

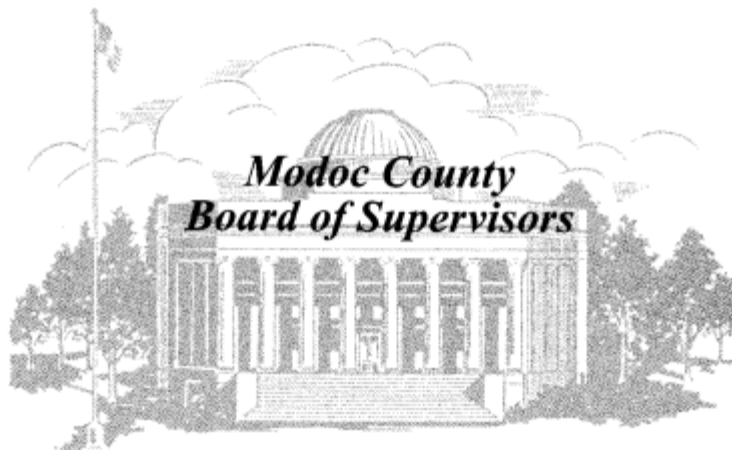
DAVID ALLAN
1st District

PATRICIA CULLINS
2nd District

KATHIE ALVES
3rd District

JAMES WILLS
4th District

GERI BYRNE
5th District



AMBER M. MASON
Deputy Clerk of the
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

204 S. Court Street
ALTURAS, CALIFORNIA
96101

(530) 233-6201
Fax (530) 233-2434

**GROUND WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 23, 2015**

1:30pm Call to Order

01:30 a.m. Meeting called to Order by Chairman, Ned Coe. Ned Coe, Joe Carey, Pete Carey, Herb Jasper, Brad Kirby, Edith Asrow, Jack Rice, Mark Steffek, and Jimmy Nunn are present. Supervisor Byrne, Supervisor Allan, CAO Robertson, Kim Hunter, Joe Moreo, Richard Egan, Aaron Albough, Joe Picotte, Warren Farnam, AJ McQuarrie, and Deputy Clerk Mason are also present. Jay Younger is absent.

Public Comment

Warren Farnam shares that Steve Orloff wanted to make it. He wanted them to know that UC Davis has a lot of good resources that are available to them.

Ned Coe states that the new Farm Advisor also wished to be here but was unable to attend due to a prior engagement.

Approval or additions/deletions to agenda

Motion by Mark Steffek, seconded by Herb Jasper to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed 8 - 0 with 1 absent.

Ned Coe: yea

Joe Carey: yea

Pete Carey: yea

Herb Jasper: yea

Brad Kirby: yea

Edith Asrow: yea

Mark Steffek: yea

Jimmy Nunn: yea

Jay Younger: absent

- 1. CONSIDERATION/ACTION: Approval of February 20, 2015 meeting minutes. (Deputy Clerk of the Board) attachment**

Ned Coe request a typographical correction to page four of the minutes.

Motion by Herb Jasper, seconded by Mark Steffek to approve the consent agenda with corrections. Motion passed 8 - 0 with 1 absent.

Ned Coe: yea

Joe Carey: yea

Pete Carey: yea

Herb Jasper: yea

Brad Kirby: yea

Edith Asrow: yea

Mark Steffek: yea

Jimmy Nunn: yea

Jay Younger: absent

2. [1:40pm - DISCUSSION/INFORMATION: Overview of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Jack Rice, Associate Counsel, California Farm Bureau Federation.](#)

Jack Rice, Associate Counsel for California Farm Bureau Federation, presents a Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) a handout to the group.

The act states that certain basins have to develop a management plan and then implement the plan, to ensure sustainability for the future. He states that if this not taken care of locally the State will do it for the County. Basins have been categorized into four priorities; high, medium, low and very low. The priority is based on the importance of groundwater (not on groundwater condition). Being on the list does not mean the basin has a problem that needs to be fixed. It means under their scoring system the groundwater in the basin is important and needs a plan to sustain it.

Mr. Rice states that for Modoc County the two medium priority basins are Tulelake and Big Valley. These two basins will have to become compliant with SGMA. Low priority basins are Warm Springs Valley, South Fork Pitt River and Surprise Valley. Those who can create the plan and implement it can be a public agency with water supply, water management or land use authority. He states that multiple agencies can work together and that the County is the presumed entity if no other group steps up.

