

# Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors Meeting

October 3, 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  
Klinchuch, Matt – *Alternate for George Cappello*  
Coates, John – *Alternate for Paul Chounet*  
Anselm, Arne – *Alternate for Glenn Shephard*  
Wooster, Jane  
Beck, Jim – Executive Director  
Hughes, Joe – Legal Counsel

### **ABSENT:**

Scrivner, Zack

#### **1. Call to order**

Chair Derek Yurosek called the meeting to order at 4:02 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 September 5, 2018 meeting minutes of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Board of Directors. A motion was made by Director Cory Bantilan to adopt the minutes and seconded by Director Tom Bracken. A roll call vote was made, Director Arne Anselm abstained from the vote, and the motion passed.

#### **5. Report of the Standing Advisory Committee**

CBGSA Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) Chair Roberta Jaffe provided a report on the September 27, 2018 SAC meeting, which is provided in the Board packet.

SAC Chair Jaffe reported that Woodard & Curran's (W&C) Senior Hydrogeologist John Ayres attended the September 27, 2018 SAC meeting and provided technical feedback regarding the Hydrogeological Conceptual Model section. She stated the SAC reached a consensus on the establishment of Management Areas and had a discussion regarding monitoring groundwater quality issues.

## 6. Technical Forum Update

W&C Principal Lyndel Melton provided an overview of the August 31, 2018 technical forum meeting, which is summarized in the Board packet.

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 Director Das Williams arrived at 4:09 pm  
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Director John Coates said Santa Barbara County Public Works Department Senior Hydrologist Dennis Gibbs made a comment at the technical forum regarding whether one of the agricultural wells on Duncan Family Farms has any effect in the drop of the Cuyama Community Services District (CCSD) well. He reported that the tech forum was looking into investigating this. Additionally, Director Coates mentioned that on the contouring map there is a deep well being represented in the same general area as the CCSD. He asked if the connection between those is being investigated. Mr. Melton said he is not sure of that status on that issue but will get an answer and respond to him.

## 7. Groundwater Sustainability Plan

### a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update

Mr. Melton provided an update on GSP activities, which is included in the Board packet.

In regards to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) schedule, Mr. Melton reminded the Board that they requested W&C accelerate the GSP schedule in order to develop a public draft GSP by mid-July 2019.

SAC Chair Jaffe asked what the trade-offs are of having a May-June 2019 release rather than waiting until January 2020. Mr. Melton said he does not believe the SAC and Board will be missing any of the GSP sections and would therefore have more time to review the entire document by developing a public draft by mid-2019. He noted that the current GSP schedule is very workable.

Director Jane Wooster mentioned that she has had some issues with data in the Data Management System (DMS). Mr. Melton encouraged her to let Mr. Blakslee know what those issues are, and he will consolidate the information and coordinate with W&C. Mr. Melton said they would like to know where the production wells are but are only using data from monitoring wells and some wells that serve the dual purpose of production and monitoring.

SAC Vice Chair Brenton Kelly commented that Opti does not show perforations of the wells and asked why they are not showing up. Mr. Melton said he will track this down and report back.

### i. Monitoring Networks Section Release

Mr. Melton reported that the Monitoring Networks section was released on September 21, 2018. There will be a discussion regarding the section at the November 1, 2018 SAC

meeting, and the comments regarding the section are due November 9, 2018.

Director Coates asked if W&C has access to LIDAR data for additional subsidence monitoring. Mr. Melton replied that they do, and using that data is something they will consider.

Mr. Kelly asked if W&C applied for Technical Support Services related to subsidence monitoring and Mr. Melton said they applied for it but are not sure they are going to get it.

Director Albano asked if the proposed monitoring network for groundwater levels provides adequate coverage moving forward. Mr. Melton said W&C has applied for a few monitoring wells. Chair Yurosek commented that he assumes W&C is not happy with the monitoring network and plan on making recommendations for adding additional monitoring wells in the network. Mr. Albano requested to hear from W&C on what additional wells might be needed. Mr. Melton replied that W&C will work on this recommendation.

