

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors Meeting

July 11, 2018

Meeting Minutes

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

PRESENT:

Yurosek, Derek – Chair
Albano, Byron
Bantilan, Cory
Klinchuch, Matt – *Alternate for Tom Bracken*
Cappello, George
Chounet, Paul
Shephard, Glenn
Elliott, Darcel – *Alternate for Das Williams*
Wooster, Jane

Beck, Jim – Executive Director
Hughes, Joe – Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

Compton, Lynn – Vice Chair
Scrivner, Zack

1. Call to order

Chair Derek Yurosek called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Roll call

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Yurosek.

4. Presentation from the California Department of Water Resources (Anita Regmi)

Mr. Beck introduced California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Engineering Geologist Anita Regmi and Chair Yurosek thanked her for attending the meeting. Ms. Regmi informed the audience that she is the region's point person that handles grant management. She provided a brief overview of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) timeline, along with the reporting process for the grant administration, and technical assistance support. She urged the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) to apply for technical assistance being offered by DWR on a first-come first-

served basis. Ms. Regmi noted that CBGSA would be given priority access because of its Severely Disadvantaged Community status.

Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center Executive Director Lynn Carlisle asked for clarification regarding the review period of the GSA plans. Ms. Regmi said DWR will begin reviewing the plans in 2020 and it may take up to two years to complete the review period. Ms. Carlisle asked what the GSAs will be doing while the plans are being reviewed. Ms. Regmi said she does not have a definite answer, but the GSAs may begin implementing their GSP programs.

Alternate Darcel Elliott arrived at 4:05 p.m.

Director Cory Bantilan arrived at 4:07 p.m.

5. Approval of Minutes

Chair Yurosek opened the floor for comments on the June 6, 2018 CBGSA Joint Meeting of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors and Standing Advisory Committee. A motion was made by Director Byron Albano to adopt the minutes and seconded by Paul Chounet. Roll call was made, with Director Cory Bantilan abstaining from the vote, and the motion passed.

6. Report of the General Counsel

Nothing to report.

7. Report of the Standing Advisory Committee

CBGSA Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) Vice Chair Brenton Kelly provided a report on the June 28, 2018 SAC meeting which is provided in the Board packet.

Vice Chair Kelly informed the Board that there was an educational discussion on Water Management Areas, monitoring networks and SGMA's requirements for groundwater quality at the last SAC meeting. Vice Chair Kelly encouraged the Board and audience members to attend the SAC meetings, which are held on the Thursday preceding the first Wednesday of the month at the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center. Vice Chair Kelly noted that the SAC finalized the reviewed and adopted the Description of the Plan Area.

8. Groundwater Sustainability Agency

a. Report of the Executive Director

Executive Director Jim Beck reported that Woodard & Curran (W&C) will purchase a teleconference system that can accept microphone extenders to help improve the sound quality for those participating telephonically.

Mr. Beck stated Ms. Regmi's timing worked out well regarding her report of DWR's technical assistance since W&C's Lyndel Melton stated that they have been tracking the need to drill a monitoring well in order to address data gaps. Mr. Melton noted that this opportunity is not funded through a grant, but DWR will finance drilling the well once the appropriate site is identified. Mr. Beck reinforced that drilling the well is costly and it would be difficult to match the expense with the normal Board cycle. Mr. Beck recommended an ad hoc consisting of three

CBGSA Board members and two SAC members to identify the areas that represent data gap locations and then work with those landowners to process the necessary paperwork. Director Paul Chounet asked how many meetings would be involved with this ad hoc, and Mr. Beck said he anticipated one to two meetings. Director Byron Albano asked if there is an option to put wells on national forest land, but Mr. Melton said that process may move too slowly. Director George Cappello asked for the approximate size of the well. Mr. Melton said it would be a cluster well consisting of three wells about 8 inches each.

Chair Yurosek expressed his concern that a landowner agreement may end up being an easement. Mr. Beck said that the Hallmark Group would work with legal counsel Joe Hughes to develop an agreement to protect both the CBGSA and the landowners.

Chair Yurosek appointed SAC members Brenton Kelly, Brad DeBranch and Directors Albano, Chounet and himself to the DWR Technical Assistance Ad hoc.

Director Cory Bantilan asked if this item was properly noticed on the agenda. Mr. Beck asked Mr. Hughes if this needed to be added to the agenda since this was brought to our attention within the meeting. A motion was made by Director Bantilan to add this item to the agenda and seconded by Director Glenn Shephard. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Albano made a motion to authorize the Ad hoc to select sites for monitoring wells and submit an application to DWR for technical assistance. Director Bantilan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Beck reported that, to reduce printing costs, the hardcopy Board packet distributed to the directors does not include the Description of the Plan Area and the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model. Mr. Beck mentioned that as the volume of the packets increase, the estimated monthly costs to print exceeds \$2,500 and these costs have not been budgeted. Mr. Beck said the Board should address how to manage these printing costs within the budget.