Supervisor Byrne asks if flood management districts are eligible under the criteria.

Mr. Rice states yes since they are a public entity.

Richard Egan, Lassen County CAO, shares that Lassen County is not ready to accept the notion that they are going to be forced to comply with this and that there is questionable data. They have yet to find a way to challenge the validity of.

Supervisor Byrne states that her understanding is that when re-evaluated they will be looking at placing more basins on the list verses taking basins off the list.

Mr. Rice states that DWR does not have a process for reprioritization right now.

Kim Hunter, Planning Director, reminds everyone that there will be a reprioritization of groundwater basins in 2017, so for the three low priority basins that they could be easily bumped up (or down) on the list.

Mr. Rice states that the reprioritization in 2017 is specifically to address fishery issues.

Edith Asrow asks if there are multiple reprioritization dates.

Mr. Rice states that there are two reprioritizations; one in January of this year (which they are going to leave everything the same) and one in 2017 (it is expected that reprioritization will be done).

Mr. Rice explains what is needed to fulfill the SGMA. A Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is required and

needs to identify how groundwater is managed and used sustainably in order to avoid undesirable results. The interest of the entire community needs to be addressed. DWR will periodically review the plan to assure it is still on track and being implemented properly. The GSA (legal entity to manage groundwater) must be identified by June 31, 2017. The plan must be developed by 2022.

Ned Coe asks if there are provisions that allow a GSA (Tulelake Irrigation District {TID}) to have groundwater authority where the basin is larger than the district.

Mr. Rice states that the entity cannot go outside of its jurisdiction. TID to be the entity they could form a JPA or MOU with the County to fill in those gaps that may exist. It would be the authority granted to the County.

Brad Kirby states that the Tulelake sub-basin lies within the exterior boundary of TID. He states that there are wells outside of the exterior boundary.

Mr. Rice states that they could argue that these need to be included because they help manage those that are in the boundary or that the boundaries should be moved to incorporate those.

Mr. Rice states that monitoring the quality of the water and how the monitoring of the water is done is up to the entity.

Dan Lowery, SX Ranch, suggest developing a plan to manage the water that is being put back into the ground rather than focusing on the water that is being taken out.

Ned Coe states that he expects this will be one aspect of the plan when it is created.

Mr. Rice concurs with Mr. Lowery and states that the supply side is a critical piece of what a groundwater management plan should have in it.

Aaron Albough, Lassen County Supervisor, asks if there is a cap on what they can charge.

Mr. Rice says, not that he is aware of. He states that they could come up with additional funding with grants to develop the plan and comply with SGMA or they can choose not to comply, which would result in the State Water Board and DWR doing the work for them. This option would be more costly than if it were kept local.

Aaron Albough, Lassen County Supervisor, asks what they need to do as an initial step.

Mr. Rice suggest putting together an entity that can hire a Groundwater Hydrologist to look at the existing data. Then they can communicate with DWR about what each basin needs. Engaging DWR early will be to the County's benefit, since they are trying to develop a plan as well and what Modoc needs can help shape their plan.

CAO Robertson asks if there is other fee structure framework that they should be aware of (other than Prop 218).

Mr. Rice states that it is only Prop 218.

Joe Moreo suggest a small meeting with Lassen County and Modoc County representatives after this meeting with Mr. Rice. The group agrees to this.

3. [**2:15pm - DISCUSSION/INFORMATION: Governor's Drought Executive Order - Item 15 The Executive Order provides for immediate implementation of all CASGEM \(California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring\) requirements in high and medium priority groundwater basins. DWR is required to refer noncompliant agencies within high and medium priority basins to the State Water Board by December 31, 2015.**](#)

Jack Rice, Associate Counsel for California Farm Bureau Federation, states that the Big Valley Basin is the only basin in the County that is not CASGEM compliant. A County can be the monitoring CASGEM entity.

Ned Coe wants to know why it is not CASGEM compliant, if DWR is already monitoring the wells in this basin.

Warren Farnam, Environmental Health, states that if this isn't done they are not eligible for any water grants. He states that this, threat does not apply if you are a disadvantaged community, but DWR has not defined what a disadvantaged community is yet.

4. [2:30pm - DISCUSSION/INFORMATION: Office of Emergency Services - GIS Project \(AJ McQuarrie\)](#)

AJ McQuarrie states that one year ago the State asked them what they could do for them. AJ told them that they could put tools in place to collect data to be better prepared for groundwater legislation. As a result the State funded a GIS project for them. Part of it was infrastructure for the County and contracting with Vestra resources to gather the data from DWR and other areas.

