

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

Meeting date/time: September 24th, 2019 | 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Etna City Council Chambers, 442 Main St, Etna

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.** The facilitator provided a brief update on past action items and asked if any committee members has outstanding comments or questions on the May meeting summary. No comments were received, so the meeting summary was finalized and will be posted on the county’s SGMA website.
- **Public Comment.** The public offered a range of comments and questions throughout the meeting, including sharing some concerns at the outset, and participating actively in the discussions about the stakeholder communication and engagement plan and the draft basin setting chapter materials.
- **District Staff and Other Updates.** Matt Parker provided updates on a range of issues, including grant opportunities, the District’s ongoing efforts to engage tribes in the SGMA process, and recent changes to the county website.
- **GSP Development Schedule/Flowchart and Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan (C&E Plan).** Matt Parker reviewed a schedule, timeline and associated flowchart that will guide GSP development in Scott Valley. The facilitator subsequently introduced the draft stakeholder communication and engagement plan.
- **GSP Development: Scott Valley Groundwater Basin Setting.** Dr. Laura Foglia and Claire Kouba revisited the water budget and monitoring program, then introduced and solicited input from both the committee and members of the public on the first draft material in the basin setting section of the GSP.
- **Proposition 68 Grant Opportunity.** Matt noted how the county, with support from its SGMA Technical Team, will soon be submitting the Proposition 68 grant. The proposal will primarily aim to fill funding gaps that were not covered in the county’s original Proposition 1 grant.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Status/Deadline</i>
Get in contract with North Coast Regional Water Board staff to discuss how and when a presentation on the Scott Valley TMDL may be useful at an Advisory Committee meeting.	Matt Parker	November
Let Matt Parker know if it appears people are not getting regular SGMA updates from either his email address or the newly created SGMA email address that	Committee members	Ongoing

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he now uses to send out SGMA related information to interested parties.		
Get in touch with Matt Parker to discuss steps needed to volunteer his property near French Creek for installation of monitoring wells under the DWR Technical Support Services program.	Michael Stapleton	Done
Check on whether Mugginsville is considered a public water system, and thus whether or not it should be included in the stakeholder ID chart of the Scott Valley Stakeholder Engagement Communication and Engagement Plan (C&E Plan).	Matt Parker	Done (Not an agency, removed from C&E Plan)
Email feedback on the draft C&E Plan to Rich Wilson and Matt Parker.	Committee members	October 11th
Follow up with Janae Scruggs of CDFW and other needed parties to ensure CDFW referenced studies are acquired related to stream flows in the Scott.	Matt Parker	Complete
Share with Matt information collected by the Scott monitoring coordination group.	Betsy and Michael Stapleton	Mid October
Refine the groundwater model to look at flows into the system, conductance of surface water, and what this means for the potential for recharge.	Laura Foglia	Ongoing
Connect members of the SGMA Technical Team with members of the public that expressed concern about initial draft GSP material.	Matt Parker	Mid October
Email any feedback they have on the draft chapter 2 basin setting materials, with a copy to Laura Foglia, Matt Parker and Rich Wilson. Committee members should use the distributed reviewer form to provide feedback and let Matt Parker know if they have any trouble using this form.	Committee members	October 10th
Provide Matt Parker with support letters for the Proposition 68 grant proposal that will soon be submitted to DWR.	Committee members	Mid-October
Continue to talk to their neighbors and help recruit participants for inclusion in the voluntary groundwater monitoring network.	Committee members	Ongoing

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 5th, 2019 from 3:00 – 6:00 pm, Etna City Council Chambers, 442 Main St, Etna.

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

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

Committee chair Tom Menne called the meeting to order. Facilitator Rich Wilson opened the meeting, thanked everyone for making the effort to meet in a new location, and review the agenda. No comments or questions were put forward on the agenda.

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. One member of the public expressed concern about a proposed development project near Kidder Creek, limited analysis of available groundwater in this area, and the impacts of what he called agro-tourism on groundwater resources in Scott Valley. A member of the North Coast Regional Water Board offered for his team, at the appropriate time, to come and discuss the work on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) on the Scott river, and the relationship of this work to SGMA.

