



Solano Subbasin GSA Collaborative Meeting

May 18, 2023 | 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. | Via Zoom

Participants

X	Solano Subbasin GSA Chris Lee		Solano Irrigation District Cary Keaten		Sacramento County Chris Hunley
X	Misty Kaltreider	X	Paul Fuchslin		Rodney Fricke, GEI Consultants
X	"Dick" Chun Tzou		Gerardo Santana		Kerry Schmitz
X	Northern Delta GSA Erik Ringelberg Chris Thomas	X	City of Vacaville Justen Cole		
X	Luhdorff & Scalmanini Engineering Vicki Kretsinger Grabert	X	Ag Innovations Jenn Fox		
X	Nick Watterson	X	Suzannah Sosman		
X	Faithe Lovelace		Guadalupe Garcia Genevieve Taylor		
Guests: Kelly Huff, Dixon RCD					

AGENDA

1. GSA Updates
2. GSP Implementation
 - a. State of the Subbasin
 - b. Upcoming legislation, well permitting, and related topics
3. Stakeholder Engagement
 - a. Virtual Town Hall - June 1, 2023
 - b. Newsletter and infographic
 - c. Interbasin coordination
4. Forecast June meeting discussions

MEETING NOTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Updates

- Solano Irrigation District: Is continuing its monitoring program. At this time last year, customers had used 17,000 acre feet (AF), but to date, it has only been 3,000 acre feet. Given continued precipitation, in May, staff recommended reducing the groundwater usage to several thousand AF, or just what is needed to meet system demand.
- Northern Delta GSA: The annual Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for June 28th.
- Solano Subbasin GSA: Is preparing for the annual budget.
- City of Vacaville GSA: No updates at this time.



Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation

State of the Subbasin

Luhdorff & Scalmanini Engineering (LSCE) updated meeting attendees on current groundwater conditions in the Subbasin, recent related groundwater activities, and upcoming priorities.

Luhdorff & Scalmanini Engineering presented preliminary spring water level data.

- Benefits of a wet year: increased recharge and decreased demand.
- DWR has stopped monitoring some of the RMS monitoring wells.
- The Bureau of Reclamation has also not monitored a number of wells this year.

LSCE continues outreach to both of these agencies to incorporate data from those wells back into the network.

Projects and Management Actions

Collaborative members discussed the possibility of opportunities for Managed Aquifer Recharge given various flooding events over the wet winter. Sustainable Conservation has created a draft work plan with funding from DWR, exploring the natural benefits of the floodplain and existing data. They are seeking other researchers to engage on this topic further.

A participant asked if the wet winter might be a good opportunity to explore a Managed Aquifer Recharge experiment:

- There may be opportunities to think about recharge from rain water.
- Landowner properties within the Subbasin where monitoring has already been taking place may provide an opportunity to track flooding events as they occur and learn more about recharge.

The Dixon Resource Conservation District (RCD) and LCSE recently met to look at ways to collaborate around the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) on water sources, including where groundwater and surface water are used. They are considering ways to improve and refine data collection at the parcel scale.

Upcoming Legislation, Well Permitting, and Related items

Solano Subbasin GSA provided updates on proposed legislation, forums and activities related to groundwater:

- Discussion with Assemblymember Lori Wilson's staff on funding opportunities as well as funding from upcoming water bonds for research on potential water projects.
- Additional meetings with Senator Dodd and Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry.
- Collaborative members were encouraged to attend the upcoming Water Agency Legislative Committee meeting. Members were encouraged to talk to representatives about various upcoming proposed legislation that could significantly impact Solano and other subbasins.



Solano County Water Agency has received a number of well permit applications, most of which are to replace old wells.

A five year assessment Sacramento Valley under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program has been completed and the report was submitted to the Northern California Water Association. The assessment uses publicly available data and considers current conditions and trends in nitrates, Total Dissolved Solids, and pesticides. State agencies are looking for ways to coordinate reporting requirements, reduce duplication, and synthesize this information so that it can be used by agencies like GSAs.

Stakeholder Engagement

Upcoming Virtual Town Hall - June 1, 5:30-7pm

Ag Innovations shared the agenda for the upcoming Solano Subbasin Groundwater Virtual Town Hall (VTH), which will be held on Thursday, June 1 from 5:30-7:00 pm.

- The event will include an update on the state of the Subbasin, as well as associated work toward Projects and Management Actions (PMAs).
- The VTH will also include updates on related activities happening in the subbasin on the irrigated lands program, the Solano County One Water program, and current water conservation programs from GSA members.
- 58 people have registered to date; more participants are expected to register ahead of the event.
- Members were encouraged to invite Board members and constituents.
- The VTH will include simultaneous Spanish translation. Constituents interested in Spanish translation are also encouraged to attend.

Meeting attendees were asked to share topics that they expect are of interest, and potential questions participants might bring to the VTH. The group also discussed questions that might be useful to ask attendees, including:

- An overview of what the public is seeing from the wet winter as we enter the dry season.
- Changes in agricultural practices and/or crops planted.
- Factors the project team should consider when looking at groundwater levels.

Meeting attendees also discussed changes in cropping patterns over the last year, including

- Removal of walnut orchards with the decline in the market and an overall transition to row crops.
- High forage losses to geese, exacerbated by a cold spring.

State of the Subbasin Infographic

Ag Innovations presented the draft of the State of the Solano Subbasin infographic. This infographic provides an accessible overview of the 2022 water year for a broad audience. It also provides a template that can be used over time to describe trends in water storage and



groundwater pumping as well as current activities around projects and management actions within the Subbasin.

Members were asked to contact Ag Innovations if they would like to provide specific feedback on the draft before it is shared with the public.

Interbasin Coordination

Solano Subbasin GSA, LSCE and Ag Innovations met with Yolo Subbasin on May 8, 2023 to continue coordination between Yolo and Solano subbasins.

The meeting included updates, information sharing, and coordination on current groundwater status, projects and management actions, outreach, including upcoming public events, and tribal communication. Ag Innovations noted that the Yocha Dehe Tribal contact has changed and shared new contact information with the GSA Collaborative..

Forecast June Meeting Topics

DWR funding announcements expected within the next few weeks.

The next GSA Collaborative meeting is on June 15, 2023 from 1:00-3:00.

Meeting Adjourned