

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

December 4, 2019

Meeting Minutes

New Cuyama High School Cafeteria, 4500 CA-166, New Cuyama, CA 93254

PRESENT:

Board of Directors:

Yurosek, Derek – Chair
Compton, Lynn – Vice Chair (*Teleconference*)
Albano, Byron
Anselm, Arne – *Alternate for Glenn Shephard*
Bantilan, Cory
Bracken, Tom
Cappello, George
Chounet, Paul (*Teleconference*)
Elliott, Darcel – *Alternate for Das Williams*
Wooster, Jane
Beck, Jim – Executive Director
Hughes, Joe – Legal Counsel

Standing Advisory Committee:

Jaffe, Roberta – Chair
Kelly, Brenton – Vice Chair
DeBranch, Brad
Draucker, Louise
Post, Mike (*Teleconference*)

ABSENT:

Board of Directors:

Scrivner, Zack

Standing Advisory Committee:

Furstenfeld, Jake
Haslett, Joe
Valenzuela, Hilda Leticia
Valenzuela, Jose

1. Call to order

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Chair Derek Yurosek called the meeting to order at 3:00 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 and SAC.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Yurosek.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. November 6, 2019 (Regular Board Meeting)

Chair Yurosek opened the floor for comments on the November 6, 2019 CBGSA Board meeting minutes.

MOTION

Director Wooster made a motion to adopt the November 6, 2019 CBGSA Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Bantilan.

AYES: Directors Albano, Bantilan, Bracken, Cappello, Chounet, Compton, Anselm, Williams, Wooster, and Yurosek

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Scrivner

b. November 6, 2019 (Regular Standing Advisory Committee Meeting)

Chair Yurosek opened the floor for comments on the November 6, 2019 CBGSA Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting minutes.

MOTION

Director Kelly made a motion to adopt the November 6, 2019 CBGSA Standing Advisory Committee meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Draucker.

AYES: Committee Members DeBranch, Draucker, Jaffe, Kelly, Post

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Committee Members Furstenfeld, Haslett, Hilda Leticia Valenzuela, Jose Valenzuela

5. Groundwater Sustainability Plan

CBGSA technical consultant Mr. Van Lienden, Project Manager with Woodard & Curran, provided an update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) activities including the schedule and November 2019 accomplishments, which is included in the Board packet.

Mr. Van Lienden reported that W&C internally discussed the Spanish Ranch bridge location as a potential location for the stream gauge location, but determined it was an inadequate location. Several audience members asked if the proposed location #3 would differentiate Cottonwood Canyon Creek flows and the Cuyama River. GSI staff (the sub consultant doing the field work) reported that location #3 would not differentiate flows between Cottonwood Canyon Creek Cuyama River.

a. Economic Report Presentation

ERA Economics Principal Economist Duncan MacEwan presented an overview of the direct economic report that was completed for the Cuyama Valley which is included in the Board packet.

Chair Yurosek asked ERA if the term “subbasin,” found throughout their presentation, actually referred to the entire Cuyama Basin and ERA staff confirmed this.

Director Albano asked where the applied water factor came from. He noted the 3.76 factor is significantly different than the 2.20 number used in the groundwater extraction forms. He also noted that the factor for wheat is a lot higher than he would anticipate for a precipitation-dependent crop. Mr. MacEwan said his point is well taken and they will investigate further with the firm that developed the crop factors. Director Bantilan agreed with Director Albano's points and commented it will be a lot easier to true-up to the numbers in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) versus the other way around.

Chair Yurosek commented that the value of the proxy crops is well below the averages of what he believes are accurate. He said the data from USDA's site is subpar at best.

SAC Chair Jaffe said the applied water numbers need to be revised in the modeling going forward and the employment numbers need to be updated.

Cuyama stakeholder Sue Blackshear commented that it is very important to distinguish the difference between the people working in the basin and outside the basin.

Chair Yurosek asked how the math works on the value of additional water supply and Mr. MacEwan clarified that the report attempts to value, from an economic sense, the value of additional water supplies acquired and is not an indicator of the actual cost per acre-foot to grow crops. He said their analysis looks at taking the economic net return divided by the number of acre-feet need to get that.

