

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee Meeting

March 29, 2018

Meetings Minutes

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

PRESENT:

- Jaffe, Roberta – Chair
- Kelly, Brenton – Vice Chair
- Alvarardo, Claudia
- DeBranch, Brad
- Draucker, Louise
- Furstenfeld, Jake
- Haslett, Joe (*telephonically*)
- Post, Mike
- Valenzuela, Hilda Leticia
- Beck, Jim – Executive Director

ABSENT:

- Hughes, Joe – Legal Counsel

1. Call to order

Chair Jaffe called the Standing Advisory Committee to order at 3:04 pm.

2. Roll call

Taylor called roll of the Committee (shown above).

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Jaffe.

Chair Jaffe welcomed the two new Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) members to the SAC and asked existing members to introduce themselves and share a little bit of what they do.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Executive Director Jim Beck welcomed the audience members and reminded them to use the comment cards for public comment and to sign-in if they want to receive CBGSA updates.

4. Approval of minutes

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Executive Director Jim Beck presented the minutes from the last session. Minor editorial changes were made, and a motion was made by Committee Member Post to approve the revised minutes and seconded by Committee Member Kelly. 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. Report of the Executive Director

Mr. Beck reported that Woodard & Curran (W&C) Practice Leader Lyndel Melton (Groundwater Sustainability Plan consultant) and Catalyst Group Principal Strategist Charles Gardiner (outreach consultant) were participating in the SAC meeting via teleconference.

Mr. Beck gave an update on scheduling the June workshop date and provided a couple of the options the team will present to the Board of Directors for their approval. The options were to have the workshops the night before the Board, the day of Board, or the day after the Board meeting. Mr. Beck suggested the SAC discuss these options and have a recommendation for the Board at the April 4, 2018 Board meeting. Vice Chair Kelly commented that the last workshop was a good use of consultant time, but it was a marathon. Committee Member Post said he is ok with overnight, but would just need advanced notice. Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center Executive Director Lynn Carlisle commented that, at this time of year, a number of residents are working later in the fields and to be mindful of the workshop timing to maximize participation. Mr. Beck also discussed a simultaneous workshop where we could have the English and Spanish workshop occurring at the same time in an open house style format. Committee members Alvarado and Valenzuela mentioned that most agricultural workers would not get off until 6 pm. Chair Jaffe suggested having the regular Board meeting from 4-6 pm, and then a simultaneous workshop at 7 pm.

Mr. Beck let the SAC know that environmental and water consulting firm EKI is asking to be kept up to date on technical issues by meeting with CBGSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) consultant W&C on a regular basis. Mr. Beck said that this request will be accommodated in the format of a monthly technical forum for technical consultants representing landowners to meet with W&C. He noted that this monthly meeting is not a public meeting, but for technical staff. Mr. Beck said if the SAC knows of other consultants that want to participate in these meetings to let Hallmark Project Coordinator Taylor Blakslee know and he will coordinate this. He can be reached via email at tblakslee@hgcpm.com, or phone at (661) 477-3385.

Mr. Beck reported that the County of Kern informed him they will not be paying their assessment and are requesting to be made a non-paying Board member. However, this is not an option under the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). Mr. Beck said from a cashflow perspective, it will not impact the Board since we estimate to have a surplus of about \$200,000 by the end of the project. Vice Chair Kelly asked what will happen regarding the power structure and voting if Kern leaves the CBGSA, noting that was the most difficult part in negotiating the JPA. Mr. Beck said we need to strategize with the Board on those issues if the County of Kern exits that JPA. He added it was unfortunate we got this far without hearing about this. Mr. Beck said he does not recommend this option, but you can cut out the County of Kern's portion from the CBGSA, but they will still have costs they would need to cover. Kern's perspective is that there is no pumping occurring in the County of Kern portion of the Cuyama Valley and therefore do not believe they really have a stake in the area. Mr. Beck reported that this perspective is coming from the entire Kern Board of Supervisors. Lastly, he noted that while Kern believes the areas they represent should be self-

sustaining, they have fronted costs in other parts of the County related to Sustainable Groundwater Management Act compliance and have recovered costs directly from the landowners, and this is an approach Kern could consider in Cuyama. Ultimately, he is hopeful we can figure out a scenario that avoids the County of Kern withdrawing from the JPA.

Mr. Beck reported that Grapevine Capital Partners representative Ray Shady will be presenting on their recent activities at the April 26, 2018 SAC and May 2, 2018 Board meetings.

b. SGMA Educational Item: What Makes A Good Groundwater Model?

W&C Project Manager Brian Van Lienden provided a PowerPoint presentation on what makes a good groundwater model.

As part of Mr. Van Lienden's presentation, Mr. Beck mentioned that an interactive Cuyama Basin map has been added to the CBGSA's website as a link under the resources section.

