

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee Meeting

February 1, 2018

Meeting Minutes

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

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Jaffe, Roberta – Chair
Haslett, Joe

1. Call to order

Vice Chair Kelly called the Standing Advisory Committee to order at 3:02 pm.

2. Roll call

Vice Chair Kelly called roll of the Committee (shown above).

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Vice Chair Kelly.

4. Approval of minutes

Executive Director 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 Brad Debranch to approve the revised minutes and seconded by Jake Furstenfeld. 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. Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Review

Executive Director Jim Beck reported that the February 7, 2018 Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) regular Board of Directors (Board) meeting will be a joint meeting with the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC). He went on to report that the draft Board packet was sent out before we found out USGS was not able to present on February 7, 2018, so we

scheduled EKI to present in their place. Mr. Beck provided an overview of the February 7, 2018 CBGSA joint Board agenda, and noted that a significant portion of the Board meeting will likely take place under item No. 9, the financial report. Committee member Brad DeBranch asked if there is any update on the grant funding, and Mr. Beck replied that we will get better information from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by the March 2018 Board meeting.

b. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Groundwater Sustainable Plan (GSP) consultant Lyndel Melton relayed that he had not received any additional news on grant funding. He said DWR was supposed to provide an update by the end of January 2018, but he had not heard anything. Mr. Melton provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan update.

Committee member Louise Draucker asked, in looking at the historical data, how far back we should go in developing water budgets. Mr. Melton said the law requires a development point from 2015, but we will use data older than this point.

GSP Outreach consultant Charles Gardiner presented an update on the development of the draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy. In their outreach efforts, Mr. Gardiner said one of the underlying themes they discovered was how much agreement there is in the community on various issues.

Committee member Brenton Kelly asked if there is a way to constructively discuss ongoing land use issues. Specifically, without adversely impacting farmers and businesses, how do you address sustainability goals. Mr. Melton appreciated Mr. Kelly's concerns, but replied that land use is the prevue of the counties and the CBGSA will be dealing strictly with water management.

c. SAC Membership

Mr. Beck outlined the need for additional representation on the SAC, and read a letter from SAC Chair Roberta Jaffe supporting this conclusion. Committee member Mike Post relayed that he believes it is the Board's decision to restructure the SAC however they want, and Committee member Jake Furstenfeld expressed concerns about adding latecomers to the SAC. Mr. Beck suggested that if a group is identified down the road that is underrepresented, we would consider them for inclusion in the SAC, but as a policy, not anyone can come in and request a seat on the Committee. Committee member Louise Draucker emphasized that the SAC is an advisory committee and that input should come from the SAC if it feels like representation should be expanded. Mr. Post expressed that the normal process for adding members should not be circumvented, and the same process should be used. Mr. Kelly believes it is the SAC's duty to let the Board know there is a gap in SAC representation. Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center Director Lynn Carlisle shared that several Latino members of the community were being trained by the Promotora group, where they invested over 40 hours of their own time to be trained in water issues. She reported that, unfortunately, the timing of their training did not coincide with the committee selection process.

After discussing the matter, the SAC made the following motion: The SAC recommends that the Board evaluate any unrepresented group in the Cuyama Basin and consider the process for adding a representative to the Standing Advisory Committee. The motion was made by Mike Post, seconded by Louise Draucker and passed unanimously.

d. Items for upcoming sessions

SAC Chair Roberta Jaffe suggested an educational component be added to the SAC. Mr. Beck and Gardiner said they will review this and continue the discussion next month.

Brenton Kelly suggested to continue expanding the acronym list to include other common terms.

Mr. Beck reported that the March 2018 CBGSA SAC and Board meetings are scheduled for March 1st and 7th, respectively. The March 7, 2018 Board meeting will be a joint session with the SAC. He also reported that public workshops will be scheduled to coincide with the March 2018 joint Board meeting.

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

Vice Chair Kelly adjourned the meeting at 5:10 pm.

I, James M. Beck, Executive Director of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a fair statement of the proceedings of the meeting held on Thursday, February 1, 2018, by the Cuyama Basing Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee.

James M. Beck

Dated: March 1, 2018