

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors

May 6, 2020

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

None

1. Call to Order

Chair Derek Yurosek called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. Hallmark Group Project Coordinator Taylor Blakslee provided direction on the meeting protocols to facilitate a remote-only meeting.

2. Roll Call

Mr. 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. SAC Member Terms and Vacancies

CBGSA Executive Director Jim Beck let the Board know they Board appointed SAC members to continue to serve on the SAC. Since that time, two SAC members let staff know they would not be able to continue serving. Additionally, there was a need to establish staggered, three-year terms for each of the SAC members. He reported that names were drawn to set the initial terms for the SAC members.

MOTION

Director Compton made a motion to accept the staggered three-year SAC terms and direct SAC identify candidates to fill the two vacancies. The motion was seconded by Director Chounet, a roll call vote was made and passed unanimously.

AYES: Directors Albano, Bantilan, Bracken, Cappello, Chounet, Christensen, Compton, Shephard, Williams, Wooster, and Yurosek

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

5. Approval of Minutes

Chair Yurosek opened the floor for comments on the March 4, 2020 CBGSA Board meeting minutes.

MOTION

Director Shephard made a motion to adopt the March 4, 2020 CBGSA Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Compton, a roll call vote was made and passed unanimously.

AYES: Directors Albano, Bantilan, Bracken, Cappello, Chounet, Christensen, Compton, Shephard, Williams, Wooster, and Yurosek

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

6. Standing Advisory Committee Meeting Report

Vice Chair Brad DeBranch provided an update on the April 30, 2020 SAC meeting which is provided below:

**“Standing Advisory Committee Report
Meeting: April 30th, 2020**

Submitted to the CBGSA Board on May 6th, 2020

By: Brenton Kelly, SAC Chairperson
Brad DeBranch, SAC Vice-Chair

The SAC maintained a full quorum throughout the teleconference meeting with 2 members absent. There were approximately 10 members of the public on the call. Jim Beck, Taylor Blakslee, Woodard & Curran (W&C), and Mary Currie were also present telephonically as was Anita Regmi from DWR.

The meeting lasted approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes.

There were 4 main areas of discussion:

- 1) Update on SAC members and selection of terms.
- 2) Draft Annual Report Update
- 3) Monitoring Network Update
- 4) Newsletter considerations

1) The SAC was informed that Committee members Hilda Leticia Valenzuela and Jose Valenzuela have elected to no longer sit on the Standing Advisory Committee. There are now 2 vacant seats on the SAC that were intended to be filled by members of the Hispanic community. During the meeting staff randomly selected SAC members to fill 1, 2 and 3 year terms. The final selection is as follows:

- 1 Year Terms: Louise Draucker, Vacancy #1, Vacancy #2

- 2 Year Terms: Roberta Jaffe, Mike Post, Jake Furstenfeld
- 3 Year Terms: Brenton Kelly, Brad DeBranch, Joe Haslett

2) Brian Van Lienden of Woodard & Curran presented their recent accomplishments including the submittal of the GSP Annual Report to DWR prior to the deadline on April 1st.

3) Woodard & Curran presented further information on the Monitoring Network including the phased approach of setting up 100 representative wells into the network with the initial focus being groundwater levels. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was submitted in late April to several qualified contractors requesting quotes related to completing Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the monitoring network. Phase 1 has a completion timeline of June 30th, 2020. The RFP asked for that bids be submitted no later than May 5th so that the Staff can present the proposals to the Board at the May 6th Board meeting to consider action on selecting a contractor.

Woodard & Curran also briefed the SAC on the future groundwater quality sampling which will start to be implemented in FY 2020-2021. There was interest from the SAC in what time of year these samples will be taken as the TDS levels may measure higher or lower depending on when the sample is taken.

The SAC supports the ad-hoc committee's recommendation to continue with existing monitoring devices for subsidence present in the Valley and also using the Altamira dataset from DWR. If these datasets prove inaccurate in the future then alternative solutions may be considered.

During an update from Woodard & Curran on GDEs, comments were made from the SAC that although monitoring GDEs in the western section is very important, the whole Basin should be considered, including important GDEs in the eastern section.