Director Jane Wooster asked if Hallmark could send the updated pages separately prior to the meeting. Mr. Beck said that Hallmark can distribute any updates in both the packet and as a standalone item to accommodate this request.

b. Progress & Next Steps

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

c. DWR Grantee Resolution

This item was tabled since it was determined that an earlier document satisfied the DWR grant requirement intended by this item.

9. Groundwater Sustainability Plan

a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update

GSP consultant Woodard & Curran (W&C) staff Lyndel Melton provided an update on the GSP development.

Director Bantilan asked how the CBGSA will get to where it needs to be without groundwater pumping data. Mr. Melton said that W&C has what is needed to calibrate the model. In the future, the Board will have to determine how to monitor groundwater levels through evapotranspiration satellite data, pumping data, or other methods. Mr. Melton noted that this decision point will come with a recommendation from W&C.

b. Technical Forum Update

W&C's Brian Van Lienden provided an overview of the June 8, 2018 technical forum meeting, which is summarized in the Board packet, and an update on the upcoming technical forum meeting.

Ms. Carlisle asked if W&C can identify who is making comments from the technical forum summary, and Mr. Melton replied that they can do this.

c. Description of the Plan Area

Mr. Van Lienden provided an update on the Description of the Plan Area and let the Board know that the revisions of the plan have been distributed to the Board, SAC and public stakeholders.

Director Wooster asked about well measurements that went back to 1983. She said there may be measurements dating back to 1950. Mr. Van Lienden said he will check on this. Mr. Melton said their intention is to get the GSP sections in pretty good shape and then do a final edit when compiling the entire document.

Director Albano made a motion to adopt the Description of the Plan Area, was seconded by Director Shephard and passed unanimously.

d. Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model

Mr. Van Lienden provided an update on the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model and its review process.

e. Stakeholder Engagement Update: Update on workshops, Discussion on Sustainability

GSP outreach consultant the Catalyst Group Charles Gardiner provided an update on the stakeholder engagement activities. Mr. Gardiner noted that at the June 6, 2018 workshop, community members had their first conversation on sustainability and that these types of discussions will continue through the fall. Mr. Gardiner reported that nearly all perspectives shared a commonality in that the future will look very different in Cuyama. The second common point was that balanced water use is important. Mr. Gardiner reported on what workshop attendees' economic concerns were and their general conceptions of what sustainability is.

Mr. Gardiner stated that at the June 6, 2018 Board meeting, Supervisor Debbie Arnold requested that, in addition to electronic distribution, relevant information in the Cuyama Valley be distributed via mail to reach more residents. Mr. Gardiner let the Board know the team is developing a mailing list and will mail out information on the September 5, 2018 workshop.

Director George Cappello commented that the workshop sustainability discussion header in the PowerPoint needs to be qualified to indicate that these are ideas from workshop attendees and do not represent the sustainability goals of the CBGSA.

Director Albano asked if “stakeholders” has a specific definition. He additionally noted that the term “community” was used often but inquired if these terms carry specific meaning. Mr. Beck said a “stakeholder” is someone that will be impacted by the actions and decisions of the CBGSA Board.

Director Albano said the Board needs to be very careful that at the end of the GSP process, people do not think that the GSP will solve intractable problems. He said that he thinks we need to be careful that we do not ask people if they want a new Ferrari if that is not on the table and that this can be somewhat misleading.

Mr. Melton said that W&C will assist the Board in narrowing down a broad range of information from stakeholder input in defining “sustainability.”

Ms. Carlisle commented that she thinks the Board’s sustainability opinions should be captured since the community do not seem to know what they are.

Mr. Beck said that the Board will ultimately decide what sustainability is, and it is the Board’s prerogative to express those now if they wish, but those opinions will be captured in the GSP and the public will have opportunity to review those documents.

Chair Yurosek asked Mr. Hughes and Melton to define “stakeholder” under SGMA and report back to the Board.

10. Financial Report

a. Financial Management Overview

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the CBGSA’s financial activities. Chair Yurosek asked why Hallmark is spending more on its Task Order No. 1 and Mr. Beck replied that Hallmark was preparing for the June workshop and unanticipated activities/requests come up that are taking a lot of time. The Board asked who specifically costing a lot time and Mr. Beck replied that it is multiple people. Mr. Beck suggested that a way to keep costs down is to call the team regarding questions they have instead of sending multiple emails that cause a back and forth interaction.

b. Financial Report

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the new expanded financial report.

c. Payment of Bills

Mr. Blakslee reported on the payment of bills for the month of May 2018. A motion was made by Director Chounet and seconded by Director Bantilan to approve payment of the bills through the month of May 2018 in the amount of \$152,815.83, pending receipt of funds. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Reports of the Ad Hoc Committees

Nothing to report.

12. Directors’ Forum

Nothing to report.

13. Public comment for items not on the Agenda

Nothing to report.

14. Adjourn

Chair Yurosek adjourned the CBGSA Board at 6:14 p.m.

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, June 6, 2018, by the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors and the Standing Advisory Committee.

Jim Beck

Dated: July 11, 2018