The infrastructure is a tool box to house the data that is collected. She states that Corben Chilson, the IT staff at the Sheriff's Department is loading 600 gigs of data on the servers today. This project from the prospective of how the grant was written, will be complete June 30th. All the groundwater data will not be there by this deadline, but the infrastructure will be. There is no funding currently after the June 30th deadline.

5. [2:45pm - DISCUSSION/INFORMATION: Modoc County resource affiliated departments to give a brief role and responsibilities presentation pertaining to local water management activities. Water Master, Planning, Agricultural, Natural Resources, OES, and Environmental Health.](#)

Kim Hunter, Planning Director, presents the Planning Department's Groundwater Survey. This department plays a role in groundwater enforcement, policy review/development and participated in efforts to obtain grants. Their role with surface water is policy review/development and emergency response. She reads over multiple funding sources her department has received related to ground and surface water. She states that there is potential for funding related to local groundwater assistance. She state that there is funding for surface water activities, but her office has limited staff and this has not be able to be look into further.

AJ McQuarrie, Office of Emergency Services, states that OES has no role in water management or planning. Their only role is emergency response. The only reason they are involved at all is due to the Governor's Drought Declaration. They are just a coordinating agency.

CAO Robertson presents the Resource Analyst survey. This department is in involved in ground and surface water policy review/development. They also participate in the Technical Peer Review Committee NC water board, related to surface water.

Warren Farnam, Environmental Health, states that his department plays a role related to groundwater in water quality monitoring, enforcement, policy review/development and issuing well permits.

Robert Dollan, Watermaster Department, states that they don't deal with much groundwater; they do monitor a couple of wells that pump into surface water systems.

Joe Moreo, Ag Commissioner, states that his department's role related to groundwater and surface water is policy review/development, emergency response and groundwater protection areas (GWPAS) for pesticide regulations. Joe was the Watermaster for Modoc County from November 2007 to June 2010, he also was involved with funding for well drilling in the Tulalake area after the water cutoff of 2001.

6. [3:00pm - DISCUSSION/INFORMATION: Determine the local government level of participation in future groundwater management activities in Modoc County.](#)

Supervisor Byrne states that a lot of areas have the issue of too many entities available to be the GSA, for Modoc this is the opposite. Modoc does not have anyone to be the GSA right now.

Richard Egan, Lassen County CAO, states that they will be addressing this at their next Board meeting on Tuesday at the Veteran's Memorial Building.

CAO Robertson states that if TID is volunteering then that is the solution for a GSA in that region. The next priority would be a GSA for the Big Valley basin. He recommends, that if Lassen County is going to try and challenge the listing of the basin that it needs to be dialoged that Modoc is also in support of this.

Mr. Egan states that benefit to getting off of the list is that they can let other jurisdictions fight the battles and wait to see which ones they win and which ones they lose at their expense, rather than Modoc and Lassen trying to create the wheel.

Mr. Rice mentions that there is \$100 million dollars in the local water bond that he is unsure if they can apply for.

Supervisor Byrne states that the last she heard was that they hadn't developed the criteria for applicants yet.

7. 3:15pm - DISCUSSION/INFORMATION: Agenda items for June 25, 2015 meeting.

Kim Hunter, Planning Director, suggest staff and committee members look into funding.

CAO Robertson suggest the appointment of Board members to work with Lassen County. He also suggest an item with a report from the Big Valley basin, their efforts and how they plan to proceed. He suggest a report from the Cedarville Water District, since they are also facing groundwater management monitoring.

Ned Coe asks if they should we look at trying to get individuals from the various water districts serving on this committee.

Supervisor Byrne states that the bylaws would have to be adjusted to do this.

Supervisor Allan points out that there are at least three residents from Surprise Valley present.

3:30pm - ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Herb Jasper, seconded by Brad Kirby to adjourn at 4:30 pm. Motion passed 8 - 0 with 1 absent.

Ned Coe: yea

Joe Carey: yea

Pete Carey: yea

Herb Jasper: yea

Brad Kirby: yea

Edith Asrow: yea

Mark Steffek: yea

Jimmy Nunn: yea

Jay Younger: absent

Amber M. Mason, Deputy Clerk

Ned Coe, Chairman