

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

Meeting date/time: December 18th, 2018 | 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Location: County Administrative Office, 1312 Fairlane rd. Yreka

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

- **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, and introduced the technical team lead, Dr. Laura Foglia, to the group. All members subsequently introduced themselves.
- **Public Comment and Approval of Past Meeting Summaries.** Public comments were received at various stages of the meeting agenda, generally following each main agenda item. 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. He also shared an online tool which enables local 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 (CCP), shared the results of a recent Shasta Valley groundwater basin stakeholder assessment, put forward initial recommendations to guide next SGMA steps, and introduced and sought initial 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 Shasta 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 meeting dates for the first half of 2019.	Committee members; Matt Parker	As soon as possible
Review and provide feedback on the draft well survey to Matt Parker.	Committee members	January 11 th , 2019
Review the draft charter and email questions, comments or suggested amendments to facilitator Rich Wilson and Matt Parker.	Committee members	January 11 th , 2019
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 committee 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 form 700 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

Next meeting: January 23rd, 2019, 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Website for meeting material posting:

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

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome, Agenda Review and Introductions

Matt Parker, natural resources specialist 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 noted a full agenda and requested the group focus and keep moving to get through all agenda items. No committee member offered any questions or comments on the agenda.

Matt introduced Rich Wilson, senior facilitator/mediator with the Sacramento State University Consensus and Collaboration Program (CCP). 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.

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Matt also briefly described the technical support role which Larry Walker and Associates will play, also with grant support from DWR, during SGMA implementation in the Shasta Valley groundwater basin.

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. Two initial comments were put forward at the outset. One attendee from the public noted that the health of groundwater dependent ecosystems should be a central consideration as the technical team, with support from the advisory committee, develops a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Another individual requested opportunities for public comment beyond the opening period of the meeting.

GSA Staff and Other Updates: Basin Boundary Modification, RCD Work, and Well Survey

Matt provided a status update on the proposed Shasta Valley basin boundary modification (BBM) that the District recently submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The initial proposal was rejected on a technical language basis. Specifically, DWR staff shared that the proposal did not adequately describe the proposed boundary in a manner that follows the SGMA regulations definition of an aquifer. That said, District staff will continue to communicate with DWR staff in order to adjust and ensure all issues raised during the initial evaluation are adequately addressed. Following the BBM update, staff from the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District (Shasta Valley RCD) provided a brief update on the Proposition 1 funds it has secured—via a DWR contract—to help assist the District in developing a groundwater monitoring network across the valley, collect necessary data, and provide outreach support through coordination with the advisory committee. Finally, Matt provided a brief update on a future potential IRWM grant opportunity for the area.

Matt noted that January 4th is the comment deadline on the updated BBM proposal. He offered to share DWR's comment letter on the initial BBM proposal to interested parties. Committee members put forward a few questions. Matt, with occasional support from DWR staffer Pat Vellines and technical team lead Laura Foglia, provided brief responses.

- Question: Generally what is our plan and what is the prognosis of getting DWR support for this proposal? Response: We plan to go through well logs outside the basin and come up with an organized set of information as to where water comes from and where it is going. It is unknown at this stage if DWR will approve the proposal, but they are helping us get it right.
- Question: How final is the comment deadline? Response: Seems inflexible. Impression is DWR wants to help the county to propose something that works.
- Question: Will DWR change the Bulletin 118 boundary definition to include volcanics in the future? Response: This is ideal, but volcanics may not get addressed until 2022.
- Comment: Bill Hurt, a local geologist, could provide helpful support.

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- Question: What happens if DWR does not approve the proposal? Response: It does not affect our current grant that supports the advisory committee and development of the GSP. Also, we are able to do monitoring outside the Bulletin 118 boundaries. The County could also pursue the legislative route.
- Question: What is the deadline for IRWM projects? Response: DWR staff are meeting in early February to review project proposals which have been submitted from around the state. DWR staffer Pat Vellines noted that a Request for Proposal (RFP) has already been issued. She encouraged interested parties to get project ideas to the local IRWM as soon as possible.

The facilitator followed the committee discussion on the BBM proposal by opening the floor to public comments. Responses to questions were generally provided by Matt Parker and, at times, Pat Vellines.

- Comment: There is a legislative loophole, applied in the San Luis Rey case, that could apply and help address the challenges that Shasta Valley is facing with its proposal.
- Question: Is DWR's Bulletin 118 based strictly on alluvium? Response: Yes.
- Comment: It does not have to be a problem that the proposal is not scientifically based. That said, it is important that the right justification is made.
- Comment: Some well logs have variable quality. Perhaps get additional information from local well drillers. Response: This has been explored. Additional comments: Some pointed out that it may be difficult to get information from well drillers.
- Question: Is land use considered during the process of developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)? Response: DWR wants to the whole picture considered.

Once the BBM proposal conversation wrapped up, Matt then 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 each of these basins. SGMA requires development a GSP in each of these basins by January 31st, 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.

Matt 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 noted that names and personal information can be removed from collected data. He encouraged advisory 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 Shasta Valley.