During Mr. Van Lienden's presentation of the type of data useful for the model, Vice Chair Kelly announced that he had forwarded water supply data he obtained from the National Forest Service. Committee member Mike Post reported that he has rain gauge information he can provide to W&C. Committee member Joe Haslett suggested W&C touch base with Shawn Johnson from the County of Santa Barbara for any data he can provide.

Committee member Post asked if most of the well data was obtained from the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program. Mr. Van Lienden confirmed this, but reiterated that any private well data would be very helpful to have. Vice Chair Kelly reported that the Cuyama Basin Water District (CBWD) is expecting W&C to issue a formal request for data that the water district can request from its landowners. Mr. Van Lienden reported that he did send a formal request for data to the CBWD. A member of the public commented that a data request from established organizations in the Cuyama Valley would be more familiar to landowners and would likely be a more effective route in collecting data. Mr. Melton reported that the data information request will be discussed with CBWD staff Matt Klinchuch at the upcoming technical consultant meeting with CBWD and EKI on April 3, 2018. Mr. Melton also commented that you do not have to have all the data in the Valley to form a good model. He said the more data the merrier, but even with the data we have today, it will be a very good model.

Ms. Carlisle asked if the data going into the model will be shared publicly. Mr. Van Lienden let her know that it would; either on the CBGSA website or through the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) SGMA portal website.

Chair Jaffe asked if climate change will be addressed in the model and Mr. Van Lienden replied that it would as it is required by SGMA. Chair Jaffe asked how you determine if the Russel Fault is permeable. Mr. Van Lienden said he is not a hydrogeologist, but said you can take vertical data from each side of the fault and truth test this with well log data. She asked if W&C will be addressing contested basin elements to try and reconcile what is going on based on various conflicting reports. Mr. Van Lienden confirmed that contested issues will be addressed in the GSP development process. Chair Jaffe asked if existing studies by various technical consultants are public (USGS, EKI, Dudek and Cleath). Mr. Beck reported that several are public while others are not (such as the Cleath report). Mr. Van Lienden let the SAC know that reports shared publicly with W&C will be shared via the CBGSA website.

Mr. Van Lienden reported that SGMA requires monitoring of the entire basin and we will need to potentially add monitoring wells and flow gauges for the mandated 5-year interval reporting period.

Ms. Carlisle asked when the minimum threshold and measurable objectives are determined. Mr. Van Lienden said they will be determined after the conceptual model is developed, and this would possibly be a discussion point for the June public workshop.

c. Board of Directors Agenda Review

Mr. Beck provided an overview of the April 4, 2018 CBGSA Board of Directors agenda.

d. Logo Review

Mr. Beck reported on W&C’s latest logo drafts. He reported that the team recommend draft No. 2 unless the SAC has any issues with that draft. Vice Chair Kelly confirmed the Committee’s consensus on draft logo No. 2.

7. Groundwater Sustainability Plan

a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update

Mr. Van Lienden provided an update on GSP activities.

b. Stakeholder Engagement Update

Catalyst Group Charles Gardiner provided an update on stakeholder engagement activities. Catalyst Group Mary Currie reported on the status of the first edition of the CBGSA newsletter which is scheduled for distribution in the Recreation Center newsletter on May 1, 2018. Ms. Currie relayed that she had a conversation with Cuyama Elementary School Principal Rachel Leyland to strategize youth involvement in the SGMA efforts in the Cuyama Valley. Vice Chair reiterated his idea to include simple questions asked to various Cuyama residents in the newsletter to increase interest in the newsletter. Ms. Currie reported that the website had been updated with a Spanish language section and will continue to be updated as material is developed.

Committee member Valenzuela left at 4:25 pm.

8. Standing Advisory Committee Responsibilities and Guidelines

Chair Jaffe reported that an ad hoc of consisting of Committee members Draucker, Kelly and herself met to develop responsibilities and guidelines for the way the SAC should function as a committee. Committee member Post said it is a great piece of work and does the job, but on page three, paragraph three, he would like to see the language on allowable meeting absences (currently written as reportable to the Board after three consecutive absences) to be strengthened by adding “and/or five missed meetings in a 12-week period.”

Committee member Mike Post left at 4:59 pm.

The SAC discussed several revisions to the document and will present an update to the Board for adoption at the May 2, 2018 Board meeting.

9. Items for Upcoming Sessions

Mr. Beck reminded the SAC that Grapevine Capital Partners will be presenting at the April 26, 2018 SAC meeting.

10. Committee Forum

Vice Chair Kelly commented that he appreciated the acronym list being updated and asked that we continue to build on the list by adding EKI, Cleath, etc. Chair Jaffe mentioned the upcoming DWR SGMA workshops, specifically she pointed out there will be one in Ventura on April 25, 2018.

11. Public comment for items not on the Agenda

Steve reported that we got some nice rain last week.

12. Adjourn

Chair Jaffe adjourned the meeting at 5:39 pm.

I, Jim 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, March 29, 2018, by the Cuyama Basing Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee.

Jim Beck

Dated: April 26, 2018