

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee Meeting

January 4, 2018

Meeting Minutes

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

PRESENT:

Jaffe, Roberta – Chair
Kelly, Brenton – Vice Chair
DeBranch, Brad
Draucker, Louise
Furstenfeld, Jake
Post, Mike
Beck, James M. – Executive Director
Hughes, Joe – Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

Haslett, Joe

1. Call to order

Chair Jaffee called the Standing Advisory Committee to order at 3:00pm.

2. Roll call

Chair Jaffee called roll of the Committee (shown above).

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Jaffee.

4. Approval of minutes

Executive Director Jim Beck presented the minutes from the last session. Editorial changes were requested and a revised draft with corrections will be distributed. A motion was made by Brenton Kelly to approve the revised minutes and the motion was seconded by Louise Draucker. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Report of the General Counsel

There was no report of the General Counsel for this session.

6. Report of the Executive Director

a. Draft GSA Budget review

Mr. Beck began with an overview of the budget process noting line by line estimates.

Additionally, the Committee reviewed the scope of work proposed by Hallmark Group for Task Order 2 providing support to the GSA for budget development and administration, financial management, and outreach facilitation. There were a number of clarifying questions around the tasks that were addressed by Mr. Beck.

Additionally, there was discussion around the role of the grants in the overall budget and process for grant reimbursement. It is intended that the Board of Director's role pertaining to the management of the budget will be for oversight of expenditures and accountability. The Executive Director will provide a monthly report on expenditures, the Board will then authorize the approval of those expenditures. It is anticipated that invoices will also be reported and reviewed. The Board will act on those items and the Executive Director will report on overall program budget and highlight against schedule.

The Committee then discussed contents of Chair Jaffee's report to the Board. Upon completion of the budget review there were no objections by the Standing Advisory Committee and supports the Board's approval of the budget and would like the Board to ensure that a cash flow plan be implemented as soon as possible.

b. Next steps for outreach

Charles Gardiner of Catalyst Group, serving on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan development team, presented an overview of the stakeholder outreach process noting that they will work to develop a strategic communication plan and engage the community at intentional points in time.

As a preliminary effort, the team is conducting interviews to get a sense of key issues, where time will need to be spent, understanding technical components, etc. It is anticipated that there will be 45-minute individual interviews with the goal of understanding key issues. The Strategic Plan will then be presented to the Standing Advisory Committee and then the Board for overall direction and to start implementation.

The Committee requested Mr. Gardiner elaborate on how they will intend to build trust and communication between entities. Mr. Gardiner noted that overall, people are reasonable, and if the forum is appropriate, then people can discuss all issues (even when contentious) and develop a path to resolution. There is a lot of complexity as well as technical issues that must be understood. This process will allow everyone to speak openly about their perspective.

The process will include the team presenting information in advance to serve as education and to then allow for thorough discussion and questions and answers. They will work to understand how best to educate the stakeholders and to focus on what is interesting and relevant to the group. Mr. Gardiner's team will also work to reach out to the rest of the community for those that have not actively participated in the sessions.

The Committee was then introduced to a local outreach group closely tied to the Hispanic residents of the Cuyama Basin. The Committee discussed additional participation of the group. It was expressed that it is the responsibility of the Standing Advisory Committee to identify underrepresentation in the community, and the Hispanic community was recognized as underrepresented. It was noted that substantial outreach efforts will be

required to engage those participants. Chair Jaffee will include this discussion in her report to the Board and request direction for addition of Committee members. Legal Counsel will also advise.

c. Discussion of newsletter components

Jessica Alwan of the Executive Director team discussed initial planning efforts for the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency newsletter and requested that the Committee begin to consider what components would be valuable to them to have included in the regular content. Some of the suggestions included: Executive Directors Message, What's Happening, Program Overview or Status Update, Standing Advisory Committee column, Upcoming Meetings and Events, general Sustainable Groundwater Management Act updates, educational opportunities, a specific educational component for links of upcoming Groundwater Sustainability Agency schedule, reading material information including the Department of Water Resources website, Best Management Practices resources, and frequently asked questions from collected community questions. It was also suggested that the first issue have a brief biography of the Committee and representatives as contacts. The discussion will be continued at future sessions of the Standing Advisory Committee.

d. Items for upcoming sessions

It is intended that the United States Geological Service (USGS) present an overview of the Basin data at the February session of the Board of Directors and EKI to tentatively present an overview of their report in March. These will be noticed under the Brown Act as joint sessions to allow participation by both the Standing Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors.

7. Committee Forum

There were no items discussed in the Committee forum.

8. Public comment for items not on the Agenda

There were no additional public comments.

9. Adjourn

Chair Jaffe adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.

I, James M. 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 Thursday, January 4, 2018, by the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee.

James M. Beck
Dated: February 1, 2018