Director Albano commented that he thought the impact to jobs and tax base reduction would have been part of a direct analysis. Director Bracken and Wooster agreed with this sentiment. Chair Yurosek said we have not discussed the devaluation of land and that impact on tax revenues.

Director Compton asked when the full report will be released, and Mr. MacEwan said it should be released in January 2020.

SAC Vice Chair Kelly commented that he believes a farmer can grow crops that do not require as much water and thinks less land needs to be idled.

Director Bantilan said that there is also a whole discussion that will need to happen in the future regarding convergence in the townsite as land use issues may cause re-zoning.

b. Adopt the Final Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the CBGSA

Mr. Van Lienden presented Resolution No. 19-03 adopting the GSP and allowing W&C to submit the GSP to the California Department of Water Resources by the mandatory January 31, 2020 deadline.

Mr. Van Lienden reported that there were two recommended changes from the public comment period to the GSP that include adding a sentence to chapter 8 that on July 10, 2019, the Board voted to use a groundwater extraction to fund for the first year and on November 6, 2019, the CBGSA held a public hearing and adopted a groundwater extraction fee for 2020. Lastly, he reported that the boundary for the management area had not been updated using the final model results and recommended approving the updated figure.

Legal counsel Joe Hughes clarified the motion on the resolution should be to include the two changes described above.

MOTION

Director Bantilan made a motion to adopt the November 6, 2019 CBGSA Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Cappello and passed with an 82.22% vote.

- AYES: Directors Bantilan, Bracken, Cappello, Chounet, Compton, Anselm, Williams, Wooster, and Yurosek
- NOES: Director Albano
- ABSTAIN: None
- ABSENT: Director Scrivner

c. Update on the Annual Report Timeline and Components

Mr. Van Lienden provided an update on the annual report and let the Board know it is due to DWR by April 1, 2020. Since the next Board meeting is not until March 2020, Director Yurosek said he will appoint an ad hoc to work with staff on the development of that report.

d. Monitoring Network Staging

Mr. Van Lienden reported that W&C is proposing to combine the FY 19-20 budgeted amounts for establishing (1) groundwater levels and (2) quality monitoring networks to focus solely on establishing the groundwater levels monitoring network which would total \$60,000.

Director Wooster asked what the measurement frequency was planned to be. Mr. Van Lienden reported that the GSP specifies monthly measurements, but the Board will need to consider the budget impacts moving forward.

Director Wooster asked if the CBGSA is taking over the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (SBCWA) monitoring network and SBCWA staff Matt Young announced that they will be turning over the monitoring network to the CBGSA as soon as it's ready and Matt Scrudato is willing to assist in that transition.

e. Update on Department of Water Resources Technical Support Services

Mr. Van Lienden presented the DWR TSS ad hoc recommendations for the three monitoring well sites for the DWR TSS application.

Mr. Beck let the Board know the DWR TSS ad hoc had met several times to determine the proposed locations of the monitoring wells for the DWR application; however, there were some recent requests to adjust the location for the well proposed in the central region.

The Board provided direction to move forward with the locations staffed suggested for the well sites.

Supervisor Compton left the meeting around 5:15 p.m.

f. Prop 68 Application Update

Mr. Van Lienden provided an overview of the Prop 68 application that was submitted to the California Department of Water Resources in early November 2019. He let the Board know the submittal was for \$500,000 and the majority of the items in the application are for costs already expended or are budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget. The only un-budgeted item is for an indirect economic analysis that would be a supplementary report to the direct economic analysis.

g. IRWM Grant Program Participation

Mr. Blakslee let the Board know staff is looking into funding opportunities available by joining the regional Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program. He reported that there is a nominal fee to join (around \$600 per year) and allows the CBGSA to apply for grant funding. Mr. Beck let the Board know there would likely be additional staff costs of presenting projects to the IRWM group and this could incur significant up-front costs. He let the Board know we consider these costs during the next budget development period. Chair Yurosek was appreciative of staff’s sensitivity to ancillary costs but thought it would be important for the Board to understand the value of the potential grant opportunity for projects in Cuyama. Staff will report back at the March 2020 Board meeting.

