

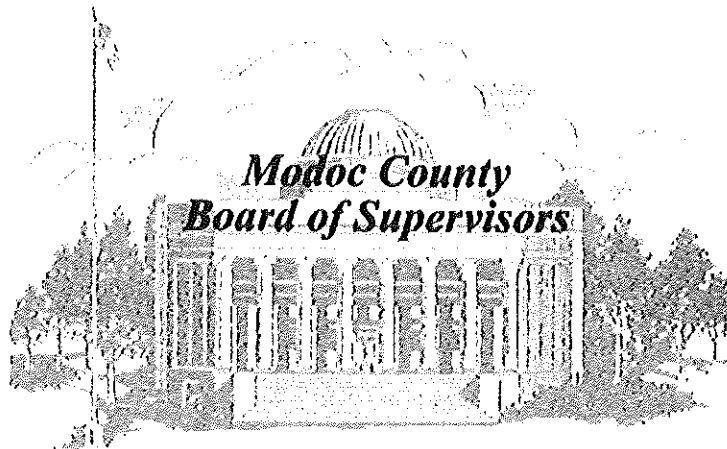
DAVID ALLAN
1st District

PATRICIA
CULLINS
2nd District

KATHIE ALVES
3rd District

JAMES WILLS
4th District

GERI BYRNE
5th District



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WELLEMEYER
Clerk of the
BOARD OF
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**GROUND WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 20, 2015**

1:30 p.m. Call to Order

Meeting called to Order by Supervisor Byrne. Supervisor Byrne, Mark Steffek, Robert Dollan, Ned Coe, Herb Jasper, Alan Nelson, Pete Carey, Joe Carey, Edith Asrow, and Deputy Clerk Mason are present. AJ McQuarrie, Warren Farnam, and Joe Moreo are also present.

Public Comment

None.

Approval or Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Motion by Mark Steffek, seconded by Herb Jasper to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion passed unanimously.

1. Self Introductions

The following members introduced themselves;

Supervisor, Geri Byrne	Ned Coe	Joe Moreo
Mark Steffek	Herb Jasper	Deputy Clerk, Amber Mason
Warren Farnam	Alan Nelson	Edith Asrow
AJ McQuarrie	Pete Carey	
Robert Dollan	Joe Carey	

2. Overview of Committee set up, duties and responsibilities

Supervisor Byrne states that if the county does not take action, the State of California will take over. They have to look at the low and high priorities on the list, these will be the two main things. She states that they need to establish entities, the Big Valley area is the biggest concern which will have to be in coordination with Lassen County. She states that the bylaws are in the binders provided to them, and meeting dates are set already and they will review to see if they work.

Alan Nelson would like to know what the States take on this is.

Joe Moreo states that this is high priority, but they want the counties to handle it. The biggest issues are in southern California. For this committee the biggest issue is Big Valley, most of the acreage and wells are on the Lassen side. He states that they need find a group that is there and get with them because it will most likely be a two county effort.

Ned Coe states that the State is still trying to develop criteria for the Ground Water Management.

Alan Nelson would like to know if any contact has been made with the California North East Water Association.

Supervisor Byrne replies, no.

Ned Coe states that his understanding is that they don't have the jurisdiction necessary.

Supervisor Byrne shares that in order to be a Ground Water Agency you have to be a local public agency that covers the basin and deals with water issues. There are a lot of what the State calls, "white areas" that don't have an irrigation district over it and she believes that parts of Big Valley fall under this.

Ned Coe states that he asked the Farm Bureau if they have water planning authorities as it relates to this and it sounds like they do.

Alan Nelson states that he thinks they have just monitored this internally in the past.

Supervisor Byrne shares that the state is not calling this an unfunded mandate. They are saying they are giving them the opportunity to charge people for this, thus it is not an unfunded mandate.

Pete Carey ask if they have an outline to follow as a committee [from the State] and he states that he thinks NRCS spent around \$600,000 on a water management plan that maybe available to extract different things out of.

Supervisor Byrne states that the State is making the plan up as they go and she does not know about the NRCS.

Mark Steffek thinks Pete maybe thinking of the Watershed Assessment. There areas that speak of ground water management, but it is not a plan for it.

Jay Younger enters the meeting.

Alan Nelson asks if Prop 1 passed. In that case there should be \$100 million dollars in funding to help create the GSP.