Chair Yurosek commented that he thinks we need more information on subsidence monitoring and that he agreed with Director Coates regarding the use of LIDAR.

SAC Chair Jaffe asked what is being looked at in terms of groundwater quality monitoring. Mr. Melton said W&C will look at water quality based on the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and public health issues. SAC Chair Jaffe said they were told at the SAC meeting that arsenic may not be monitored and asked what constituents will be monitored. Mr. Melton said they have not determined that yet.

Santa Barbara County Water Agency's (SBCWA) Water Resources Program Manager Matt Young said SBCWA previously hired USGS to put Santa Barbara County monitoring network well data in the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program. He reported the County owns three wells and the rest are private wells. He said the County is no longer hiring USGS to monitor the data because they now monitor the wells themselves. He mentioned that a lot of monitoring will further be delegated to the various GSAs the County is in. However, Mr. Young mentioned that the County still retains some responsibility as the CASGEM reporter.

Director Williams asked what pollutants are monitored. Mr. Young said they look at metals, nutrients, total dissolved solids (TDS), and temperature, however the County does not collect much groundwater quality data.

CBGSA Executive Director Jim Beck commented that there is a lot of monitoring occurring and the Board needs to determine the appropriate level of monitoring as related to SGMA. Mr. Beck advised using the word "constituents," not "pollutants" because arsenic is naturally occurring.

Director Williams recalled that from the information that was stated at the September 5, 2018 workshop, he understood that W&C believes TDS is the only constituent that will be monitored as part of the SGMA-related nexus.

**ii. Update on Groundwater Conditions Section**

Mr. Melton reported on the Groundwater Conditions section and noted that the comment period has been extended to October 5, 2018.

Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center Executive Director Lynn Carlisle asked when the Groundwater dependent ecosystems will be developed, and Mr. Melton replied in a month or two.

**iii. Update on Data Management System Release**

Mr. Melton reported that the DMS was released on September 20, 2018, along with a quick start guide to assist users.

SAC Vice Chair Kelly asked if the subsidence monitors are in the DMS. Mr. Melton replied that he will confirm and report back.

Director Wooster commented that the DMS is very easy to use.

**iv. Management Areas Discussion**

Mr. Melton said the goal today for management areas is to hear the Board's input on W&C's recommendations. He reported that W&C plans on revising the proposal in October for a potential November 2018 Board approval. Mr. Melton reminded the Board that the management areas are optional and is up to the Board on whether they are used or not.

Director Coates said the CCSD's concern is that resident's water use will not have a meaningful impact on agriculture's use and recommends the CCSD potentially become its own management area, or not use the Russel Fault as a definitive boundary.

Director Wooster said at the September 5, 2018 workshop, W&C was going to let the group know what could be accomplished with management areas. She commented that she believes the Russel Fault is an arbitrary choice and wished John Ayres would have been present at the Board meeting to further explain the reasoning behind the recommended management areas. Director Wooster said she is more comfortable with a management area based on water conditions. She commented that she is looking for more of a dialogue.

Director Albano commented that he believes that John Ayres should have been present at the meeting. Mr. Melton said we may need to push back the adoption of Management Areas by a month to provide the opportunity for additional dialogue.

Mr. Albano said the timing of identifying potential management areas is so important now because, as he recalled, John Ayres said the information is needed to identify thresholds and sustainability goals.

Alternate Director Matt Klinchuch mentioned that he would like to hear from John Ayres regarding the west side of basin and how comfortable W&C is with the Russell Fault being a barrier to flow.

Director Anselm said he can support W&C's recommendation and the physical boundaries are appropriate.

Chair Yurosek commented that management areas are great as an idea, but the Board needs to think about managing the entire basin. Chair Yurosek said John Ayres will need to convince him why management areas are needed because DWR had said that GSAs do not need management areas to set different thresholds or objectives. He said he will need to see the data for the management area boundaries before he sees the delineations on a map.

Mr. Beck reminded the group that management areas are not final and can be adjusted going forward.

