

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

Meeting date/time: December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 | 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](mailto:mparker@co.siskiyou.ca.us) | 530.842.8019
- Rich Wilson, Sacramento State University Senior Facilitator | [r.wilson@csus.edu](mailto:r.wilson@csus.edu) | 415.515.2317
- Laura Foglia PhD, U.C. Davis Technical Team Lead | [lfoglia@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lfoglia@ucdavis.edu) | 530.219.5692

**MEETING RECAP**

- **Welcome, Agenda Review and Introductions.** Matt Parker welcomed all parties, introduced the facilitator to the group, and noted that future advisory committee meetings will be supported with impartial facilitation services. He also described the technical support role that will be played by a scientific team from Larry Walker and Associates. All members subsequently introduced themselves.
- **Public Comment and Approval of Past Meeting Summaries.** Public comments were received at various stages of the meeting agenda. Following the opening public comment period, Matt asked if any committee member had questions or comments on the previous draft meeting summaries. With no comments received, the committee gave final approval of the summaries.
- **GSA Staff Updates.** Matt Parker introduced and sought initial feedback on a draft well survey that the District hopes to distribute soon, and shared an online tool which enables well owners to determine if their well or wells are located in a specific groundwater basin.
- **Stakeholder Assessment, Draft Advisory Committee Charter and Next Steps.** Facilitator Rich Wilson (Sacramento State University Consensus and Collaboration Program) shared the results of a recent Butte Valley groundwater basin stakeholder assessment, put forward initial recommendations that will guide next steps in the SGMA implementation process, and introduced and sought feedback on a draft advisory committee charter (governance structure).
- **Initial Orientation to the Brown Act.** Committee members received an initial overview of the purpose and requirements of Ralph M. Brown Act. As a standing committee created by the Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District—the local SGMA Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)—the Butte Valley Advisory Committee is a Brown Act compliant body. The District will look into additional Brown Act training opportunities for committee members.
- **Future Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule.** Matt, the facilitator and the technical team will coordinate to develop a committee workplan, and will soon set meeting dates through the first six months of 2019.

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**SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS**

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Timeframe/Deadline</i>
Let Matt know ASAP if there are particular days of the week or month that you are <u>NOT</u> available for regularly scheduled committee meetings. Matt will propose dates for the first half of 2019.	Committee members; Matt Parker	As soon as possible
Review and provide any feedback on the draft well survey to Matt Parker.	Committee members	January 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2019
Review the draft charter and email questions, comments or suggested amendments to facilitator Rich Wilson and Matt Parker.	Committee members	January 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2019
Email Matt Parker ideas about persons or groups that could fill the environmental/conservation and/or tribal interest seats on the committee.	Committee members	Ongoing
Explore and search out other local expertise that should be included in the SGMA process.	Committee members	Ongoing
Regularly track questions posed by the committee or public that may require expert response or guidance.	Matt Parker and Rich Wilson	Ongoing
Coordinate to prepare a draft workplan for advcommittee consideration at its next meeting.	Matt Parker, technical team and facilitator	Prior to next committee meeting
Consult county counsel on whether advisory committee members need to sign and submit <a href="#">form 700</a> as part of Brown Act requirements.	Matt Parker	Prior to next committee meeting
Look into Brown Act training opportunities for committee members.	Matt Parker	Prior to next committee meeting
Look into local communication measures that provide better outreach to the community for meeting information.	Matt Parker	Ongoing
Secure technical team participation at the next Butte Valley Advisory Committee meeting to provide SGMA and groundwater information.	Matt Parker	Prior to next committee meeting

**Next meeting:** TBD – likely late January or early February, 2019

**Website for meeting material posting:**

<https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/content/natural-resources-groundwater>

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**Welcome, Agenda Review and Introductions**

Matt Parker, natural resource staff with the Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District), opened the meeting, welcomed all attendees and the public, and briefly reviewed the agenda. He introduced Rich Wilson, senior facilitator/mediator with the Sacramento State University Consensus and Collaboration Program (CCP). He noted that future meetings will be supported, at no cost to the county, with CCP's impartial facilitation services, which the District requested and acquired through the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Facilitation Support Services program. He followed by briefly describing the technical support role which Larry Walker and Associates will play, also with grant support from DWR, during SGMA implementation in Butte Valley.