District Staff and Other Updates

Matt Parker provided updates on the following:

- **Tribal advisory committee concept.** District staff conducted outreach and secured useful feedback from tribes on the SGMA tribal advisory concept. Varying opinions of how the committee would function and be effective were offered, with some noting logistics, busy schedules and a big geographic region may present challenges. Many tribes expressed interest to develop a MOU or Coordination agreement with the District. The District is currently developing an MOU with the Karuk Tribe and this process and document may serve as example for how such agreements can be developed with other tribes.
- **Bureau of Reclamation Grant Opportunity.** The District has been awarded a BOR WaterSMART grant, which the proposal was for equipment for both soil moisture sensors and continuous well monitoring instruments. The grant budget is for 10 pairs of both devices for each basin. Staff is optimistic that the grant finalization can be completed in time for installation to start in early November. Well owners who volunteer their wells for inclusion in the groundwater monitoring network will get the opportunity to install a soil moisture sensor. Owners that use sensors can go online and regularly track data. That said, the data does not have to be published. Although collected data may come well into the GSP development process, this data is important given that, following GSP submission to DWR, Scott Valley will have 20 years to demonstrate sustainability.
- **County Website Updates.** Matt described recent updates to the SGMA page on the county website. The SGMA section of the website will house local and statewide technical reports, links to statewide SGMA information, public workshops, and, as needed, provide regulatory information about SGMA. The District still maintains an interested parties email list and will now be sent through a new SGMA specific email (sgma@co.siskiyou.ca.us) that will also be

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used for District staff to receive comments during public comment periods of GSP development. Committee members will still see email communication directly from Matt.

- **DWR Technical Support Services.** Matt is coordinating with DWR staffer Pat Vellines to identify where monitoring wells could be placed in Scott Valley. Data from these wells will be publicly broadcast. These wells are typically located where data is needed. A continuous monitoring device is included so on-site monitoring is needed less frequently, and multiple layers of data can be downloaded online when needed. Committee member Michael Stapleton offered to put a monitoring device on his well in the French Creek area.
- **Additional grant opportunity to support managed aquifer recharge.** Preston Harris provided an update on another managed aquifer recharge grant opportunity. He noted that the original concept which was submitted for an IRWM grant has been downsized to a pilot project. Project proponents are looking to learn about what positive impact this kind of project could have on the stream system, and what impact on different crop types. A key goal is to understand, if recharge is done, how much time does it take to get water in the river. The grant application is due at the end of October. The county will provide a portion of the proposals cost/share requirements through its anticipation of awarded a Proposition 68 grant. Committee member Drew Braugh noted that one of the most compelling aspects of this project is the partnership between the county and stakeholders, and the hope that tribes will also support the effort.
- **Quartz Valley Tribe grant award.** Committee member Crystal Robinson noted that the Quartz Valley Tribe has just been awarded a grant to build and GW/SW model for Quartz Valley, and the Tribe wants to create a link to the Scott river.

GSP Development Schedule/Flowchart

Matt Parker provided an overview of how the local Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), with support from its consultants, has developed a schedule, and associated flowchart, that will guide GSP development in Scott Valley. He explained how development of the GSP will be an iterative process, wherein the advisory committee, GSA Board and public will get multiple opportunities to review and provide input on each major section of the GSP. Matt, along with Dr. Laura Foglia and facilitator Rich Wilson, fielded a number of questions from the group about how consensus building is happening around the state, how the GSA will attempt to resolve disputes over plan content as they arise, and how long public comment periods will be open once draft sections are initially complete. Once all major sections have been drafted, a full GSP will be assembled and again be shared for review by the committee, the GSA Board and interested members of the public. One member of the public asked that the draft materials be put out well in advance of the meetings, so that those who wish to review have sufficient time to do so.

Stakeholder Communication and Engagement

Facilitator Rich Wilson introduced the first draft of the Scott Valley SGMA Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan (C&E Plan). SGMA requires GSAs to conduct robust stakeholder outreach in order to identify and consider the needs and interests of all beneficial

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groundwater uses and users in Butte Valley. He briefly reviewed the following key sections of the plan:

- Goals and objectives
- GSA decision-making
- Target audiences
- Communication strategies, forums and tools

The group generally express support for the plan goals and objectives. A few suggestions were made regarding the stakeholder ID chart, including for the county to check on whether or not Mugginsville is considered a public water system. Additionally, some public comments were received on this first draft. A member of the North Coast Water Resources Control Board requested that agencies be listed or otherwise described as interested parties in the document. A representative from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife asked for her agency to be added to the environment/ecosystem section of the stakeholder ID chart. Each of these agencies asked for a direct line of communication to Matt Parker, the local SGMA coordinator in Siskiyou County. The facilitator concluded by requesting the committee members review and provide any additional comments or suggested edits over the next few weeks following the meeting.

