

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors Meeting

August 1, 2018

Meeting Minutes

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

PRESENT:

Yurosek, Derek – Chair
Compton, Lynn – Vice Chair (*telephonically*)
Albano, Byron
Bantilan, Cory
Bracken, Tom
Cappello, George
Chounet, Paul
Scrivner, Zack
Shephard, Glenn
Elliott, Darcel – *Alternate for Das Williams*
Wooster, Jane

Hughes, Joe – Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

Beck, Jim – Executive Director

1. Call to order

Chair Derek Yurosek called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Roll call

Hallmark Group Project Coordinator Taylor 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. Approval of Minutes

Chair Yurosek opened the floor for comments on the July 11, 2018 Meeting of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors. A minor edit was suggested and a motion was made by Director Glenn Shephard to adopt the minutes and seconded by Paul Chounet. Roll call was made, since Lynn Compton was participating telephonically, Directors Lynn Compton, Zack Scrivner, and Tom Bracken abstained from a vote since they were not at the July 11, 2018 Board meeting, and the motion passed with a majority vote.

5. Report of the General Counsel

At the July 11, 2018 Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Board meeting the Board requested clarification on how the term “stakeholder” is defined under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Legal Counsel Joe Hughes reported that the Board identifies who in the groundwater basin is a stakeholder for the purpose of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan development. He let the Board know that SGMA requires that all interests of beneficial uses and users of groundwater be defined under the term “stakeholders”. GSP consultant Woodard & Curran (W&C) Principal Lyndel Melton agreed with Mr. Hughes assessment.

Director Byron Albano said that he was interested in hearing the specific stakeholder definition list and Mr. Hughes read the definition of “stakeholder,” as defined in the California Water Code, where SGMA identifies the various interests of beneficial uses and users of groundwater as holders of overlying groundwater rights including: agriculture users, including farmers, rancher and dairy professionals, domestic well owners; municipal well operators; public water systems; local land use planning agencies; environmental users of groundwater; surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies; the federal government, including but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands; California Native American tribes; disadvantaged communities, including but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems; and entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency. Mr. Hughes stated that he would email the Water Code Section 10723.2, along with California Department of Water Resources (DWR) guidance document for stakeholder communication and engagement to the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) and the CBGSA Board.

6. Report of the Standing Advisory Committee

CBGSA SAC Chair Roberta Jaffe provided a report on the July 26, 2018 SAC meeting which is provided in the Board packet.

One of the items discussed was the concept of forming a study group to review GSP sections. Chair Jaffe let the Board know an ad hoc of the Committee was researching ways to make this a feasible option. Chair Yurosek asked which Committee members are on the Ad hoc committee, and Ms. Jaffe replied that she appointed Louise Draucker, Jake Furstenfeld, Claudia Alvarado, and Vice Chair Brenton Kelly.

Chair Yurosek thanked Chair Jaffe and Vice Chair Brenton Kelly for their well written report.

7. Groundwater Sustainability Agency**a. Report of the Executive Director**

Mr. Blakslee let the CBGSA Board know that Hallmark Group Executive Director Jim Beck was not able to make the Board meeting due to family reunion in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

b. Progress & Next Steps

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

8. Groundwater Sustainability Plan

a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update

Mr. Melton provided an update on GSP development.

Chair Yurosek asked when the data management system will be distributed to the stakeholders, and Mr. Melton said he expects it to be distributed in the next 30 to 60 days.

b. Technical Forum Update

Mr. Melton provided an overview of the July 13, 2018 technical forum meeting, which is summarized in the Board packet.

c. Overview of How a Groundwater Model Works

Mr. Melton provided an overview of how a groundwater model works, which is summarized in the Board packet.

Director Albano asked if model calibration was done using historical data. Mr. Melton confirmed this and said that will be the basis for modelling future conditions.

Director Chounet asked how often the model will be recalibrated and Mr. Melton suggested five years from now.

d. Current Basin Water Conditions

Mr. Melton provided an overview of the current basin water conditions, which is summarized in the Board packet.

Director Wooster asked what the numbers on the wells represent, and Mr. Melton said it is an internal numbering system used to protect well user data.

Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center Executive Director Lynn Carlisle asked how the groundwater level maps correlate to the USGS studies since they do not show the same drops. Mr. Melton stated that the graph represents a different time frames. Ms. Carlisle asked how well the USGS data compares and Mr. Melton said it compares very well and is represented in the model. Director George Cappello mentioned that USGS model had issues regarding poor calibration, however EKI resolved those issues. He mentioned that he feels comfortable using the data from the previous model rather than using the previous model entirely.

Local resident Sue Blackshear said it was her understanding that the USGS model did not mesh with the model we are using. Director Cappello stated that the USGS system was calibrated incorrectly, however the data was good. He stressed that the important thing to keep in mind is the data USGS developed will be utilized in the new model.