Director Wooster said it is important to hear what W&C is trying to accomplish with management areas.

SAC Chair Jaffe commented that many of the questions the Board asked were also brought up the SAC meeting. She felt John Ayres was able to address the Committee's questions and bring the SAC to consensus.

Chair Yurosek proposed having the Board member's questions documented and forwarded to W&C for a presentation next month.

Director Compton said San Luis Obispo County plans on submitting comments on management areas from a financial concern.

Ms. Carlisle asked if the CBGSA chose not to have management areas, would they still need boundaries for thresholds. Chair Yurosek and Mr. Melton confirmed that boundaries would still be needed. Chair Yurosek commented that a number of GSAs are not using management areas and wants to understand why they are important for Cuyama.

**b. Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model Section Adoption**

Mr. Melton provided an overview on the revised Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (HCM).

Mr. Melton mentioned that Director Wooster had questions regarding the Russel Fault language on page 2-18. He reported that the original wording did not capture the intent of that section and will be modified.

Director Coates asked about the concerns the SAC had on the HCM. SAC Chair Jaffe confirmed that the Committee had concerns but ultimately approved it. Mr. Beck said while perfection is the goal, it is not always achieved. He said that W&C received their comments and would address those in upcoming GSP sections.

Director Albano made a motion to adopt the HCM, subject to corrections that Director Wooster mentioned, and was seconded by Director Bracken. A roll call vote was made, and the motion passed by a supermajority vote of 88.89% (a 75% approval is need for a supermajority vote).

**c. Stakeholder Engagement Update**

GSP outreach consultant the Catalyst Group's (Catalyst) Charles Gardiner provided an update on stakeholder engagement activity. Mr. Gardiner reported that Catalyst is working on the next newsletter which will be coming out next month.

Mr. Gardiner provided a debrief of the September 5, 2018 public workshops and asked the Board for any feedback. Mr. Beck commented that we will have amplification for the next workshop.

Director Wooster mentioned that the September 5, 2018 workshop was a big improvement from the June 6, 2018 workshop with stakeholders providing good comments and discussions.

SAC Committee member Louise Draucker stated that the CBGSA will need to check the calendar in the future to ensure there are not competing events to ensure maximum participation from stakeholders.

Mr. Gardiner informed the group that the Cuyama Valley Recreational District is unavailable the week of December 3-7 for the next workshop. Mr. Beck said the options for the next workshop is holding them on December 4th or 6th at the Cuyama Valley High School or pushing the workshop and Joint Board and SAC meeting to the following week. There was general consensus among the Board to hold the public workshop and Joint Board and SAC meeting on December 4, 2018, while a few Board members needed to check their calendars and report back.

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

Mr. Beck reported that a request was made to provide Spanish translations of the GSP sections and after talking to W&C, it was determined that there is not room in the budget to do so.

Chair Yurosek asked if the counties have services or support that can provide translation services. Ms. Carlisle said the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center provides live translation, but not written translation. Director Williams said they have translation staff and will check to see if that is an option.

**b. Progress & Next Steps**

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

**c. Report of the General Counsel**

Nothing to report.

**9. Financial Report****a. Financial Management Overview**

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the CBGSA's financial activities. He mentioned that, as of

August 31, 2018, outstanding invoice amount totaled \$552,811.00.

Mr. Beck reminded the Board that Hallmark's Task Order No. 1's term is through December 31, 2018 and suggested we work with an ad hoc to extend Hallmark's Task Order 1 and potentially combine both Task Orders for simplicity.

**b. Financial Report**

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the financial report.

**c. Payment of Bills**

Mr. Blakslee reported on the payment of bills for the month of August 2018. A motion was made by Director Wooster and seconded by Director Anselm to approve payment of the bills through the month of August 2018 in the amount of \$217,665.59, pending receipt of funds. A roll call vote was made, and the motion passed unanimously.

**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**

Chair Yurosek adjourned the CBGSA Board at 5:56 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, October 3, 2018, by the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors.

**Jim Beck**

Dated: November 7, 2018