

# Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors Meeting

January 10, 2018

## Meetings Minutes

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

### **PRESENT:**

#### Board of Directors:

Yurosek, Derek – Chair

Albano, Byron

Anselm, Arne – *Alternate for Glenn Shephard*

Bantilan, Cory

Cappello, George

Chounet, Paul

Christensen, Alan – *Alternate for David Couch*

Elliot, Darcel – *Alternate for Das Williams*

Klingchuch, Matt – *Alternate for Tom Bracken*

Wooster, Jane

Beck, James M. – Executive Director

Hughes, Joe – Legal Counsel

### **ABSENT:**

#### Board of Directors:

Compton, Lynn – Vice Chair

#### **1. Call to order**

Chair Yurosek calls the meeting to order at approx. 2:00 PM.

#### **2. Roll call**

Chair Yurosek calls roll of the Board (shown above).

#### **3. Pledge of allegiance**

The pledge of allegiance is led by Chair Yurosek.

#### **4. Chair Yurosek opens to floor to comments on the meeting minutes.**

No comments.

**Motion was made by Director Bantilan to approve the minutes, second by Director Chounet. The motion passed unanimously.**

## 5. Report of the Executive Director (Beck)

### a. Progress and Next Steps

Executive Director Beck presented an overview of the program's progress starting with the near-term schedule. It was noted that the February session intends to host the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to provide an overview of the model and data for the Cuyama Basin. This will serve as an educational opportunity and does not delay the overall schedule for the development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

The program accomplishments were highlighted noting the completion of the draft budget and cost allocation scenarios, review of newsletter content with the Standing Advisory Committee, and initiation of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy among others. As for next steps the Board will look to approve the budget and determine a cost allocation model for the CBGSA, implement financial administration processes, develop the draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan and continue the ongoing data collection efforts.

## 6. Financial Report (Beck)

### a. Review and Approval of Budget

Executive Director Beck began with a line by line overview of the draft FY17/18 budget. The Board asked for a recommendation on the frequency of the contributions to the GSA by the participating entities. Executive Director Beck recommended taking the complete FY17/18 budget to their respective sponsors to satisfy current funding needs. The FY18/19 budget will be developed within the next few months.

### b. Review and Approval of CB-HG002 Task Order

Hallmark Group Task Order 2 was presented by Jessica Alwan of the Executive Director team as requested at the December session of the Board of Directors. The additional tasks include budget development, financial management, and outreach facilitation. The presentation began with an overview of what was outlined in the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and continued to review what was covered and not covered in the RFQ and subsequent task order request. There was general discussion by the Board regarding the outreach component. It was noted that the Cuyama Basin is difficult to reach due to lack of media. The Executive Director team noted that those issues are also being contemplated by the consultants managing the Stakeholder Outreach Plan development.

Additional review of Task Order 2 continued, and questions were addressed by Executive Director Beck. The Board requested to reduce the proposed scope eliminating proposed tasks 3.2 and 3.3, then eliminating the assumption of convening an Ad Hoc Committee in 3.4 reducing the hours for the Executive Director to 25 and support to 5 hours.

**A motion was made by Alternate Director Anselm to approve Task Order 2 with the noted modifications, second by Director Bantilan. The motion passed unanimously.**

***The Board took a 5-minute recess at 4:00pm and reconvened at 4:05pm.***

### c. Review and Approval of Cost Allocation

Executive Director Beck reviewed the cost allocation development process with the Board and the involvement of the Budget Ad Hoc Committee. The proposed options were reviewed and considered

by the Directors. Discussion continued noting some Directors' preference to base the allocation on voting, others requesting that base contributions consider additional grant funds be used to offset those costs. Santa Barbara County requested that their additional grant funds be credited as their contribution.

Discussion amongst the Board continued regarding agricultural contributions to the Basin and how the allocation should be addressed. Clarifications were made on overall process for allocating costs through the Groundwater Sustainability Plan development versus the costs associated with plan implementation further noting that they are distinct. Concerns for certain entities that are not represented on the Board and are not paying for the Groundwater Sustainability Plan development were raised. Executive Director Beck recognized that this is a difficult decision and will not be perfectly equitable, but the group will need to work together to be successful in completing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan process. The community will need to work together and the experiences with other Groundwater Sustainability Agencies were shared amongst the Directors.

Directors continued to discuss what equity means for the entities involved as many have had to spend funds already for the SGMA efforts. Landowners are frustrated by the requirements of SGMA and how to allocate current and future costs without the inclusion of the white areas. Cuyama Basin Water District expressed concern about bearing the largest percentage of the overall cost. The Board also addressed the initial contribution and decided they would prefer to consider the highest possible cash flow scenario and worked with the allocations assuming no grant funds are contributed.

Hallmark Group will develop and present a quarterly cash flow projection for the current fiscal year. The Board also recommended an increased base contribution to reflect the fiscal year needs. The proposed cost allocation scenarios were edited to reflect the preferred allocations of the Directors.

**A motion was made by Director Chounet to take the revised cost allocation scenario and budget to their respective entities for approval and to bring back for final approval at the February Board of Directors session, second by Director Albano. Motion passed unanimously among Directors present with an 88.89% weighted vote total.**

**7. Report of the General Counsel (Hughes)**

Mr. Hughes had no report for this session.

**8. Report of the Advisory Committee and referral of matters to the Advisory Committee (Beck)**

No report for this session.

**9. Reports of the Ad Hoc Committees**

No report for this session.

**10. Directors' Forum**

There were no items brought forth by the Board.

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

Chair Yurosek opens floor to comments without response.

**12. Adjourn**

Chair Yurosek adjourns the Cuyama Basin GSA Board of Directors meeting at approximately 6:30 PM.

I, Jim Beck, Executive Director 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, January 10, 2018, by the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors.

**Jim Beck**

**Dated:** January 10, 2018