

Joint Meeting of Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors and Standing Advisory Committee

June 6, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center, 4689 CA-166, New Cuyama, CA 93254
Cuyama Valley Recreation District, 4885 Primero St, New Cuyama, CA 93254

PRESENT:

Board of Directors:

Williams, Das – Acting Chair
Arnold, Debbie (call-in) – *Alternate for Lynn Compton*
Albano, Byron
Anselm, Arne – *Alternate for Glenn Shephard*
Bracken, Tom
Cappello, George
Chounet, Paul
Christensen, Alan – *Alternate for Zack Scrivner*
Klinchuch, Matt – *Alternate for Derek Yurosek*
Wooster, Jane
Beck, Jim – Executive Director
Hughes, Joe – Legal Counsel

Standing Advisory Committee:

Jaffe, Roberta – Chair
Alvarado, Claudia
DeBranch, Brad
Draucker, Louise
Furstenfeld, Jake
Haslett, Joe
Post, Mike
Valenzuela, Hilda Leticia

ABSENT:

Board of Directors:

Bantilan, Cory

Standing Advisory Committee:

Kelly, Brenton – Vice Chair

1. Call to order

There was a need to move the Joint Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Board of Directors and Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting from the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center due to a power outage. The CBGSA Board and SAC convened the meeting at the Family Resource Center at 4:00 pm and then made a motion to adjourn to the Cuyama Valley Recreation District.

Prior to the motion to adjourn, Director Paul Chounet made a motion to appoint Director Das Williams as Acting Chair since Chair Derek Yurosek had a conflict and was unable to attend. Alternate Arne Anselm seconded the motion, roll call was made, and the motion passed unanimously.

Acting Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm at the Cuyama Valley Recreation District.

2. Roll call

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Acting Chair Williams.

Executive Director Jim Beck let the audience know that there was a need to move the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency meeting from the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center (FRC) due to a power outage and that signage was put up at the FRC to let the public know.

4. Approval of Minutes

Acting Chair Williams opened the floor for comments on the May 2, 2018 CBGSA Board meeting minutes. Director Arnold requested clarification of a motion on page 4, item No. 7a. The change was noted and a motion was made by Director Jane Wooster to adopt the May 2, 2018 CBGSA Board minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Byron Albano, roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Report of the General Counsel

a. Funding Agreements Update

Legal Counsel Joe Hughes provided an update on the funding agreement that was approved at the May 2, 2018 CBGSA Board meeting. He stated that Kern County does not require a funding agreement and their payment will be processed through their Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget process. Lastly, Mr. Hughes said he will continue corresponding with the Cuyama Community Services District for further updates on their funding status.

b. ACWA Pool for GSA Legal Protection

Mr. Hughes provided an update regarding a legal defense fund the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) is developing for Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) legal protection. This legal defense fund will be structured so that voluntary contributions made by participating members can be used to support a GSA that is targeted by opposition groups. Mr. Hughes noted that the defense fund is not for fighting Brown Act violations, but for broadly applicable issues that are of common concern to GSAs across the State. He let the Board know that this is an informational update and will continue to track its development. Acting Chair Williams stated that the legal defense fund is intriguing, and he is potentially interested in participating to insulate against risk, but needs more information and looks forward to future updates.

Director Wooster asked the status of Kern County's participation in the CBGSA. Alternate Alan Christensen stated that Kern Country plans to remain on the CBGSA and pay its share of the initial assessments. Additionally, he informed the Board that they have an item on the Board of Supervisors agenda for June 26, 2018 to appropriate funds for the initial assessments. Mr. Beck let the Board know that he met with Mr. Christensen and County of Kern Supervisor Zack Scrivner, who will be replacing Director David Couch, to update him on CBGSA issues.

6. Report of the Standing Advisory Committee

CBGSA SAC Chair Roberta Jaffe provided a report on the May 31, 2018 SAC meeting which is provided in the Board packet.

Ms. Jaffe informed the Board of Directors that the SAC report will be distributed as an addendum to the Board packet following the SAC meeting. The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with SAC input on the various Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) components/issues that will better equip the Board when making decisions on GSP-related issues.

7. Groundwater Sustainability Agency

a. Report of the Executive Director

Executive Director Jim Beck introduced new Hallmark Group employee Melissa Ballard to the Board and SAC. He let the Board know she will be providing administrative support for the Bakersfield office and they will likely hear more from her in the future.

Mr. Beck reported on Santa Barbara Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWM) grant funding opportunities for implementation costs. He let the Board know the initial fee for joining the Santa Barbara IRWM program is between \$1,500 and \$2,000 per year, with potential variance, and an increase in staff time for grant administration and meeting attendance. He noted that this opportunity exists because the State is trying to promote groups working together through these processes. Mr. Beck said that we can add the Santa Barbara IRWM item to the Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget if the Board is interested in pursuing this. He let the Board know he will report on this item at future meetings as more information is received.

Alternate Director Arne Anselm asked if the multi-county area will qualify for the Santa Barbara grant funding opportunities, and Mr. Beck said that the area may qualify if it proves to be beneficial to the area.

