

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

Outreach & Engagement Committee

Meeting Notes | July 25, 2023

Meeting Materials

- <https://www.cosumnesgroundwater.org/meetings/committee-meetings/>

Meeting-in-Brief / Outcomes

- The first meeting of the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA) Outreach and Engagement Committee (O &E) under the recently adopted charter was held on July 25, 2023, in person at 2:00pm with an option to participate via Zoom. A quick, round-the-room and via Zoom introduction took place from both Staff and committee members. Staff provided a committee charter overview to remind members the purpose of O & E as well our overall goals.
- 2023-2024 O & E Committee Meeting Schedule including possible workshop dates
- Newsletter Development and Famer Survey improvements

Call to Order/Attendance

O & E Committee

Mark Stretar

Teresa Flewellyn

Belinda Ellis

Barbara Washburn

Staff and Consultants

Brittany Friedman, and Chris Hunley - CGA.

Meeting Overview

Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Review

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA) Administrator Brittany Friedman and CGA Board Chair Chris Hunley welcomed participants to the first O & E Committee meeting.

Work Plan and Committee Charter

The Committee discussed the roles and responsibilities/purpose of this committee, as a review and to gather any feedback on the development and implementation of these working documents. The Committee voiced their support for Teresa as Chair, noting that if she was to be absent from

a meeting, another member of the Committee would report out and act in her stead. There was a suggestion that staff does not need to be present at every Committee meeting if substantial notice is given and the Chair is present. However, although not in the charter specifically, it is the staff's responsibility to attend, facilitate and assist the Committee /members with many of the tasks discussed at the meetings. The Committee agreed to discuss staff involvement more at a later date.

Farmer Survey Next Steps

The Committee discussed how to obtain greater input from farmers in the basin as well as improve the survey, possibly with in-person meetings or events. Ideas included:

- A lunch with irrigators, farmers, etc. (would Pat Hume consider donating funds to cover food costs?). The purpose of the breakfast/lunch event is to obtain greater feedback from farmers on land repurposing/conservation/recharge options to address the groundwater deficit.
- Work with the local GSA's on survey improvement - looking for general feedback, possible questions we can add, etc. and developing a worksheet/plan for the GSA's and stakeholders. The current version of the survey will be sent to each GSA to obtain feedback and suggestions from the board. This information will then be forwarded to a professional survey consultant to refine the questions to avoid bias.
- Reach out to members of the Farm Bureau to partner with and spread the word.
- Participation at local events where CGA can have a designated booth.
- Coordinate with the PMA Committee in the future on this agenda item.

Newsletter Development

The Committee and staff are interested in producing and distributing a quarterly or semi-annual newsletter to share key information related to SGMA and local groundwater conditions, as well as to promote upcoming events and workshops. The newsletter will be a 2-sided document with approximately 4-5 topics, coordinated with what the CGA Board is working on at that time.

Some possible topics include:

- upcoming meeting times,
- contacts for the different GSAs
- Efforts to obtain funds to implement projects (grants applied for, possible fees in the future),
- the Laguna Del Sol dry well)
- At the top of all newsletter, a 3-4 sentence overview of CGA would be included in a call out box with a link to the website with more detailed information.

It was decided that staff would initially draft the newsletter and the O & E committee would provide feedback. In terms of participation and readers, it was discussed that we should utilize other news sources such as the Herald News. It was also suggested that we develop a CGA History 101 Document for our website that explicitly states who we are, what we do, where one can go for more information, etc. Brittany will utilize Mail Chimp viewing statistics to see where we can improve participation, as well as develop a link for people to opt-in to the newsletter. The first newsletter should go out in September or October of 2023, prior to the Fall Workshop.

Workshop Planning

Ideally, the O & E Committee would like to hold two public workshops annually (Spring and Autumn) to engage the community and share information on CGA efforts. The Committee discussed that the upcoming workshop for Fall 2023 should be held in the early weeks of November, after our October monitoring. Data from the 2023 water level monitoring will be presented at the workshop. Possible Workshop topics included:

- Groundwater level monitoring data,
- Overview of CGA work during the past year
- Report from consultants conducting the analysis of groundwater recharge and flood risk along the Cosumnes River.

Possible partners that could be invited and have a booth set up include: Regional Sanitation (Harvest Water Project), Sac County Planning Department, Regional Water Authority, etc. The Committee would like to schedule a separate and smaller brainstorming session for those who would like to participate to develop concrete plans for topics at the upcoming workshop - Belinda, Mark and Brittany have volunteered as of now.

A member of the Board of the Rancho Murieta CSD raised concerns regarding future water needs in Rancho Murieta. It was suggested that a special workshop in RM should be considered to address the specific concerns of this community.

Regular Meeting Dates and Committee Report Out

The Chair, Teresa Flewellyn, will report to the CGA Board meetings following the meeting of the O & E Committee. The Committee decided to meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month, every three months from 2 - 4pm. These dates coming up are as follows:

- September 14, 2023
- December 14, 2023
- March 14, 2024
- June 13, 2024

Ad Hoc Committee meetings must be announced and prepared 72 hours in advance and are as needed. It was suggested we have one prior to the Fall workshop in November and one after the holidays in February 2024, before the Spring Workshop.

Next Steps/Action Items

- Brittany and Teresa will develop a list of traditional community events for the rest of 2023 and in 2024 that would be opportunities for the O&E to do Outreach. This could also include community/youth groups like 4-H clubs, FFA clubs, and other groups.
- Teresa will contact Dennis Johnson about providing the cooking for a stakeholder/farmers bbq event, and who he thought might donate some or all of the supplies needed.
- Teresa and/or Brittany follow up with each GSA to request they review the most recent irrigator survey, and give feedback on what changes could be made to create better response rates.
- Brittany will provide tracking information to the committee from the mailchimp platform about how the email notices from the basin are being accessed, or not, by the recipients.
- Brittany, Mark and Belinda will form a committee ad hoc to provide a framework to the committee for upcoming workshops in either early November, or Jan-February 2024.

- Barbara will reach out to Pat Hume to see if his office could support an event by helping with food costs.

*The ad hoc group will update Teresa by Aug 16th with their work to date so it can be included in the August CGA committee report to the Board.

Adjournment

CGA staff thanked O & E members for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 3:57pm

Next meeting date: September 14, 2023.