

Special Joint Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors and Standing Advisory Committee Meeting

March 7, 2018

Meetings Minutes

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

PRESENT:

Board of Directors:

Yurosek, Derek – Chair
Compton, Lynn – Vice Chair
Albano, Byron
Bantilan, Cory
Bracken, Tom
Cappello, George
Chounet, Paul
Couch, David
Shephard, Glenn
Williams, Das
Wooster, Jane
Beck, Jim – Executive Director
Hughes, Joe – Legal Counsel

Standing Advisory Committee:

Jaffe, Roberta – Chair
Kelly, Brenton – Vice Chair
DeBranch, Brad
Draucker, Louise
Post, Mike

ABSENT:

Board of Directors:

None

Standing Advisory Committee:

Furstenfeld, Jake
Haslett, Joe

1. Call to order

Chair Yurosek called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

2. Roll call

Hallmark Group Project Coordinator Taylor Blakslee called roll (shown above) and informed Chair Yurosek that there is a quorum of the Board and the Standing Advisory Committee.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Yurosek.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Executive Director Jim Beck addressed a few housekeeping items including an overview of the public comment card process.

4. USGS Presentation

U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) Hydrogeologist Claudia Faunt provided an update on the groundwater studies USGS performed for the Cuyama Valley Basin region in 2014. Ms. Faunt indicated that she worked under USGS project lead Randy Hanson who recently retired with over 35 years of service. She reported that the initial USGS study was done before the Sustainability Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) existed, and that was why the focus of the study covered a smaller area than the SGMA-designated basin boundary. Ms. Faunt reported that after the numeric model was developed, USGS intended to use it to model different flow and climate conditions. Ms. Faunt relayed that there were three main reports developed and can be accessed online at <https://ca.water.usgs.gov/projects/cuyama/index.html>. Ms. Faunt provided a summary of findings for the reports that showed different zones behaved independently (mainly due to fault lines). She further reported that the groundwater is relatively old—up to 30,000 years old. Ms. Faunt showed a long-term hydrograph of a sample well that showed a declining water level trend. USGS monitoring efforts included the installation of stream gauges on two of the river channels and multiple monitoring wells (in addition to analyzing existing well data). Ms. Faunt reported that a modest amount of land subsidence has occurred in the Cuyama Valley; 3.2 inches in nine years in some areas. She reported that the work USGS did in the Cuyama Valley Basin was used to develop the integrated hydrologic model. Ms. Faunt reported on the strengths and weaknesses of the USGS effort and provided suggested next steps, which were summarized in her presentation.

5. Approval of Minutes

Chair Yurosek opened the floor for comments on the February 7, 2018 CBGSA Board meeting minutes. No changes were suggested, and a motion was made by Director Compton and second by Director Chounet to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were adopted.

6. Report of the General Counsel

a. Update on Funding Agreements

CBGSA Legal Counsel Joe Hughes reported that he polled the various CBGSA member agencies to see who needed a funding agreement. Mr. Hughes reported that of the six CBGSA member agencies, the County of San Luis Obispo (San Luis) and the Cuyama Valley Community Services District indicated they will need funding agreements. He also reported that the County of Santa Barbara may also need one. Director Compton said San Luis will send Mr. Hughes an example of a funding agreement by mid-March 2018 to draft for adoption.

7. Report of the Standing Advisory Committee and referral of matters to the SAC

CBGSA Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) Chair Roberta Jaffe reported that the March 1, 2018 SAC meeting included the review of the CBGSA Board agenda and a presentation by GSP Consultant Lyndel Melton. She noted that an interesting discussion occurred on validating water models using satellite imagery. Chair Jaffe reported that they discussed the draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, including potential outreach to the Cuyama youth (High School outreach, etc.). She reported that the SAC reviewed the website, logo and newsletter, and a request was made to rework the logo to better represent the Cuyama Valley area. Lastly, Chair Jaffe reported that an ad hoc of the SAC is drafting SAC Guidelines and Responsibilities for review at the next SAC meeting, and potential adoption at the April 2018 CBGSA Board meeting.

8. Composition of Standing Advisory Committee

Director Williams provided comments of support for including additional SAC representatives from the Hispanic committee, and a motion was made by Director Bantilan and second by Director Compton to appoint Claudia Alvarado and Hilda Leticia Valenzuela to the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Alvarado and Valenzuela expressed gratitude to the Board for the opportunity to serve and a desire to learn in their new capacities as SAC members.

9. Report of the Executive Director

a. Progress & Next Steps

CBGSA Executive Director Jim Beck provided an update on the near-term GSP schedule and reported that the evenings workshops were the main items on the current timeline. Mr. Beck reported on the accomplishments and next steps which are summarized in the Board packet.

b. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update

GSP Consultant Lyndel Melton (Woodard & Curran) introduced the members of the GSP Consultant team that included outreach consultants from the Catalyst Group Charles Gardiner and Mary Currie, and GSP consultants from Woodard & Curran Brian Van Lienden, Ali Taghavi and Enrique Lopezcalva. Mr. Melton mentioned that Mr. Taghavi was one of the recent recipients of the prestigious California Water and Environmental Modeling Forum Hugo B. Fischer Award for modelling. Woodard & Curran Project Manager Brian Van Lienden provided an update on the data collection effort that includes requesting public data from the counties and local water districts. He expects to receive the data in the next couple of weeks. He said the next step is to get data from local landowners.