Mr. Beck reported that The Hallmark Group received Ventura's first assessment payment. Additionally, he reminded the Board that the July Board meeting will meet on July 11th, not July 4th, due to the holiday; however, the SAC will still meet on June 28th.

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. Additionally, he informed the Board that an expanded financial report will be included in the Board packet beginning in July 2018.

8. Groundwater Sustainability Plan

a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update

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

Mr. Melton thanked Alternate Director Matt Klinchuch for his assistance in gathering data from local landowners. Director George Cappello let the Board know Committee Member Brad DeBranch is working diligently to provide well and cropping data to W&C and confirmed W&C Project Manager Brian Van Lienden has been corresponding with Committee Member DeBranch regarding this data.

Alternate Director Anselm asked if W&C is tracking the data needs and analyses needed for the

5-year GSP-mandated reporting periods. Mr. Melton confirmed they are tracking this. Acting Chair Williams commented that he believes the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will set a high bar on these plans and the more data collected, the greater the ability of the CBGSA to defend its GSP.

Alternate Director Debbie Arnold mentioned that the County of San Luis Obispo (SLO) was concerned that there was not enough data on the western portion of the Basin submitted to W&C by the May 24, 2018 deadline. Mr. Melton replied that W&C has acquired adequate data for the western portion of the Basin but will always welcome additional data. Mr. Melton said that W&C could coordinate directly with SLO staff on the additional data to have the least impact to the schedule. Acting Chair Williams asked Alternate Arnold if this approach is acceptable with SLO staff, and Ms. Arnold agreed to coordinate directly with W&C staff.

b. Technical Forum Update

Mr. Melton reported on the May 4, 2018 technical forum meeting which is summarized in the Board packet. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 8, 2018. Acting Chair Williams suggested that Alternate Anselm's participation in the technical forum would be beneficial due to his level of expertise.

c. Description of the Plan Area

Mr. Melton provided an update on the Description of the Plan Area and let the Board know commenters are reviewing W&C's responses to their edits which are due Friday, June 8, 2018. The revised Description of the Plan Area will then be distributed to the SAC, Board and Stakeholders and be considered for approval at the July 11, 2018 Board meeting.

d. Public Workshop and Stakeholder Engagement Update

GSP outreach consultant the Catalyst Group's Charles Gardiner provided an update on stakeholder engagement which is provided in the Board packet.

Mr. Gardiner reported that the Catalyst Group has been using the newsletter and e-mail correspondence to notify the Cuyama Valley residents on critical issues. Alternate Arnold said that there are a number of people within the valley that have not been notified and additional mailing would be helpful. Alternate Arnold asked Mr. Gardiner if there is adequate money in the budget to provide mailers to all residents in the Cuyama Valley. Mr. Gardiner said that there is, and he will coordinate directly with SLO staff on an expanded distribution strategy.

Director Byron Albano asked Mr. Melton for an update on Water Management Areas. Mr. Melton said people continue to raise this question, but we are pushing it off until we get a better understanding of the basin. He said we are almost there and this process should begin late summer 2018.

9. Financial Report

a. Financial Management Overview

Mr. Beck provided an update on the financial costs through April 2018.

b. Hallmark Group Task Order

Mr. Beck presented the Hallmark Group's proposed Amendment No. 1 to Task Order No. 2.

Director George Cappello made a motion to authorize Amendment No. 1 to Task Order No. 2 for continuation of the Hallmark Group’s services through June 30, 2019 in an amount not to exceed \$63,840. The motion was seconded by Alternate Anslem and was approved unanimously. Acting Chair Williams asked if the Amendment matched the Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget and Mr. Beck confirmed that it does.

c. Woodard & Curran Task Orders

Mr. Beck presented W&C’s Task Order Nos. 4 and 5 that authorize W&C work through June 30, 2019. Director Tom Bracken made a motion to authorize Task Order Nos. 4 and 5 for Groundwater Sustainability Plan consultant Woodard & Curran in an amount not to exceed \$1,224,282.00. The motion was seconded by Director Cappello and was approved unanimously. Director Cappello noted a minor date correction, and W&C will make the change.

d. Payment of Bills

Mr. Beck reported on the payment of bills for the month of April 2018. A motion was made by Director Wooster and seconded by Director George Cappello to approve payment of the bills through the month of April 2018 in the amount of \$155,772.34, pending receipt of funds. The motion passed unanimously. Acting Chair Williams asked if any bills outside of budgeted items are flagged, and Mr. Beck confirmed that is watching for this in his review of the invoices.

e. DWR Grant

Mr. Beck provided an update on the DWR grant administrative process and let the CBGSA Board know the Hallmark team is working on submitting the appropriate documents for this.

10. Reports of the Ad Hoc Committees

Nothing to report.

11. Directors’ Forum

Nothing to report.

12. Public comment for items not on the Agenda

Nothing to report.

13. Adjourn

At 5:29 p.m., Acting Chair Williams recessed the CBGSA Board to 6:30 p.m. The CBGSA Board reconvened at 6:30 p.m. for public workshops and was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. when a quorum was lost. Mr. Beck reminded the remaining CBGSA Board members to be careful in their workshop participation to not violate the Brown Act. The workshops ended at 8:32 p.m., and the SAC was adjourned.

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