Mr. Melton said the current integrated water flow model (IWFm) we are using is very good and he has a lot of confidence in the model we are using.

Director Wooster stated that when the USGS did their model, there was not a lot of cooperation in the Cuyama Valley, and then the State Water Resources Control Board twisted our arms to do SGMA and that's where we are. Because of this, she relayed that a lot of data has been provided this time, it is better data, and our GSP will be based on this data. She commented that the USGS report was filled in with supposition; not facts, so we should not be too concerned with

the USGS report since W&C is only using facts in their model.

Mr. Kelly stated that the data collected by USGS was obtained in Cuyama over the course of five years and ground-truthed. He asked if W&C planned on ground-truthing their data. He mentioned that he was previously told that there was not the time or budget set aside to do this. Mr. Melton stated that there will be time to truth some of the data and all the data that was given by USGS will be utilized.

Chair Yurosek stated that the goal is to have a complete and accurate model, however the model will not be perfect. Once submitted, the goal is to continue to refine the model.

Chair Yurosek asked if the map being displayed are the only subsidence monitoring areas we have in the basin and Mr. Melton replied that these are the only ones he is aware of.

Mr. Gliessman mentioned the importance of not only measuring subsidence, but how this correlates to a potential loss of groundwater storage.

Director Wooster mentioned that at the SAC meeting it was discussed where the data was measured, and perhaps the well was pumped dry.

e. Draft Undesirable Results Narrative

Mr. Melton provided the Draft Undesirable Results Narrative, which is summarized in the Board packet.

Ms. Carlisle said that she is unsure if the people at the June 6, 2018 workshop were aware of what their sustainability input would be utilized for and is unsure if that should be used to feed into the Undesirable Results Narrative. Additionally, she asked if the stakeholders will be informed of the Board and SACs definition of sustainability. Mr. Melton replied that the information is coming.

GSP outreach consultant the Catalyst Group Charles Gardiner said the sustainability goals and criteria will be developed and available in the September to November time period.

Mr. Melton mentioned that the Board has not been presented with the criteria for drafting their definition of sustainability, and this composition will be drafted in the fall.

f. Stakeholder Engagement Update

Mr. Gardiner provided an update on the second newsletter and the September 5th workshop.

9. Financial Report

a. Financial Management Overview

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the CBGSA's financial activities. He mentioned that the total outstanding invoices on the presentation was from when the packets were distributed, and as of August 1, 2018, the outstanding invoice amount is \$180,525.65 from W&C. Mr. Blakslee reminded the Board that we expect the DWR grant reimbursement funding to be received in the October to November 2018 timeframe.

Director Glenn Shephard mentioned that the grant agreement with DWR is not finalized yet, and it may be a little ambitious at this point to think that we will start getting reimbursements in October 2018. He mentioned that we need to complete the grant agreement, and have it approved by the Board.

Mr. Blakslee stated that he had been in contact DWR grant administration representative Anita Regmi regarding the estimated reimbursement timeframe. He also let the Board know it was his understanding that DWR was not allowing changes to be made to the grant agreement, and Mr. Hughes confirmed that was his understanding as well.

Chair Yurosek asked when the agreement is expected to the Board, and Mr. Blakslee said that he will confirm with Ms. Regmi on a more specific timeframe and let the Board know. Chair Yurosek mentioned that if the funding agreement with DWR becomes a complication, there may be a need for a Special Board meeting to resolve it.

b. Financial Report

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the newly expanded financial report. He mentioned that payment is pending from County of San Luis Obispo for their two assessments, along with the second assessment from Cuyama Community Services District (CCSD).

c. Payment of Bills

Mr. Blakslee reported on the payment of bills for the month of June 2018. A motion was made by Director Shephard and seconded by Director Tom Bracken to approve payment of the bills through the month of June 2018 in the amount of \$204,002.35 pending receipt of funds. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Reports of the Ad Hoc Committees

Mr. Melton reported that the DWR Technical Services ad hoc met on August 8, 2018 to walk through the DWR technical support services process and to review well site information for potential monitoring wells. Director Albano reported that we anticipate DWR to drill two to three monitoring well cluster sites. He stated that the Board decided the priority for these potential cluster sites where data gaps exists, and include the CCSD, the Russel fault, and the Santa Barbara Canyon fault.

Mr. Melton reported that the next step is to submit the application and contact landowners.

Chair Yurosek asked if the monitoring well for the CCSD will be in the CCSD district or where they are pumping and Director Albano said that he believes the well will be in the district.

11. Directors' Forum

Nothing to report.

12. Public comment for items not on the Agenda

Nothing to report.

13. Adjourn

Chair Yurosek adjourned the CBGSA Board at 5:26 p.m.

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, August 1, 2018, by the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors.

Jim Beck

Dated: Sep 5, 2018