

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

Meeting date/time: September 25th, 2019 | 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Holiday Inn Express Large Conference Room, 707 Montague 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

- **Action Item Update and Approval of Past Meeting Summary.** The committee received an update on the status of past action items and approved its May meeting summary.
- **Public Comment.** Members of the public, including representatives from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, contributed to the conversation during and after most of the meeting agenda items.
- **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.
- **Water Budget Presentation and Discussion.** Dr. Laura Foglia, SGMA Technical Team Lead, revisited the committee’s previous work in May, and introduced Byron Clark from Davids Engineering, who presented an initial estimation of the groundwater budget in Shasta Valley. Laura and Byron described the main elements of a water budget, showed the different tools used to date to make an estimate for Shasta Valley, and then fielded a range of questions from committee members.
- **Proposition 68 Grant Opportunity.** Matt briefly updated the group on the status and focus of the Proposition 68 grant proposal that will include work on data collection, monitoring and labor to finish developing the GSP.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

| <i>Action Item</i> | <i>Responsible Party</i> | <i>Status/Deadline</i> |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| Send a link to the California Irrigation Management System (CIMIS) site to committee members. | Rich Wilson | Complete |
| Provide Laura Foglia with any additional feedback on the area maps which were review in May and revised over the summer. | Committee members | October 11 th |
| Send any other known management plans or technical studies related to water and groundwater to Matt Parker. Matt will share with the SGMA Technical Team and post on the county’s SGMA website. The Technical | Committee members and members of the public | Ongoing |

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|--|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Team does not want to miss any important studies or management plans that relate to SGMA. | | |
| Email feedback on the draft C&E Plan to Rich Wilson and Matt Parker. Specific focus should be given to the plan goals and objectives, stakeholder ID chart and strategies for conducting outreach. | Committee members | October 11 th |
| Search for Bureau of Reclamation classifications for rainfall years and share it with Matt Parker, the Technical Team and Committee members. | Susan Fricke | Before November meeting |
| As committee members think more about the technical information presented at the meeting, they should provide any additional thoughts, feedback or questions to Laura Foglia, the Technical Team Lead. | Committee members | Before November meeting |
| Continue to talk to their neighbors and help recruit participants for inclusion in the voluntary groundwater monitoring network. | Committee members | Ongoing |

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 6th, 2019 from 3:00 – 6:00pm, Montague Community Hall, 200 S. 11th Street, Montague

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

MEETING SUMMARY

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

The facilitator provided a brief update on the status of past action items. He followed by inquiring if any committee members had any outstanding questions or concerns about the May meeting summary. No comments were received, thus the meeting summary was finalized and approved for posting on the county's SGMA website.

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.

District Staff and Other Updates

Matt Parker provided updates on a range of issues:

- **Chair resignation.** Beth Sandahl, the committee's previous chair, resigned due to a busy schedule and other commitments. The group agreed that John Tannaci, the current vice-chair, could serve in the chair capacity moving forward. Formal nomination and approval of John as the chair will occur at the November meeting.

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- **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. Matt fielded a range of questions about perceived lack of tribal participation at committee meetings; how tribes, if interested, may come and share information at committee meetings; and efforts being made to better understand tribal interest in SGMA.
- **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, Shasta Valley will have 20 years to demonstrate sustainability.
- **County Website Updates.** Matt described recent updates to the SGMA webpage 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 SGMA specific email (sgma@co.siskiyou.ca.us) that will also be 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 Program Update.** DWR has a Technical Support Services (TSS) program whereby they will pay for monitoring wells. The District is still working through the application process with DWR and working to locate possible sites The District is hoping to utilize this funding to get wells in on public access property.
- **RCD Monitoring.** The Shasta Valley RCD has installed around a dozen 11-14 groundwater elevation loggers in locations around the valley. A few moisture sensors still need to be installed. DWR also came up recently to install two California Irrigation Management System (CIMIS) stations. The RCD is measuring evapotranspiration in the valley, which will be valuable data for SGMA.

GSP Development Schedule/Flowchart and Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan (C&E Plan)

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 Shasta Valley. He explained how development of the GSP will be an

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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. 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 committee member inquired as to whether a dispute resolution process was necessary for an advisory committee. The committee member who represents the Karuk tribe noted that the tribe needs a dispute resolution process as an option to resolve disagreements and build consensus when possible. A member of the public inquired as to whether decision-making among the committee was based on majority vote or consensus, and was advised that it was the latter.