6. Groundwater Sustainability Agency

a. Set the Annual Meeting Schedule

Mr. Blakslee presented the annual meeting schedule for 2020. He reminded the Board that the Board agreed to a bimonthly Board and SAC cadence during the Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget development process and the draft schedule reflects that direction. He also noted that staff plans to use videoconferencing when possible for SAC meetings to reduce travel costs.

MOTION

A motion was made by Director Anselm and seconded by Director Cappello to set the annual meeting schedule for 2020. A roll call vote was made, and the motion passed with a 77.78% vote.

- AYES: Directors Albano, Bantilan, Bracken, Cappello, Chounet, Anselm, Williams, Wooster, and Yurosek
- NOES: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- ABSENT: Directors Compton, Scrivner

b. Report of the Executive Director

Mr. Beck reminded the Board that the bylaws require officer elections at the first meeting in the calendar year, which is March 4, 2020 according to the 2020 annual meeting schedule.

c. 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.

d. Report of the General Counsel

Legal counsel Joe Hughes had nothing to report.

7. Financial Report

a. Hallmark Group Task Order

Mr. Blakslee presented to the Board task order No. 5 which is for a five-month period (February through June 2020) and syncs the task order up with the fiscal year 2019-20 budget. He reported that this draft task order was reviewed with the Budget ad hoc (Directors Bantilan, Chounet, Bracken, Matt Young, Matt Klinchuch) on November 26, 2019 and totals \$82,228.00.

MOTION

A motion was made by Director Cappello and seconded by Director Bantilan to approve Hallmark Group’s Task Order No. 5. A roll call vote was made, and the motion passed with a 77.78% vote.

- AYES: Directors Albano, Bantilan, Bracken, Cappello, Chounet, Anselm, Williams, Wooster, and Yurosek
- NOES: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- ABSENT: Directors Compton, Scrivner

b. Woodard & Curran Task Order

Mr. Van Lienden presented the W&C task order No. 7 which is for a five-month period (February through June 2020) and syncs the task order up with the fiscal year 2019-20 budget. He reported that this draft task order was reviewed with the Budget ad hoc (Directors Bantilan, Chounet, Bracken, Matt Young, Matt Klinchuch) on November 26, 2019 and totals \$273,655.00.

MOTION

A motion was made by Director Albano and seconded by Director Anselm to approve Woodard & Curran’s Task Order No. 7. A roll call vote was made, and the motion passed with a 77.78% vote.

- AYES: Directors Albano, Bantilan, Bracken, Cappello, Chounet, Anselm, Williams, Wooster, and Yurosek
- NOES: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- ABSENT: Directors Compton, Scrivner

c. Audit Update

Mr. Blakslee reported that audit report was taking longer than expected but the auditor had a draft report they are currently reviewing, and staff would distribute this to the Board once received.

d. Financial Management Overview

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the CBGSA’s financial activities which is included in the Board packet.

e. Financial Report

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the October 2019 financial report and is included in the Board packet.

f. Payment of Bills

Mr. Blakslee reported on the payment of bills for the months of October 2019.

MOTION

A motion was made by Director Cappello and seconded by Director Albano to approve payment of the bills through the months of October 2019 in the amount of \$56,497.74 pending receipt of funds. A roll call vote was made, and the motion passed.

AYES:	Directors Albano, Bantilan, Bracken, Cappello, Chounet, Anselm, Williams, Wooster, and Yurosek
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	Directors Compton, Scrivner

8. Reports of the Ad Hoc Committees

Nothing to report.

9. Directors' Forum

Nothing to report.

10. Public comment for items not on the Agenda

Director Albano read the following statement from local landowner Jim Menzies:

"I wish to enter into the records of the meeting my position to preserve my rights pertaining to the Fourth Amendment as well as those associated with "Due Process" as they relate to properties owned by The Menzies Trust in the Cuyama Valley."

11. Correspondence

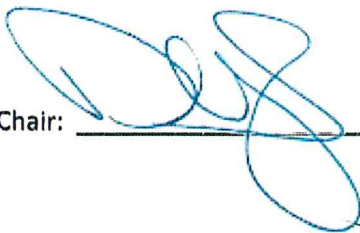
None

12. Adjourn


Chair Yurosek adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Board of Directors of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency the 4th day of March 2020.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Chair:  _____

ATTEST:

Secretary:  _____