**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 advisory 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 comments were initially received by the public, however, several comments were made at various stages later in the meeting after the committee had been able to get through key agenda items.

**GSA Staff Updates**

Matt Parker introduced and sought initial committee feedback on a draft well survey that the District has prepared and would like to distribute soon in the Butte, Scott and Shasta Valley groundwater basins. Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the District serves as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Butte, Scott and Shasta Valley groundwater basins. SGMA requires each basin to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Tools such as water models and budgets must be developed in order to build GSPs. Substantial amounts of data must be collected through groundwater well measurements and monitoring to build these tools. The District is therefore seeking voluntary participants in a groundwater well monitoring program.

As Matt described the survey, he acknowledged sensitivities regarding the sharing of well information. He also stressed that any participation in the monitoring program is voluntary and meant to help the county better understand the current condition of groundwater resources. He encouraged committee members to think, and provide advice to the District, about how best to distribute the survey and secure voluntary participation of well owners that can supply important data for the District's technical team, and thereby help inform development of an accurate water budget for Butte Valley. Committee members asked a few questions about the survey's purpose and provided initial feedback, including the following suggestions:

- Include text that clearly states, "at no cost to volunteer"
- Perhaps address temporary versus long-term monitoring opportunities
- Perhaps explain different types of monitoring efforts

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Matt concluded by describing an online tool which enables well owners to determine if their well or wells are located in a specific groundwater basin. He requested that all members review and provide any feedback on the draft well survey by January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019, if not sooner. The tool can be accessed at: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/index.jsp?appid=gasmaster&rz=true>

**Stakeholder Assessment, Draft Advisory Committee Charter and Next Steps**

Facilitator Rich Wilson presented themes and findings from a recent stakeholder assessment which CCP conducted across the Butte, Scott and Shasta Valley groundwater basins. The assessment enabled introductions between the facilitation team and a range of different stakeholders, tribes, Siskiyou County supervisors, District staff, and other interested parties. During the assessment CCP staff learned about the range of perspectives, issues and interests surrounding groundwater use and management across the county. Assessment results are currently being utilized to develop an optimal charter (governance structure), schedule and workplan to guide committee work in the Butte, Scott and Shasta Valley groundwater basins.

The presentation focused on Butte Valley, included a set of initial recommendations that emerged from the assessment and are expected to guide SGMA implementation, and covered the following topics:

- Assessment purpose and process
- List of interviewees
- Overall pulse in the Butte Valley groundwater basin
- Key themes and findings of the assessment
- Initial recommendations: next steps
- Longer-term SGMA planning considerations

Following the presentation, committee members offered a range of initial comments and questions. As needed, any clarifications regarding information included in the presentation were provided by the facilitator.

- Comment: Good to hear about the need for more outreach and education – maybe the committee can talk about what a public workshop would look like and if there is a need to repeat the effort at various times.
- Question: Weren't groundwater basins formed before SGMA? Response: Groundwater basins around the state are defined under DWR's Bulletin 118.
- Comment: Not surprised to hear about the need for outreach and education of the public – it's important the public is involved and the committee needs to be very careful when providing guidance on what may eventually become rules and regulations.
- Comment: One inaccuracy – recharge actually starts in September when pumps get turned off; it will be important to collect scientific data which supports this position.
- Question: Wondering whether or not there was a reference to groundwater decline, or timeline associated with any decline? Response: A few responses to groundwater decline were made during the assessment; some consider it minimal while another

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noted that longtime landowners are having to dig deeper wells in order to access groundwater.

A range of questions, comments and feedback were also received by the public at this stage. Responses were generally provided by Matt Parker. Mr. Parker and the facilitator committed to tracking all questions or comments which may at some stage require input or guidance from experts.

- Question: What is the state's ultimate goal with SGMA? Response: Local control and sustainable management of groundwater resources. Opportunity to learn about the basin in a collaborative way. Plans can be adapted as needed in the future.
- Comment: We have always had good wells and poor performing wells. The cost of power means we are kind of self-regulated.
- Comment: The state never has no agenda. We have a duty to get out in front of this and an expectation that the county keep us informed about the politics surrounding SGMA.
- Comment: All of us have a well season. I'm still not clear this is just one basin. Science will be critical to the SGMA process.
- Comment: Make sure to address conflict resolution – water rights are going to be an issue.
- Question: How did DWR come up with 2015 as a baseline? Response: This is likely the result of the law being signed in 2014; DWR wanted to start with the next (or first) water year after SGMA became law.
- Comment: Collection of scientific data on groundwater conditions may help us, under DWR criteria, be designated as a low priority basin.