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 groundwater uses and users in Butte Valley. He briefly reviewed the following key sections of the C&E Plan:

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

Some in the group suggested that the GSA track different constituencies (Non-Advisory Committee members) who attend the meeting and, based on knowledge of the issues, may make valuable contributions to the GSP development process. Another committee expressed support for the C&E Plan and noted that it would help committee members talk to their neighbors, share information about SGMA and bring community perspectives into Advisory Committee meetings. The facilitator summarized the conversation by requesting that committee members closely review the document and provide input within two weeks.

GSP Development: Shasta Valley Groundwater Basin Setting

Dr. Laura Foglia, SGMA Technical Team Lead, reminded the group of the discussion and refinement of area maps at the previous committee meeting, and noted that input received led to refinement of these maps. She noted that nearly a dozen continuous monitoring logs have been installed in different parts of the valley as part of the voluntary well monitoring program. Further, the BOR grant award now provides funds for 10 additional soil moisture sensors, so the team is looking for volunteers who also would like to realize the benefit of having this type of sensor on their property. She emphasized that a lot can be learned from the data gathered by these tools.

Laura briefly described the GSP development process, and schedule which has been developed. GSP chapters 2, 3 and 4, she noted, will require the most review time for committee members

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and the public to review and provide input. She again reminded the group that the water budget will consider three sub-systems (soil, surface water and aquifer). Laura reviewed four tools that are being used to initially estimate the Shasta Valley water budget, then turned to Byron Clark of Davids Engineering, who presented on his groups' modeling initial work.

Byron continued the presentation by noting that he and his team are following guidelines provided by DWR. His team, he noted, seeks the committee input on whether their approach and associated results seem sound and accurate. Key topics covered during the presentation – started by Laura and continued by Byron -- included the following:

- Installation of continuous monitoring
- Overview of Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
- Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (HCM) review
- Initial water balance approaches (Spreadsheet method, Irrigated Demand Calculator)
- Davids Engineering – Remote Sensing Root Zone (RSRZ) model

Throughout the presentation, Laura and Byron fielded questions and comments on a range of issues. Most questions centered around how best to measure precipitation; how to account for seasonality, seepage and surface water runoff; the location of monitoring gaps across the valley; and how to catch winter runoff. Some commented on the need for more weather stations to better monitor precipitation and account for “rain shadows” that commonly occur across the valley. Byron noted that SGMA says that monitoring gaps should be addressed. Others noted that it is important that the model be as accurate as possible at reflecting actual conditions and providing information that informs management. Laura suggested at one point that it may be possible for the technical team to come back and show precipitation parcel by parcel, that is, spatial distribution with data all over the valley. Maybe, she noted, this will help the committee to better understand presented information and feel comfortable with estimates provided.

A few members of the public commented at various times during the presentation. Similar questions were centered around what would make the initial water budget estimate more accurate. Other questions and comments touched on change in water storage during certain months, the importance of looking at bank erosion due to rain/snow events, how data collected by local watermasters could contribute to the local SGMA process.

Proposition 68 Grant Opportunity and Status Update

Matt concluded the meeting by briefly letting the group know that DWR has put out its Proposition 68 proposal solicitation package. He and Laura have gone through the original Proposition 1 budget and identified gaps that this new source of funds can fill. Key activities under this proposal will include work on data collection, monitoring and labor to finish developing the GSP. One member asked about how the proposal might help address Shasta Valley being a data poor environment. Laura noted that her technical team and the local RCD initially developed an ideal list of well locations, but then had to work with landowners and find

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wells. Matt Parker stressed that that county is taking the effort seriously, will rely on volunteers and positive outreach with no intention to dictate where monitoring will take place. He and Laura again requested that Advisory Committee members, and interested members of the public, help the GSA to find additional wells that can be monitored.

MEETING ATTENDEES¹

Advisory Committee Members

Tristan Allen, Montague Water Conservation District
Lisa Faris, Big Spring Irrigation District
Susan Fricke, Karuk Tribe
Blair Hart, Private pumper
Justin Holmes, Edson Foulke Ditch Company
Steve Mains, Grenada Irrigation District
Robert Moser, Municipal/City
Pete Scala, Private pumper
John Tannaci (Vice-chair), Residential

Absent Committee Members

Gregg Werner, Environmental/conservation

District Staff

Matt Parker, County of Siskiyou Natural Resources Specialist

Technical Team

Dr. Laura Foglia, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates
Byron Clark, Davids Engineering
Brandon Ertis, Davids Engineering

Facilitator

Rich Wilson, Sacramento State University – Consensus and Collaboration Program

¹ Approximately a half dozen members of the public attended the meeting, included some staff from the North Coast Water Resources Control Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.