Supervisor Byrne states yes and there is funding for this, but she does not think they have adopted how that will be done.

Alan Nelson asks if anyone has inquired about the money yet.

Supervisor Byrne states that DWR had not come up with how that would be done yet. They have to start this process but there is no knowledge of how the funding is going to be.

Brad Kirby enters the meeting.

Supervisor Byrne introduces Brad to the group and states that they would use Tulelake Irrigation District (TID) as the ground water entity.

Brad Kirby states that their intentions would be to be the GSA but has not talked to Siskiyou County yet.

Alan Nelson asks Brad what they have done to be the ground water agency in their area.

Brad states that they have over ten wells that went in, in 2001 that have been monitored monthly and weekly when they are running in the Klamath Project. They picked up five additional wells to fill out the Klamath sub basin.

Supervisor Byrne states that by June 2017 they need to notify DWR who the agency is going to be for each area. The committee needs to identify the basins, identify local agencies, understand the basin conditions, decide how to engage interested parties (this is a big part of the law), discuss and assign authorities and evaluate and propose a governance model.

Alan Nelson states that Round Valley is more of an issue than Big Valley.

Joe Moreo states that Round Valley is actually a low priority, it is not connected to Big Valley. Good news is there is only two mediums and most of one of the mediums is in Lassen County, they have to interface with people from that side to accomplish that.

Supervisor Byrne shares that at the meeting her and Supervisor Wills attended he asked, "what if a state line goes through your basin", and they hadn't thought of that yet.

Joe Moreo states in regards to funding, him having watched state programs over the years, they could spend all money down in the high priority areas.

Supervisor Byrne states that the goal is to achieve sustainability in twenty years, and they need to come up with measurable objectives with five year milestones and to manage the basin to avoid undesirable results.

AJ McQuarrie asks Brad Kirby if they do monthly readings

Brad Kirby says, yes. 2011 was a better year, Klamath project as a whole had enough surface water, and he saw a foot or two of recharge in 2001.

AJ McQuarrie asks if they noticed a difference in pumping, or what is over draft for them. What is the point at which they cannot pump?

Brad Kirby states that there isn't one at this point.

Supervisor Byrne states that once this is implemented there will be.

Brad Kirby states that they will be rewriting their plan in the future to accommodate this.

Alan Nelson asks what the history behind what is being said in regards to them having this problem in Big Valley and Tulelake areas.

Warren Farnam states that DWR has been monitoring it since the 80s. On the website there is a criteria that says how they will rank. If they go there the ranking process trending groundwater elevations is only one area that causes it to be in there. He is not aware of the matrix they use to do this.

Brad Kirby states that the scores did not make sense to him, biggest reason is the dropping of the aquifer since 2001, which have dropped 20-25 feet.

Ned Coe states that the score is based more on the importance of the groundwater basin, rather than the condition of it. Impacts that drove the scores up for Big Valley and Tulelake was declining ground water. To show how it doesn't measure the true condition of a groundwater basin he uses Crescent City as an example; some of the highest rainfall in the state small agricultural base, yet it is a moderate priority.

Supervisor Byrne shares that they said they can change the priorities.

Supervisor Byrne shares that the class she went to said DWR has not yet defined the regulations, a two year timeline is very optimistic, sustainable funding is not clear, outreach and education is costly, local water users needs are extremely diverse, the process must begin without complete regulations and definitions, funding is an issue, multiple agreements needed, county will assume responsibility if no one steps forward. They do have funding for facilitations to help set this up.

3. CONSIDERATION/ACTION: Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
Supervisor Byrne opens nomination of Chair.

Motion by Herb Jasper, to approve

Ned Coe as Chair to the committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Ned Coe opens nominations for Vice Chair.

Pete Carey nominates Alan Nelson.

Alan Nelson abstains from being on the committee, he doesn't think he has the time to commit to the committee at this time.

Motion by Herb Jasper, to approve Brad Kirby as Vice-Chair to the committee. Motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION: Groundwater Regulation and what is needed in Modoc County.

Jay Younger asks for it to be explain how they are structured under the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Byrne asks everyone to refer to the bylaws and resolution form. She states that the committee would come to the Board on what they recommend.

Jay Younger states that he believes they shouldn't do anything in addition to what they have to do. He is opposed to over doing anything, he states that the frame work needs to be in place.

Alan Nelson states that they may be trying to get compliant too quick.

