

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

Meeting date/time: January 22nd, 2018 | 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Location: Ft. Jones Community Hall, 11960 East rd., Ft. Jones

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.** District staffer Matt Parker provided a status update on action items from the December Advisory Committee (committee) meeting. Facilitator Rich Wilson (Sacramento State University – Consensus and Collaboration Program or CCP) inquired if members had any outstanding questions or comments on the December meeting summary. None were received and therefore the final meeting summary was approved.
- **Public Comment.** No comments were received during the initial public comment period. A few were made at various times during the meeting, with most focusing on potential IRWM project plans and expected outputs.
- **District Staff and Other Updates.** Matt Parker provided updates on future Brown Act training opportunities, Form 700 and the status of the voluntary well survey. Preston Harris provided the latest update on the IRWM grant proposal.
- **Technical Team Updates and Science Coordination Opportunities.** The SGMA Technical Team is preparing a data management plan for consideration by the committee, and to organize information for future annual reporting required by SGMA. A surface water model has already been developed in Scott Valley, and will be updated by Dr. Laura Foglia’s team to align with current conditions. The team will bring refined ideas about data management, confidentiality and outreach to well owners to the April committee meeting, and will at that time seek committee input on these topics.
- **Membership, Charter Discussion and Provisional Adoption.** Matt provided a brief update on membership and the county’s plan to fill seats that remain open in Scott Valley as well as Shasta Valley and Butte Valley. The facilitator introduced the latest iteration of the draft charter and inquired if committee members had any outstanding questions, comments or suggested edits. Committee members, by consensus, provisionally adopted their charter. Adoption remains provisional until County Counsel reviews the charter. The document then requires final approval from the GSA Board.
- **Committee Schedule and Next Steps.** Matt briefly reviewed the emerging committee schedule, described SGMA outreach efforts to date and noted that a public workshop may soon occur. The facilitator described SGMA requirements that necessitate development of a communication and engagement strategy for the Scott Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plain (GSP).

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SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Timeframe/Deadline</i>
Provide Matt with ideas on when and where the District should host a public SGMA workshop, and who to invite.	Committee members	February 15 th
Provide Matt a formal request for county support for the IRWM grant proposal that must be submitted to DWR by March 15 th . Outreach to landowners to secure additional letters of support.	Drew Braugh and Preston Harris	ASAP
Work on an iterative GSP development process and data management program, and bring a suggested approach for each back for group consideration at the April meeting. Also, work out a calendar of activities to be included in the committee workplan.	Laura Foglia and Technical Team	April meeting
Begin work on a draft communication and engagement strategy and bring materials for discussion at the next committee meeting.	Rich Wilson	Next meeting
Keep committee informed of when a Brown Act training opportunity will be provided for all three basins—Scott Valley, Shasta Valley and Butte Valley.	Matt Parker	TBD
Look into identifying someone who can help clarify well data submission requirements associated with SGMA as well as SB88 and the adjudicated zone.	Matt Parker	Next meeting
Let the committee know by February 5 th if there will be a February meeting.	Matt Parker	DONE
Inform the GSA Board about the request for alternates made by some in Scott Valley and Butte Valley. Pending the Board's response, the committee can discuss the issue further.	Matt Parker	February 6 th
Check on the status of the past groundwater committee.	Matt Parker	Next meeting

Next meeting: Fourth week of April, 2019. Specific date TBD.

Website for meeting material posting:

<https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/naturalresources/page/sustainable-groundwater-management-act-sgma>

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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 introduced ground rules and use of a queue during open group discussion in order to guide civil, inclusive and productive conversation. No committee member offered any questions or comments on the agenda. Matt Parker provided a status update on all action items from the December meeting. The facilitator then inquired and secured committee approval of the past meeting summary.

Public Comment and Approval of Past Meeting Summaries

Time periods for receiving public comment will always be 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 comments were initially offered. Throughout the course of the meeting some attendees commented on the benefits of science, how projects like the pending IRWM grant proposal can help bring people together and build trust, and how the right data confidentiality protocols may help increase participation in the voluntary well monitoring program.

District Staff and Other Updates

Matt Parker and Preston Harris provided updates, including the following:

- **Brown Act.** County Counsel will provide Brown Act Training to committee members, centrally located for all three SGMA basins and possibly linked to a public workshop. Committee members do not currently have to fill out Form 700 (Statements of Economic Interest) but may have to later as the committee's work progresses.
- **Voluntary well survey.** Many comments were received on the draft survey. District staff and the Technical Team have chosen for now to figure out how to address data management and confidentiality issues prior to reaching out to the public.
- **Integrated Regional Water Management.** Preston Harris provided an update on the IRWM grant proposal. He recently met with CalTrout, RCD staff and the Technical Team. He will soon meet with landowners and hopes to secure their endorsement and get some involved in the project. Drew emphasized that CalTrout is trying to bring money and resources to the effort and create a nexus between different groups (e.g., farmers, tribes, environmental groups and agencies). CalTrout will submit a letter, via Matt, seeking a formal endorsement of the project from Siskiyou County. RCD staff described a 5 year project timeline. Laura noted that a project of this nature can help fill data gaps and test how the system responds. Others commented on the need for additional, upslope projects, as well as the potential benefits this project may bring. Preston concluded by answering a few questions about project locations, crop insurance, monitoring and data management. The project proposal is due March 15th.