Following the presentation of stakeholder assessment results, the facilitator reviewed an initial set of recommended next steps, including the following:

- Finish recruiting and building out full advisory committee membership composition.
- Facilitate Brown Act education and training.
- Discuss and agree to a committee governance structure.
- Develop a workplan and regular meeting schedule.
- Begin integrating science with support from the technical team.
- Collaboratively develop and implement a communication and engagement strategy as SGMA work unfolds.

Building on the recommendations, Matt Parker briefly described the process of building the Butte Valley GSA Advisory Committee membership. The District is aware of what needs to be addressed during the SGMA implementation process and sought to find good representation from affected interest groups. The law requires diverse representation on any advisory committees which are formed by the local Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). The District therefore conducted outreach to identify groups and individuals who were interested to participate in the committee.

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Several water users, a city, one local irrigation district, a local resident, and a local wildlife refuge are currently represented on the advisory committee. Committee seats for a tribal representative and environmental/conservation representative still need to be filled. Matt requested that committee members share any ideas they may have regarding these seats. Assuming these open seats eventually get filled, Matt asked the committee how it felt about its current membership composition and received the following feedback:

- Comment: Feels pretty well represented.
- Comment: Committee possesses diverse skill sets.
- Comment: Committee is heavy on agriculture representatives, but that's Butte Valley. Retirees are not currently represented.
- Question: What happens if we do not fill the tribal seat and the environmental/conservation seat? Response: These remain important seats to fill. Perhaps Ducks Unlimited could fill one of the seats. Additional comment: Need to define environmental, as it's a broad term.
- Public comment: Farmers are the biggest environmentalists.
- Public comment: Skeptical about considering any group from outside the basin.

Finally, the facilitator introduced a draft advisory charter (governance structure) for committee consideration. He talked about what a charter is and why any formal group should have one. He described three key sources which informed the draft Butte Valley GSA Advisory Committee charter: 1) Advisory committee guidance documents that have been formally approved by the District; 2) stakeholder assessment results; and 3) CCP's experience with similar collaborations around the state.

One committee member inquired about how the District would or would not consider any recommendations provided by the committee. Another suggested that the way in which recommendations are communicated from the committee to the District Board should be further defined. Discussion followed regarding an actual agreement that could be formed between the GSA and the committee regarding the GSA accepting recommendations from the committee. The discussion focused mainly on what happens if the GSA does not accept a recommendation from the committee. Still others suggested that the issue of having alternates, as needed, to fill in for primary members should also be considered. Finally, one member requested clarity on any future agenda when "possible actions or decisions" will occur.

**Initial Orientation to the Brown Act**

The facilitator provided an initial overview presentation of the Ralph M. Brown Act, an open meetings law that is meant to ensure public participation and access to all stages of decision-making, in this case as SGMA implementation unfolds across Siskiyou County. Each of the advisory committees in the Butte, Scott and Shasta Valleys must comply with the Brown Act. Given the full meeting agenda, the presentation was only introductory in nature. Matt Parker will look into additional Brown Act training opportunities for committee members. He will also

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consult county counsel to determine if committee members need to sign and submit [form 700](#) as part of Brown Act requirements.

**Future Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule**

Matt concluded the meeting by noting that the District, with support from the facilitation and technical teams, will develop a draft workplan and schedule for the committee to consider at its next meeting. He requested that all committee members let him know as soon as possible if there are particular days of the week or month that they are NOT available for regularly scheduled committee meetings. Once he receives feedback from all members he will then propose regularly scheduled meetings for the first half of 2019.

**MEETING ATTENDEES<sup>1</sup>**

***Advisory Committee Members***

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

***Absent***

Don Crawford, Private pumper  
Richard Nelson, Private pumper

***District Staff***

Matt Parker, County of Siskiyou Natural Resources Specialist

***Facilitator***

Rich Wilson, Sacramento State University – Consensus and Collaboration Program

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to committee members and staff, about a dozen members of the public attended the meeting.