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Committee members asked a few questions and several suggestions were made for improving the draft survey:

- Comment: Find a way to address privacy issues in the survey.
- Comment: Include a disclaimer that folks are not going to be tasked with anything.
- Question: Can incentives be offered or created for participants? Multiple responses offered by other committee members:
 - Perhaps equipment can be offered for long-term monitoring.
 - Note that data is for technical team and will be uploaded to DWR’s California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) website.
 - The District’s technical team may also be able to create and manage a private website for the area.
 - Several committee members agreed to the aforementioned suggestions.
- Comment: Some expensive equipment used in the past does not work well. Each well is unique so it will be important to not get inaccurate data. A sounder is the most valuable piece of equipment.
- Comment: The RCD supports this effort.
- Question: Are you conducting a targeted search or casting a wide net? Response: Starting slowly and cautiously. Initially the county will cast a wide net with the survey.
- Comment: One-on-one conversations are a good way to approach people. Or attend and share information at key meetings in the area.

Dr. Foglia noted that the technical team has resources to monitor about 10-20 wells, ideally spread out across the valley. She and her team are coming up with procedures to honor privacy and confidentiality of participants and offered to work the committee on these procedures. 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. Finally, he requested that all members review and provide any feedback on the draft well survey by January 11th, 2019. The online tool can be accessed here: <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 Shasta Valley, included a set of initial recommendations that emerged from the assessment and are expected to guide SGMA implementation, and covered the following topics:

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

Following the assessment presentation, one member pointed out the challenge of conducting outreach in a way that brings in the perspective of community members who may not always be comfortable speaking out on water issues for fear of being judged by others. The facilitator acknowledged the concern and suggested it be explored further when the committee discusses and develops a communications and engagement strategy to guide SGMA outreach. He then 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.

Matt Parker briefly described the process of building out the Shasta 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. This included outreach to water users, a new collaboration with tribes, as well as conversations with potential residential, municipal and environmental representatives.

Advisory committee membership currently includes several water users—including 3 local irrigation districts, an irrigation cooperative and private pumpers. The committee also includes the Karuk Tribe, an environmental/conservation representative, and a local resident. The Grenada Irrigation District is expected to have a replacement representative member soon, and a municipal seat still needs to be filled. Matt asked the committee how it feels about its current membership composition. One member noted that she felt the membership looks pretty good. Another asked if the county feels all interest groups are represented. Matt responded by noting that the county wants the committee to ensure it feels that all appropriate interests in the community are represented during committee discussions.

Finally, the facilitator introduced a draft charter (governance structure) for advisory committee consideration. He talked about what a charter is and why any formal group should have one.

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Three key sources informed development of the Shasta 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. Members provided just a few comments on the draft charter, including some initial approval of the group's goals and interest to have county counsel review the document.

- Comment: One member commented on how well the presentation and charter was put together. Continued to comment that interested parties are equally passionate about the issues but some have limited resources to invest in the issues, and it's a challenge to equally hear from all the community.
- Comment: Is a charter a requirement of Brown Act? Response: Not required but a governance structure is recommended for a formal group such as this committee.
- Comment: Can the charter be amended? Response: Yes.
- Comment: How do we work to build the draft, and what is the timeline for reviewing and completing the document? Response: No specific deadline for completion but ideal to get in place as soon as possible, once all committee members can work with and choose to adopt the charter. At this stage members should closely review the document and submit any questions, comments or suggested amendments to the facilitator and convener. An updated version of the document will then be brought to the next committee meeting for review and potential adoption.
- Comment: Does the charter have to go through public comment period once county counsel reviews? Response: County counsel will review the draft and provide comments as needed. Ultimately it is the committee that must adopt the document, so no public comment period is required.
- Comment: Some members expressed concern over expanding membership to outside of the basin

The facilitator paused and opened the floor to public comments at this stage. Numerous comments were received. Responses were generally provided by Matt Parker.

- Public comment: It could add significant value to have a well driller on the advisory committee. Response: Yes, this was discussed in the past. One challenge is finding the right person. Additional comments: A few members also noted it would be difficult to find the right person. One member suggested having a well driller involved would be valuable to the technical team, to which the technical team lead agreed. The DWR representative suggested well logs would be a very helpful source of information.
- Public comment: Originally some of us pictured both an advisory committee and a technical team. Perhaps the technical team could be an ad hoc committee.
- Public question: Does the county have a staff geologist? Response: No.
- Public comment: Maybe include someone on the committee that represents economic interests, like the chamber of commerce. Maybe also include a representative from each local tribe in the area as well as a member of the press. Response: One committee member noted that it would be hard for a press person to fairly cover the issue if he/she were a member of the committee.

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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 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. One member noted that 3:30 is a better start time given her regular work schedule. Matt will propose regularly scheduled meetings for the first half of 2019 once he receives feedback from all members.

MEETING ATTENDEES¹

Advisory Committee Members

Beth Sandahl (Chair), Shasta River Water Users Association
John Tannaci (Vice Chair), Residential
Pete Scala, Private pumper
Blair Hart, Private pumper
Susan Fricke, Karuk Tribe

Absent Committee Members

Justin Holmes, Edson Fowlke Ditch Company
Tristan Allen, Montague Water Conservation District
Gregg Werner, Environmental/conservation representative

District Staff

Matt Parker, County of Siskiyou Natural Resources Specialist

Facilitator

Rich Wilson, Sacramento State University – Consensus and Collaboration Program

DWR Staff

Pat Vellines

Technical Team

Dr. Laura Foglia, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates

¹ In addition to committee members and District staff, numerous members of the public attended the meeting.