Herb Jasper agrees, they need to take it slow and do the minimal.

Ned Coe asks Supervisor Byrne if they can through her to ask County Counsel to investigate whether the flood control district qualifies.

Supervisor Byrne will follow up with this.

Pete Carey has noticed that the meters are not accurate. One shows pumps a certain amount and it's not, it reads the air.

Jay Younger states that when the pipe isn't full it won't work properly.

Pete Carey questions, how can they regulate something that is not accurate?

Jay Younger states that it falls on the owner of the well. It's in the owner's best interest to fix it.

Joe Moreo asks Brad Kirby if he is using meters and if so how accurate does he feel they are.

Brad Kirby says, yes the TID wells have meters on them, but unless they are professionally stamped and checked by an engineer you really don't know for sure how well they are working.

Supervisor Byrne asks Brad Kirby if TID is doing the outreach and the public hearing to become the GSA.

Brad Kirby states that they have not begun, but it looks like a similar process to becoming a ground water management agency.

Jay Younger asks what Warren and AJ have already started doing.

Warren Farnam states that they have data and have completed the framework for that data. They have not identified any trends as of yet. Multiple entities have data and they are trying to pull all of it together. They are simply just getting all of the information organized, once this is completed they will identify trends.

Alan Nelson states that he is a member of the Big Valley Conservation District. He asked if they are doing anything and they said they are not doing anything, because they have not received any notification.

Ned Coe shares that last night at the Lassen County Farm Planning there was discussion in regards to what is already in existence; AB3030 are the plans for the county.

Ned Coe asks Supervisor Byrne to elaborate on the creation of an irrigation district.

Supervisor Byrne states that there is an association that is trying to become a district they have asked Brian Dahle to carry legislation and they are also trying to go through LAFCO to do this.

Jay Younger asks if an irrigation district can take this over.

Brad Kirby states that they are eligible to be since they are a water district.

Jay Younger asks Brad Kirby if they are coming up with a procedure to follow.

Brad Kirby says yes.

Supervisor Byrne states that what TID is doing for Tulelake, they need to come up with something in the same manner in regards to Big Valley.

Alan Nelson asks who funds TID.

Brad Kirby states it is the land owners of Tulelake.

Supervisor Byrne states that she will find and send to the committee, the steps to become a GSA that she acquired at a recent meeting. She states that the Board is the assumed GSA if no other group steps forward. Speaking for herself, she does not believe the Board wants to be the GSA, financially speaking they cannot afford it.

Jay Younger shares that he received a bill from the county recently for a new well that they drilled to increase their tax base. So, when they are talking about funding for this, the county is already deriving income on the tax base from all of the wells. He states that he would have no issue with going to the County and saying, "you have all these tax wells in the tax base and we are getting no service for it". He states that he knows for a fact that this year alone the County received \$600 more just from him. The County doesn't provide him any service for that new well.

AJ McQuarrie wants to know how many people in the Big Valley area are aware, and how aware are they. What would be their stance or recommendations? Should there be public outreach to address this.

Alan Nelson agrees that there should be public outreach and it needs to extend to Big Valley, Lassen County and Modoc County users of that basin area.

Jay Younger suggest having a minimal road map of steps. Need to figure out if there is more they want to monitor.

Joe Moreo states that the State wants compliance with the law, what the County wants is a structure to monitor it and prevent the state from saying you are pumping too much.

Herb Jasper states that no one wants the State to do this even if there is a fee, because the State's fee would be considerably higher than the County's fee.

Joe Moreo asks Supervisor Byrne if the presentation she attended would be valuable to the group.

Supervisor Byrne states that if she can find it online she will send out the link to the committee members.

Supervisor Byrne states that they need to invite Aaron Alba to the future meetings as well as people from Big Valley.

Ned Coe states that he will try to get Jack Rice to speak at the next meeting.

5. CONSIDERATION/ACTION: Set up of ad-hoc sub committees if any deemed necessary at this time

No action needed at this time.

6. Approve date and time for next meeting.

Fourth Thursday of the month at 1:30pm will be the standing meeting date and time. March 26th will be the next meeting if they can get Jack Rice to attend, if not will do an April meeting. It was recommended to use the Sheriff's Annex for the meeting location.

ADJOURNMENT

Ned Coe adjourns the meeting at 3:57pm.

Amber M. Mason, Deputy Clerk

Ned Coe, Chairman