

## Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)

### Board of Directors Meetings Minutes

September 6, 2017

Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center, 4689 CA-166, New Cuyama, CA 93254

The Cuyama Basin GSA Board of Directors met in regular session at approx. 4:00 PM.

**PRESENT:** Directors: Paul Chounet, Tom Bracken, Jane Wooster, Derek Yurosek, George Cappello, Byron Albano, Lynn Compton, Das Williams, Cory Bantilan, Glenn Shephard

Alt. Directors: None

**ABSENT:** Directors: David Couch (no Alternate appeared as substitute for a Director)

**1. Call to order**

Chair Yurosek calls the meeting to order at approx. 4:00 PM.

**2. Roll call**

Secretary Carolyn Berg calls roll of the Board (shown above).

**3. Pledge of allegiance**

The pledge of allegiance is led by Chair Yurosek.

**4. Approval of minutes of the August 02, 2017 meeting**

**Chair Yurosek:** opens floor to comments with no response.

**Motion by:** Director Cappello moves to approve minutes.

**Second by:** Director Albano.

**Motion passes unanimously.**

**5. Receive and discuss an update on Grant Assistance efforts**

**Matt Young (Santa Barbara County Water Agency staff):** Introduces Lyndel Melton, RMC project manager overseeing the Prop 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning grant application development on behalf of the GSA. Melton provides an update on the grant application process, schedule, and focus of the application. His team would like to convene a workshop to discuss potential application scope concepts (e.g. improved groundwater level/ quality data and monitoring; improved surface water monitoring; feasibility of various supply options). He describes likelihood of receiving grant funding, based on the basin's designation as both "SDAC" (severely disadvantaged community) and critical condition of overdraft. Cost sharing will be determined dependent on whether, and to what extent, the California Department of Water Resources allows a cost match waiver for this SDAC. Lastly, Melton notes that the GSA Board is required to approve an authorizing resolution with the application.

**Directors:** Vice Chair Compton and Directors Bantilan, Cappello, Compton, Williams, and Wooster express an interest in participating in workshop to discuss grant application scope. There is Board consensus for taking this approach.

**6. Receive and discuss report from ad-hoc committee for Executive Director position****Executive Director Ad-Hoc Committee Verbal Report (Directors Williams, Cappello, and Bracken):**

Director Williams provides overview on Executive Director applicant interviews and proposals. Majority of committee recommends the Hallmark Group (Jim Beck). Director Cappello discusses Jim Beck's qualifications and background in groundwater modeling, management and agency administration. Director Williams notes that while Hallmark Group's cost per hour is higher. However, Mr. Beck described his familiarity with this work and therefore is efficient with his time. The committee recommends a not-to-exceed clause in the contract.

**Public Comments:** Mike Post, Anne Meyre, Steve Gleesman, Robbie Jaffy, and E. Canant

**Directors:** Vice Chair Compton and Director Chounet express concerns with the Board making any decisions prior to meeting Mr. Beck and without understanding his background, affiliations, and experience. Discussion ensues regarding whether or not Mr. Beck, in his role with Kern County Water Agency or otherwise, has any affiliation with Kern Water Bank and water banking practices. Directors discuss candidates' local experience and transparency of interests. Directors discuss the role of the executive director position, engaging local communities and diverse interests, and in overseeing completion of the GSP. Director Bracken suggests candidate should be chosen based off relevant hydrogeology experience. Chair Yurosek proposes to have special meeting within the next two weeks, during which the Board can meet Mr. Beck and consider approval of a draft contract. There is Board consensus for taking this approach. Mr. Young will distribute a doodle poll and schedule a meeting that aims for a quorum and maximum member involvement possible.

**7. Receive and discuss report from ad-hoc committee on GSP Preparation Consultant**

**Matt Young (Santa Barbara County Water Agency staff):** Describes the four proposals received from Dudek, Hydrometrics, RMC, and Amec-Foster Wheeler, which were provided to the ad hoc committee. He notes the importance of reviewing the proposals on a technical basis, before considering cost proposals separately. Mr. Young offers to provide sample scoring criteria/ rubrics, used by the county.

**Directors:** Chair Yurosek confirms the approach for the ad hoc committee (Directors Chounet, Yurosek, and Albano) to review proposals, interview the firms, and bring back a recommendation of which consulting firm to hire at the next regular meeting, if possible. Director Cappello notes that the Executive Director should have input on who is selected as the GSP preparation Consultant.

**8. Receive and discuss report from ad-hoc committee for RFQ for Legal Services****Legal Ad Hoc Committee Verbal Report and Handout (Directors Wooster, Shultz, and Shephard):**

Director Shephard provides a summary report handout to the Board and public attendees, and describes the committee meeting on August 21, 2017 (Ernest Conant attended as staff support). The committee discussed the request for qualifications and statement of qualifications received from three firms (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck; Klein DeNatale Goldner; and McMurtrey Hartstock & Worth), and established criteria for evaluating the firms. While all firms offer good experience and staff, the committee recommends hiring Klein DeNatale Goldner based off staff, experience and overall value offered to the GSA.

**Motion by:** Director Albano moves to approve the committee's recommendation to offer Klein DeNatale Goldner the legal contract for the GSA.

**Second by:** Director Bracken

**Motion passes unanimously.**

**9. Receive and discuss any updates on GSA insurance options**

**Matt Klinchuch (Cuyama Basin Water District staff):** Provides an update on his continued research since the August 2<sup>nd</sup> GSA meeting into insurance companies and willingness to approve a policy for the GSA. He notes that no new firms took bid. He also notes that he reached out to other GSAs regarding their insurance options. The most viable option the other GSAs noted would require at least one JPA member agency be a member of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA). It appears no JPA member agencies are an ACWA member. He suggested moving forward with JPRIMA.

**Motion by:** Vice Chair Compton to move forward with staff recommendation to approve the JPRIMA insurance option, pending confirmation that no JPA member agencies are ACWA members and the cost of ACWA membership/ related, alternate insurance option.

**Second by:** Director Chounet

**Motion passes unanimously.**

**10. Receive and discuss report from ad-hoc committee for advisory committee (Directors Williams,**

**Cappello, and Chounet):** The committee describes that 12 applications were received for the advisory committee. They note the Board's desire for the advisory committee to have diverse members considering geographic locations, interests, and professions. The ad-hoc committee unanimously recommends establishing a seven (7) member advisory committee, with the following members: Robby Jaffe, Brenton Kelly, Jake Furstenfeld, Louise Dravken, Mike Post, Joe Haslert, and Brad DeBranch. Director Williams asks each potential advisory committee member to stand and be introduced.

**Public Comments:** Anne Meyre.

**Motion by:** Director Shephard moves to establish the advisory committee and to appoint the 7 members as recommended by the ad hoc committee.

**Second by:** Vice Chair Compton

**Motion passes unanimously.**

**11. Public comment for items not on the Agenda**

**Mike Post:** States that it is difficult to find copies of the agenda online.

**Matt Young (Santa Barbara County Water Agency staff):** Lists locations of the agenda including County of Santa Barbara and County of San Luis Obispo websites, and email distribution by Cuyama Valley Community Association.

**12. Adjourn**

Chair Yurosek adjourns the Cuyama Basin GSA Board of Directors meeting at approximately 5:34 PM.

I, Carolyn Berg, temporary Secretary to the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a fair statement of the proceedings of the meeting held on Wednesday, September 6, 2017, by the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors.

**CAROLYN BERG**

**Dated:** September 13, 2017