4) Received a summary from Mary Currie regarding the upcoming newsletter. In relation to the current pandemic, Mary and staff will look at additional ways of providing the newsletter to the public via social media and other electronic forms.

Aside from GSP related matters, there were comments from the SAC that included a request for SAC and Board meeting minutes to be distributed sooner due to meetings being held less frequently. Staff acknowledged the request and will consider this change in the future."

7. Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Mr. Van Lienden provided an update on the GSP development, which is included in the Board packet.

a. Update on FY 20-21 Groundwater Extraction Fee

Mr. Blakslee reported on the process to calculate the groundwater extraction fee based on an evapotranspiration study to be performed by Land IQ. He provided an overview of the process that was developed with the Groundwater Extraction Fee Ad hoc, which is included in the Board packet. He also provided an update on the budget and schedule for these efforts.

SAC Member Haslett asked why this was not discussed at the April 30, 2020 SAC meeting. Mr. Beck reported that we do not typically review the more detailed financial and accounting details of the GSA and historical focus on technical items with the SAC.

MOTION

Director Wooster made a motion to set a public hearing on the groundwater extraction fee for June 25, 2020. The motion was seconded by Director Bracken, a roll call vote was made

and passed unanimously.

AYES: Directors Albano, Bantilan, Bracken, Cappello, Chounet, Christensen, Compton, Shephard, Williams, Wooster, and Yurosek
 NOES: None
 ABSTAIN: None
 ABSENT: None

b. Update on Long-Term Extraction Fee Policy

Mr. Beck provided an update on the Long-Term Extraction Fee Policy whose goal is to determine what the most equitable fee is moving forward. He reported that the ad hoc met several times and Legal Counsel Joe Hughes provided direction on groundwater rights. The ad hoc recognized it would take more time to develop a long-term fee structure and they were ok with proceeding forward with the current proposed evapotranspiration study for the Fiscal Year 20-21 fee but would continue to meet to develop a strategy for the next fee.

c. Management Area Administration and Project Development Strategy

Mr. Beck provided an overview of the management area administration delegation process. Chair Yurosek let the Board know he would appoint an ad hoc to work with staff to develop a potential list of items to recommend for delegation to the Cuyama Basin Water District.

d. Update on Monitoring Network

i. Groundwater Levels Monitoring

Mr. Van Lienden provided an update on the groundwater levels monitoring network which is provided in the Board packet.

ii. Groundwater Quality Monitoring

Mr. Van Lienden provided an update on the groundwater quality monitoring network which is provided in the Board packet.

iii. Subsidence Monitoring

Mr. Van Lienden provided an update on the subsidence monitoring network which is provided in the Board packet.

iv. Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

Mr. Van Lienden provided an update on the groundwater dependent ecosystems which is provided in the Board packet.

e. Select Firm for Phase 1 and 2 Monitoring Network Setup

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the proposal received for set up and performing monthly groundwater levels for 100 wells. Four proposals were received (Daniels B. Stephens & Associates, Dee Jaspar & Associates, GSI, and Provost & Pritchard), and staff recommended selecting Provost & Pritchard as the lowest, responsive bidder.

MOTION

Director Christensen made a motion to select Provost & Pritchard to perform the setup for groundwater level at a cost not-to-exceed \$187,000 and provisions for reducing monitoring

activities as we proceed. The motion was seconded by Director Cappello, a roll call vote was made and passed unanimously.

- AYES: Directors Albano, Bantilan, Bracken, Cappello, Chounet, Christensen, Compton, Shephard, Williams, Wooster, and Yurosek
- NOES: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- ABSENT: None

f. Approval of Monitoring Network Access Agreements

Mr. Blakslee reported that the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (SBCWA) owns several wells that are in the CBGSA proposed groundwater levels monitoring network. SBCWA requires an access agreement to allow monitoring and is provided in the Board packet for consideration of approval.

MOTION

Director Chounet made a motion to approve the monitoring access agreement with SBCWA. The motion was seconded by Director Shephard, a roll call vote was made and passed with a 93% vote.

