therefore prepare draft version of the C&E Plan and present the document for consideration by the advisory committee at its September meeting.

Basin Funding Opportunities and Project Brainstorm

Matt Parker and Laura Foglia revisited and provided an update on the Proposition 68 grant funding opportunity which could benefit Siskiyou County. The county is beginning to construct a proposal that could, if funded, provide a significant amount of supplemental funds to the already partially funded GSP development process. In addition, Matt and Laura noted that perhaps a range of projects could be considered for inclusion in the proposal, with perhaps a particular focus on collecting data and further building a baseline monitoring network. They noted that the Proposition 68 funding opportunity, at this stage, can only support pilot projects, and that implementation funding opportunities may come at a later date. An initial brainstorm with the committee ensued and the following comments and potential project ideas were put forward:

- Consider Meiss Lake, and possibly Butte Creek, as a recharge opportunities
- Consider juniper removal as a means to bring springs back
 - NRCS already taking out juniper on east side
 - Make sure funds are also available to continue to control juniper growth
- Consider how USFS burns off grasslands
 - Sage brush management on national grasslands
- Acquire moisture monitoring devices and distribute among interested growers
- Develop a watershed wide incentive program
- Provide a daily email that shares ETO will growers in the area
- Maybe still consider using Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR)
- Purchase equipment that helps improve understanding of the basin's current groundwater conditions
- Install more groundwater monitoring wells

Laura summarized the brainstorm by noting that any Proposition 68 funds acquired will help address shortfalls in the current Proposition 1 budget that supports the Technical Team's work. The team hopes to have at least 20 wells to monitor (currently there are two continues wells and 10 CASGEM wells in the network.) She also noted that soil moisture sensors will be utilized and that the Proposition 68 proposal will likely consider a range of possible pilot projects. Matt reminded the group that this was an initial brainstorm, and that there may be additional opportunities for the committee to provide input on the proposal. He concluded by noting that staff will keep the group informed of proposal submission deadlines as they become more clear.

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One committee member inquired as to whether funding will be available for long-term funding once the GSP is developed. Matt responded by noting that a key goal for the next phase of work is to get devices installed. Ideally future funding will enable long-term monitoring. Laura informed the group that the Technical Team will work on the water budget over the summer months, consider how to improve numbers, and prepare draft material for the committee to review and weigh in on at the September meeting. Finally, it was noted that the September meeting may need to be schedule a few weeks earlier to accommodate the busy fall schedule of strawberry growers.

MEETING ATTENDEES¹

Advisory Committee Members

Richard Nelson (Chair), Private pumper
Don Bowen (Vice Chair), Residential
Carol Mckay, City of Dorris, Municipal/City
Don Crawford, Private pumper
Greg Herman, Private pumper
Patrick Graham, CDFW Butte Valley Wildlife Refuge
Steve Lutz, Butte Valley Irrigation District
Steve Albaugh, Private pumper

Absent Committee Members

Sami Jo Difuntorum, Shasta Nation (Tribal representative)

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/Larry Walker Associates
Bill Rice, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates
Gaby Castellon, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates
Cab Esposito, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates

UC Davis Extension

Giuliano Galdi

Facilitator

Rich Wilson, Sacramento State University – Consensus and Collaboration Program

¹ Approximately a half dozen members of the public attended the meeting.