Mr. Melton reported that the main takeaways from the USGS model is that it does not include the whole basin, and we need to look more closely at the subdivisions. Mr. Taghavi asked meeting participants to contribute records of groundwater pumping, land use, crop patterns, etc. to help develop a robust model. He went on to report there are two models to choose from: the USGS Hydrologic Model and the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Integrated Water Flow Model (IWFm). He recommended the CBGSA Board use the IWFm since it aligns with what DWR is comfortable with. He reported that they will work to develop a water budget that represents entity boundaries and physical boundaries such as a fault lines. The CBGSA Board provided verbal consensus to the GSP consultant to utilize the IWFm option. Director Williams asked if more data could be obtained from local landowners, and the consultants let him know they will be reaching out to landowners. Chairman Yurosek asked if Mr. Melton believes there is a better model, and Mr. Melton replied that in his opinion using anything other than the IWFm will result in a long talk with DWR regarding that decision. Director Compton noted that the County of Santa Barbara experienced a situation where private landowners made well data available and were subsequently targeted by members of the community and media, which may be contributing to the reluctance of some landowners to provide their data.

Director Albano commented that he hasn't seen good well data in his area and he is open to investigating data points. Director Bantilan commented that the request for data is for all the landowners in the Cuyama Valley. Director Wooster asked for clarification of how the water budget is developed and Mr. Taghavi responded to her question.

Mr. Gardiner provided a brief overview of the draft Engagement Stakeholder Strategy and the upcoming public workshops.

c. Data Collection Update

Mr. Van Lienden provided his update under item No. 9b.

d. Draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Overview

Mr. Gardiner provided his update under item No. 9b.

e. Website/Logo/Newsletter Update

Catalyst Group consultant Mary Currie reported that the CBGSA website is up, running and fluid. She noted that additional work will be done to translate appropriate portions of the website to Spanish. Ms. Currie presented the first draft of the CBGSA logo and noted that the SAC asked for a redraft of the logo to better represent the Cuyama Valley.

10. Financial Report

a. Financial Management Overview

Mr. Beck provided an update on the financial costs through January 2018 and noted we are under budget overall for Task Order Nos. 1 and 2.

b. Fiscal Year 2018/19 Budget Development

Mr. Beck provided a verbal update on the development of the FY 2018-19 budget and let the Board know we plan on working with the CBGSA Board Budget Ad hoc to develop the FY 2018-19 budget for possible adoption at the May 2018 CBGSA Board meeting.

c. Payment of Bills

Mr. Beck reported on the payment of bills, and a motion was by Director Albano and second by Director Compton to approve payment of the bills through the month of January 2018 in the amount of \$223,699.99, pending receipt of funds. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Groundwater Sustainable Plan Consultant Task Orders

Mr. Beck reported that Woodard & Curran's current work authorization is through March 2018, and we need to extend that authorization so they can continue their work. A motion was made by Director Wooster and second by Director Bantilan to authorize Task Order Nos. 2 and 3 for Groundwater Sustainability Plan consultant Woodard & Curran in an amount not to exceed \$587,707.00. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Financial Policy and Fiscal Controls

Hallmark Group Project Coordinator Taylor Blakslee provided an update on the Financial Policy and Fiscal Controls document. Director Compton presented the CBGSA Board and Mr. Blakslee with several changes to the policy. A motion was by Director Cappello and second by Director Shephard to adopt the Financial Policy and Fiscal Controls for the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, contingent on incorporating Director Compton's suggested changes. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Reports of the Ad Hoc Committees

Director Williams reported that an ad hoc of the Board met on March 2, 2018 to review the applications received for inclusion on the SAC.

12. Directors' Forum

Director Compton wanted to make sure CBGSA Board members can participate in Board meetings remotely if needed. Legal Counsel Joe Hughes said this can be done if noticed on the agenda and posted 72 hours in advance at both the regular meeting location and at a publicly-accessible location the Director would be participating from. Director Chounet noted, and Mr. Hughes confirmed, that a majority of the Board cannot participate telephonically.

Chairman Yurosek noted that he is unable to attend the April 4, 2018 CBGSA Board meeting and Lynn Compton will run the meeting.

13. Public comment for items not on the Agenda

No public comment.

The Board took a 10-minute break and resumed at 4:10 pm with a quorum of both the Board and the SAC.

Present:

Board – Yurosek, Albano, Bantilan, Bracken, Chounet, Williams, Wooster

SAC – Jaffe, Kelly, DeBranch, Draucker, Post

14. Public Workshop – English

Catalyst Group GSP outreach consultant Charles Gardiner provided an overview of the informational workshop. He discussed the decision-makers, managers, and consultants and how they fit in with the CBGSA. Woodard & Curran GSP consultant Brian Van Lienden presented on the components of a groundwater basin, SGMA requirements, Cuyama Basin geologic makeup, the conceptual geology model, soil types, precipitation stations, basin hydrology, groundwater monitoring wells, and land use, among other topics.

County of Santa Barbara Water Agency Department staff Matt Young asked the workshop attendees for permission to share well data they collected with the GSP consultant to assist in developing the IWFM.

A quorum of the Board was lost and Chair Yurosek adjourned the Board meeting at 5:05 pm. The Standing Advisory Committee retained a quorum and remained in-session. Mr. Yurosek made it known that the English and Spanish public workshops would continue.

15. Public Workshop – Spanish

A similar workshop was held following the English public workshop, but was held in Spanish. The workshop was facilitated by Woodard & Curran bilingual engineer Enrique Lopezcalva.

16. Adjourn

Standing Advisory Committee Chair Jaffe adjourned the CBGSA SAC at 8:01 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, March 7, 2018, by the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors.

Jim Beck

Dated: March 7, 2018