GSP Development: Scott Valley Groundwater Basin Setting

Dr. Laura Foglia, SGMA Technical Team Lead, introduced the next session, describing the work that she and her team have initiated to develop the first narrative text of the basin setting chapter of the GSP. She revisited the May discussions around the water budget and described to the group how the model has now been updated to include the 1991 – 2018 timeframe, whereas previously it extended only to 2011. Material shared at today’s meeting, represent an initial step, however, she noted, the full draft of this section will be presented at the November meeting. At this early stage, the team is looking to get feedback on the proposed iterative GSP development process, the best methods for sharing information and soliciting input from advisory committee members and interested parties, and how the team will track and address comments as they are provided. She noted that it is a tight timeline, but that the GSP development schedule, while flexible, should help keep things on track.

Laura’s introduction was followed by Claire Kouba, a UC Davis graduate student and member of the local SGMA Technical Team. Claire’s presentation was broken down into three main parts:

- Monitoring
 - Update on the Bureau of Reclamation grant (water level, soil moisture)
 - Seeking continuous monitoring volunteers
- Water budget
 - Looking back at the drought
 - Soliciting committee feedback: local expertise, clarifications as needed
- Draft GSP chapter 2 progress:
 - Soliciting committee feedback: fill in gaps, structured comments

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Both Claire and Laura fielded a range of questions about the number and type of monitoring wells in the system, the resources used to determine irrigation numbers, and how stream leakage can affect the water budget, and the role of snow pack in the GSP among other topics. Laura noted that her team is still discussing whether or not to change the model to include the full watershed. Currently the model simulates how much flow comes in from all tributaries, includes snow. A number of committee members stressed the importance of integrating snowpack into the model.

Following back-and-forth conversation with the advisory committee, members of the public weighed in on the importance of considering snowpack, inquired about how 2015 works as the baseline year for considering sustainability, noted the importance of considering that Scott has an adjudicated flow requirement, and, further, suggested integration of a recent CDFW study and the work on the Scott river TMDL into the SGMA process. One member of the public offered to share where all continuous loggers are located throughout Scott Valley, noting that this is publicly funded and thereby available data. Another member stressed that 2015 flows represents a very low bar for flows, and that he is more in the use of surface water for recharge, and that the model needs to look at how water moves across a floodplain. Others built on this comment by noting that the local watershed council has a trended model that could be useful and, also, that floodplain management could be looked at as a means to recharge the aquifer.

Claire concluded the conversation by asking committee members to pay particular attention to a few sections during their initial review of the shared draft material:

- Section 2.1.2: Feedback needed on management and monitoring programs. Review this text and make sure it is reasonable and accurate
- Section 2.1.3: Help identify any discrepancies
- Section 2.1.4: Feedback desired on this specific section

Some members complimented the technical team on this first draft. Others expressed frustration and pointed to many factual errors in the first draft. Laura and Claire acknowledged the feedback, offered to talk directly with those who put forward critical comments, and reminded the group that a more fully prepared draft would be shared at the November meeting. Prior to wrapping up the discussion, the facilitator briefly reviewed a reviewer form that committee members should use to provide feedback on draft materials moving forward.

Proposition 68 Grant Opportunity

Matt concluded the meeting by briefly revisiting the Proposition 68 grant opportunity. He noted that the grant for Scott Valley would largely look to fill in gaps in funding that were not secured with the original Proposal 1 grant that was awarded to the county. The county will soon submit the grant and, he noted, would appreciate any support letters from members or organizations in the Scott Valley community.

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MEETING ATTENDEES¹

Advisory Committee Members

Bill Beckwith, Fort Jones (Municipal/City representative)
Drew Braugh, CalTrout, Environmental/Conservation
Brandon Fawaz, Private Pumper (through just part of the meeting)
Tom Jopson, Private Pumper
Tom Menne, Scott Valley Irrigation District
Crystal Robinson, Quartz Valley Tribe (Tribal representative)
Michael Stapleton, Residential

Absent Committee Members

Jason Finley, Private Pumper
Paul Sweezey, Member-at-large

District Staff

Matt Parker, County of Siskiyou Natural Resources Specialist

Technical Team

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

Facilitator

Rich Wilson, Sacramento State University – Consensus and Collaboration Program

¹ Seven members of the public attended the meeting, including individuals representing the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.