- AYES: Directors Bantilan, Bracken, Cappello, Chounet, Christensen, Compton, Shephard, Williams, Wooster, and Yurosek
- NOES: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- ABSENT: Director Albano

g. Update on Prop 68 Grant Agreement

Mr. Blakslee provided an update on the successful award of the Prop 68 grant and noted that the grant agreement has been signed and has reached final approval. DWR regional representative Anita Regmi let the Board know that expectation of reimbursement will likely be 6 months.

h. Update on Newsletter

CBGSA Outreach Consultant Charles Gardner from the Catalyst Group provided an update on the newsletter which is provided in the Board packet.

8. Groundwater Sustainability Agency

a. Report of the Executive Director

Mr. Beck reported that staff would be meeting with the counties to discuss how they are integrating SGMA with the county processes. He reported that we will be meeting with each of the four counties and will report back on this next month.

b. Progress & Next Steps

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

c. Report of the General Counsel

Nothing to report.

9. Financial Report

a. Review the FY 20-21 Budget

Mr. Beck and Blakslee provided an overview of the draft Fiscal Year 20-21 budget and the updated cash flow, which was presented for Board approval.

MOTION

Director Bracken made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 20-21 Budget. The motion was seconded by Director Compton, a roll call vote was made and passed unanimously.

- AYES: Directors Albano, Bantilan, Bracken, Cappello, Chounet, Christensen, Compton, Shephard, Williams, Wooster, and Yurosek
- NOES: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- ABSENT: None

b. Review of CBGSA Voluntary Contribution Reimbursement

Mr. Beck and Blakslee provided an overview of the reimbursement available to CBGSA voluntary contributors, but due to potential cash flow issues requested reimbursement be deferred to the fall, and the Board was ok with this approach.

MOTION

Director Chounet made a motion to approve the reimbursement plan when the cash flow allows. The motion was seconded by Director Bracken, a roll call vote was made and passed unanimously.

- AYES: Directors Albano, Bantilan, Bracken, Cappello, Chounet, Christensen, Compton, Shephard, Wooster, and Yurosek
- NOES: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- ABSENT: Director Williams

c. Execute No-Cost, Time Extension for Hallmark Group Task Order No. 4 for Development and Facilitation of a Groundwater Extraction Fee

Mr. Blakslee presented that Board with a no-cost, time extension for Task Order No. 4 for the development of a groundwater extraction fee. He reported that the costs for Task Order No. 4 will be part of the reimbursement for Prop 68.

MOTION

Director Cappello made a motion to approve a no-cost, time extension for the Hallmark Group Task Order No. 4 for the development of a groundwater extraction fee through June 30, 2020. The motion was seconded by Director Wooster, a roll call vote was made and passed unanimously.

- AYES: Directors Albano, Bantilan, Bracken, Cappello, Chounet, Christensen, Compton,

Shephard, Wooster, and Yurosek
 NOES: None
 ABSTAIN: None
 ABSENT: Director Williams

d. Financial Management Overview

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the CBGSA’s financial activities which is provided in the Board packet.

e. Financial Report

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the February 2020 and March 2020 financial reports, which are included in the Board packet.

f. Payment of Bills

Mr. Blakslee reported on the payment of bills for the months of February 2020 and March 2020.

MOTION

Director Bracken made a motion to approve payment of bills for the months of February and March 2020. The motion was seconded by Director Cappello, a roll call vote was made and passed with an 89% vote.

AYES: Directors Albano, Bantilan, Bracken, Cappello, Chounet, Christensen, Compton, Shephard, Wooster, and Yurosek
 NOES: None
 ABSTAIN: None
 ABSENT: Director Williams

10. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee

Nothing to report.

11. Directors’ Forum

Nothing to report.

12. Public comment for items not on the Agenda

Nothing to report.

13. Correspondence

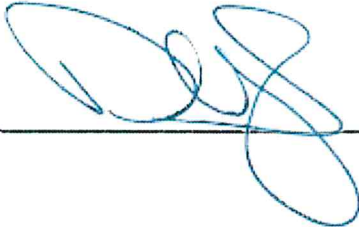
Nothing to report.

14. Adjourn

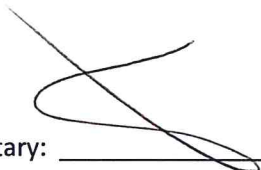
Chair Yurosek adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

 Minutes approved by the Board of Directors of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency the 3rd day of June 2020.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Chair:  _____

ATTEST:


Secretary: _____