

# Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors Meeting

April 4, 2018

## Meetings Minutes

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

### PRESENT:

Compton, Lynn – Vice Chair  
Albano, Byron  
Bantilan, Cory  
Bracken, Tom  
Cappello, George  
Chounet, Paul  
Christensen, Alan – *Alternate for David Couch*  
Elliott, Darcel – *Alternate for Das Williams*  
Klinchuch, Matt – *Alternate for Derek Yurosek*  
Shephard, Glenn  
Wooster, Jane  
Beck, Jim – Executive Director  
Hughes, Joe – Legal Counsel

### ABSENT:

None

#### 1. Call to order

Acting Chair Lynn Compton called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

#### 2. Roll call

Hallmark Group Project Coordinator Taylor Blakslee called roll (shown above) and informed Acting Chair Compton that there was a quorum of the Board.

#### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Acting Chair Compton.

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*Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Executive Director Jim Beck reminded the audience of the public comment card protocol for providing public comment.*  
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#### 4. Approval of Minutes

Acting Chair Compton opened the floor for comments on the March 7, 2018 CBGSA Board meeting minutes. No changes were suggested, and a motion was made by Director Wooster and second by

Director Bracken to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were adopted. Alternate Darcel Elliott abstained from the vote since she did not attend the March 7, 2018 meeting.

## **5. Report of the General Counsel**

### **a. Funding Agreements Update**

Legal Counsel Joe Hughes provided an update on the draft funding agreement that is required by the County of Santa Barbara and the Cuyama Community Services District (CCSD). He said we will bring back a final funding agreement for execution at the May 2, 2018 Board meeting.

## **6. Report of the Standing Advisory Committee and referral of matters to the SAC**

CBGSA Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) Vice Chair Brenton Kelly provided a verbal report on the March 29, 2018 SAC meeting. His report is included below.

The Standing Advisory Committee met last Thursday afternoon with all members in attendance, including the two newly seated members who are representing the Hispanic community from las Promotoras. Also in attendance were Jim Beck, Taylor Blakeslee, several members of the public, and GSP Consultants.

The SAC meeting began with a discussion about the date and timing of the next Public Workshop in June. General consensus was that although it provided some significant time and travel cost savings, the marathon joint GSA & SAC session plus the double workshop was both extractive and time constrained. The Event was overall well attended and very informative. Future Joint Sessions will need to have more time to discuss the complex subject matter. The Workshops will need to be in the evenings, 6:00pm to accommodate daylight working hours. The most favorable scenario was a Tuesday evening dual language translated public workshop the day before a regular GSA meeting. The attendance by GSA Directors at the workshops was greatly appreciated and will continue to be important.

The SAC then heard a presentation about what makes a good model and the importance of good data. A good model requires good data. Some concern was raised for the need for an official CBGSA coordinated request for specific data from all of the Basin Landowners. Clarification would assist landowners in understanding who needed the data and for what purpose. The SAC recommended that the GSP consultant issue a formal collaborative, joint agency data request to property owners ASAP.

The SAC recommended that Draft 2 of the CBGSA Logo be selected by the GSA Board. At the March 1st SAC meeting an Ad Hoc committee was formed to develop Guidelines and Responsibilities for the SAC. The committee consists of Chair Jaffe, Vice Chair Kelly and Committee Member Draucker. The Ad Hoc spent some time consolidating several reference guidelines and presented a draft to the SAC at the March 29 meeting. This first draft is included in your packet for review. Some small changes were noted for revision and a final recommendation should come to your Board at the next meeting.

The last item of interest was the announcement of a monthly conference call, chaired by W&C, and held for technical advisors representing Basin landowners. The SAC generally agreed that this is an important part of providing transparency and an equal access to the technical information that need to be made by the various professionals engaged by all the stakeholders in the Cuyama Basin.

Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center Executive Director Lynn Carlisle provided feedback on the March workshops. She also reported, that based on community feedback, a single workshop, with simultaneous Spanish translation is not preferred by the community.

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*Kern County Alternate Alan Christensen arrived at 4:13 pm.*  
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**a. SAC Guidelines and Responsibilities**

Mr. Beck provided a brief overview of the SAC guidelines and responsibilities and let the Board know a final will be presented to them at the May 2, 2018 Board meeting for adoption.

**7. Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

**a. Report of the Executive Director**

Mr. Beck let the Board know we need to set the date for the upcoming June workshop. He reported that options include doing a workshop the night before, the day after, or following the regular Board meeting starting at 6 or 6:30 pm. He said we are not recommending a dual language workshop, but we may look at the option of hosting an open house format workshop. We need to select a date to reserve facilities and get public notices out. He also noted that the consultant team could make any option work. Acting Chair Compton noted that Tuesday's are challenging for County staff since County Board meetings occur on Tuesdays. Director Albano said he prefers the long-day option and this works better for him. Directors Shephard, Bracken and Compton also indicated the one-day option works best for them. Alternate Board member Darcel Elliott asked if the one-day option conflicts with the availability of the public attendees, SAC Vice Chair Kelly responded that he does not believe that it would be a conflict for public participation, but the timing of the joint workshop is the bigger factor. The Board opted for the long-day option and the June workshop will occur on the same day as the June 6, 2018 Board meeting.