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Technical Team Updates

Laura, with support from Claire Kouba, PhD candidate at UC Davis, presented updates on the work of the Technical Team. The team is preparing a data management plan for consideration by the committee, and to organize information for future annual reporting. A surface water model has already been developed in Scott Valley, and will be updated by Laura's colleagues to align with current conditions. The team is also curious to see if the model can recreate drought conditions. A database is being created on an Amazon server. The committee will play a key role in helping identify and fill data gaps, as well as develop protocols for maintaining confidentiality of collected data. Committee member questions and comments interspersed the conversation:

- Question: Can people get feedback on (data) on their own well? Response: This could be addressed in the data management system. Not all data needs to be on the public DWR site. We are looking at groundwater elevation and a little information on quality, not pumping data.
- Comment/question: I believe the law requires submission of pumping data. Could the reports that some of us send in be usable data for SGMA? Response: SGMA doesn't require metering of wells. Some uncertainty around the question. Matt will identify someone who can help clarify well data submission requirements associated with SGMA as well as SB88 and the adjudicated zone.
- Question: What new data is needed for SGMA? Response: Understanding of the water budget – more information enables better accounting of groundwater resources and potential proof of sustainability. We also need to refine the information we have and update the model for the 2011 – 2018 time period.
- Question: Are driller well logs available for the voluntary well monitoring program? Response: Yes, these logs are available.
- Question: Are you accessing all the information which UC Davis already has on Scott Valley? Response: There is probably no more aquifer data testing needed for the area. We also understand that people will likely not participate in the voluntary program if their data is made public.
- Comment: Maybe we can have a data gap conversation. Also, we need to adapt the model to comply with SGMA. We may have data but not yet in the format needed.
- Comment: It seems the well grid could be kept very simple.
- Question: If a participating landowner is ok with you including the coordinates of his/her wells, can you do that? Response: Yes, in this case it would become public data.
- Public comment: Help reduce anxiety by keeping participants in the voluntary well monitoring program anonymous. Folks may be more open to participating if they know they and their information can remain anonymous.

Laura also suggested the committee, among other things, could help develop confidentiality agreements. Some on the committee noted that it is premature to provide much feedback until the team more fully develops explores data needs, management and confidentiality issues. Laura noted that she and her team will come back to the April meeting with refined ideas about

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data management, confidentiality and outreach to well owners. The Technical Team will help the committee identify important SGMA deadlines and thus determine critical times when committee feedback is warranted and will help drive the process.

Charter Discussion and Provisional Adoption

Facilitator Rich Wilson introduced the next iteration of the draft charter (governance structure) to the group. Matt provided a brief status update on the committee’s membership. A municipal seat remains unfilled. The Karuk Tribe and the Quartz Valley Tribe have also requested an additional seat for the Karuk. Committee members suggested perhaps someone from public works or the Ft. Jones City Council could fill the municipal seat. The county plans to soon re-open the application process and fill remaining open seats in all three groundwater basins—Scott Valley, Shasta Valley and Butte Valley.

The question of whether or not have alternates surfaced again, with some members requesting consideration of the idea. A few comments on the potential use of alternates followed:

- Can help ensure consistent participation
- Should be bound by the same roles and responsibilities as primary members
- Should be approved and not “on the fly” persons
- Could help bring complementary skills sets to the discussion
- If no alternates, a note taker could be sent on behalf of any absent member
- If no alternates, can members call in?

Some committee members, including a few who had not made the request, said they could live with alternates. Matt said he will bring the question to the GSA Board. Pending the response, the committee can revisit the issue at a future meeting. Before turning back to the facilitator, Matt also briefly addressed questions and member terms.

The facilitator asked if any committee member could not support or otherwise live with the charter in its current form. All committee members voiced support and thus it was noted that the group, by consensus, had provisionally adopted its charter. Adoption remains provisional at this stage as County Counsel still needs to review the charter, and then the document needs final approval from the GSA Board. The facilitator noted that any edits provided by County Counsel will be shared with committee members. Finally, the committee nominated and, by consensus, appointed Tom Menne as chairman and Drew Braugh as its vice-chairman.

Committee Schedule and Next Steps

Matt briefly reviewed the emerging committee schedule, described SGMA outreach efforts to date and noted that a public workshop may soon occur. Rich briefly pointed to SGMA requirements that necessitate development of a communication and engagement strategy for the Scott Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan. CCP will bring draft material for consideration and interactive discussion at the next 2-3 committee meetings.

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MEETING ATTENDEES¹

Advisory Committee Members

Andrew Braugh, CalTrout (Environmental/Conservation)
Jason Finley, Private pumper
Tom Jopson, Private pumper
Tom Menne, Scott Valley Irrigation District
Crystal Robinson, Quartz Valley Tribe (Tribal)
Michael Stapleton, Residential
Paul Sweezey, Member-at-Large

Absent

Brandon Fawaz, Private pumper

District Staff

Matt Parker, County of Siskiyou Natural Resources Specialist

Technical Team

Dr. Laura Foglia, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates
Brad Gooch, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates
Claire Kouba, UC Davis

Facilitator

Rich Wilson, Sacramento State University – Consensus and Collaboration Program

¹ Approximately a half dozen non-committee members attended the meeting.