Mr. Beck reported that technical consultants hired by landowners in the Cuyama Basin will be meeting monthly to engage with Woodard & Curran (W&C) on a professional technical level to provide input and feedback on the development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). He let the Board and public know that the forum is not for lay people and is not a public meeting, but is for technical professionals to have high-level discussions. He said if there are questions of who should attend, talk to him or W&C Practice Leader Lyndel Melton.

Mr. Beck reported that Kern County requested to be a non-voting member on the CBGSA. He said that he and others are reaching out to the County of Kern to look for ways to come to a resolution on this issue without having to renegotiate the Joint Powers Agreement which could be an expensive process.

Director Chounet asked if CCSD could provide a professional to attend the forum and Mr. Beck confirmed they could. Mr. Chounet noted that he didn't think the process for consultants meeting with W&C was transparent and didn't appreciate hearing about it after the fact. He said he didn't know consultants could meet with W&C. Ms. Carlisle commented that she had done research on technical advisory committees and recommended CBGSA establish one to increase credibility in the community. Director Wooster said having professionals talking to the

consultants is a good idea and believes that it is a positive effort. Audience member Ann Myhre said she believes that having access to multiple consultants is a positive thing. Director Bantilan said if regular one-on-one meetings between consultants were happening that would be a problem, but he feels more comfortable with additional consultants participating on a technical call. Director Shephard said Ventura is very comfortable with technical consultants meeting together to develop a more robust GSP. Mr. Beck said that in the end, the GSP will have been reviewed by the SAC and Board and will be an iterative process with multiple public review points. Mr. Melton said it is beneficial to hear from other technical consultants and looks forward to input from the technical coordination calls. SAC member Jake Furstenfeld asked if the information shared on these technical calls will become public information, thus providing more transparency. Mr. Beck said some of the information shared will be verbal since the meeting is a conference call, but we will discuss ways of providing updates on the activities discussed on these calls.

**b. Board Meeting Conflict on July 4, 2018**

Mr. Beck reported that the July Board meeting schedule for the fourth is a conflict with the national Holiday. He suggested we move the Board meeting to following week on July 11, but keep the SAC meeting on June 28, 2018. The Board provided consensus to this approach and Ms. Compton said to send an email to aides and they will take official action at the May 2, 2018 Board meeting, barring any major conflicts.

**c. Progress & Next Steps**

Mr. Beck provided an update on the near-term GSP schedule and the accomplishments and next steps which are summarized in the Board packet.

**d. Logo Update**

Mr. Beck reported on the newest logo drafts and the Board agreed to go with draft No. 2.

**8. Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

**a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update**

Mr. Melton presented an update on the GSP as well as an overview of what constitutes a good groundwater model.

Director Albano asked Mr. Melton to describe the steps to determine sustainability objectives and how to determine Water Management Areas (WMA). Mr. Melton said as we develop the model, it will be a three- to four-month process to determine sustainability objectives. Regarding WMAs, it will be a multi-step process that we will be asking feedback from the Board on. Director Albano asked when we anticipate starting that discussion, and Mr. Melton replied mid-to-late summer.

Santa Barbara Pistachio Company owner Gene Zannon asked how recent the data being collected is, and wanted to know why we do not go back to the USGS sites for data. Santa Barbara County Water Agency Water Resources Program Manager Matt Young said W&C has all the data they had, and Mr. Melton confirmed that they had made requests for all data. Mr. Zannon asked if someone should be hired to proactively go out and collect that data, and Mr. Melton replied that the more data we receive the better.

Ms. Carlisle asked about data consistency and how it will be vetted for accuracy. Mr. Melton said a request was sent out to the counties, CBWD and CCSD. Mr. Melton said they will look at wells on different sides of a geological fault to determine if that data is valid. Ms. Carlisle asked if the data that is not used will be reported, and Mr. Melton replied that they plan on doing that.

**b. Stakeholder Engagement Update**

Catalyst Group outreach consultant Charles Gardiner reported that the stakeholder engagement roadmap has not changed, and we are moving toward the second workshop in June. He noted one of the topics is to determine how sustainability goals are defined.

Mr. Gardiner said if there are topics not listed on the slide that you want to learn about, let him know and they will work to include that in future education efforts.

Catalyst Group Mary Currie reported on the newsletter that will be distributed May 1, 2018 both in the Cuyama Valley Recreation District newsletter and electronically to the CBGSA contact list.

**9. Financial Report**

**a. Financial Management Overview**

Mr. Beck provided an update on the financial costs through February 2018.

**b. Fiscal Year 2018/19 Budget Development**

Mr. Beck provided an overview of the FY 2018-19 budget development process. He noted that he met with the budget ad hoc group on March 26, 2018 and reviewed the draft FY 2018-19 budget with Director Bantilan, Chounet and Bracken; Matt Klinchuch; and Matt Young.

**c. Payment of Bills**

Mr. Beck reported on the payment of bills, and a motion was by Director Cappello and seconded by Director Shephard to approve payment of the bills through the month of February 2018 in the amount of \$174,946.50, pending receipt of funds. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Beck reported that the only ad hoc to meet was the Budget Ad hoc which met on March 26, 2018 to review the draft FY 2018-19 budget.

**11. Directors' Forum**

Nothing to report.

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

No public comment.

**13. Adjourn**

Acting Chair Compton adjourned the CBGSA Board at 5:36 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, April 4, 2018, by the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors.

**Jim Beck**

Dated: May 2, 2018