

# Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee Meeting

March 1, 2018

## Meetings Minutes

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

### PRESENT:

Jaffe, Roberta – Chair  
Kelly, Brenton – Vice Chair  
DeBranch, Brad  
Draucker, Louise  
Haslett, Joe  
Post, Mike (*telephonically*)  
Beck, Jim – Executive Director

### ABSENT:

Furstenfeld, Jake  
Hughes, Joe – Legal Counsel

#### 1. Call to order

Chair Jaffe called the Standing Advisory Committee to order at 3:09 pm.

#### 2. Roll call

Chair Jaffe called roll of the Committee (shown above).

#### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Jaffe.

#### 4. Approval of minutes

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Executive Director Jim Beck presented the minutes from the last session. Editorial changes were requested and a revised draft with corrections will be distributed. A motion was made by Committee Member DeBranch to approve the revised minutes and seconded by Committee Member Draucker. 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. Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Review

Mr. Beck reported on the timeline for the March 7, 2018 special joint Board and Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting. He also announced U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) Hydrogeologist Claudia

Faunt will be presenting on the groundwater reports USGS performed for the Cuyama Basin. Committee Member Draucker asked how to reconcile the two major reports for those that are not water experts. Mr. Beck and Woodard & Curran Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) consultant Lyndel Melton that they expect USGS to present at a level that is consumable. Mr. Beck mentioned the need to rearrange the room around 3:45 pm on March 7, 2018 to accommodate the workshops at the special joint Board and SAC meeting. Chair Jaffe asked if CBGSA members are being asked to stay and participate. Mr. Beck said for this workshop, it is more about bringing people up to speed and outlining future opportunities to provide input. He shared that some Board members may not attend to make people feel more comfortable, while others may elect to stay because they are interested in public input and desire to show support to the community. Mr. Beck mentioned that if we lose a quorum we will need to stop the meeting and adjourn that board or committee, but the workshop will continue. Mr. Beck noted that the workshop is intended to be as interactive as possible. Cuyama Valley Family Resource Executive Director Lynn Carlisle asked if the team will stay until the conclusion of the Spanish workshop at 8:30 pm. Mr. Beck confirmed that he, and the GSP consultants would stay for both workshops. Committee member Mike Post said he plans on staying until 8:30 pm to demonstrate appropriate interest and support for the community. Vice Chair Brenton Kelly commented that this is potentially the first of six workshops in 2018, but it seemed a little vague regarding notice of the actionable item for the workshop. Mr. Melton said he will cover this later in the agenda.

**b. Standing Advisory Committee Membership Update**

Mr. Beck reported that he had received two applications by the February 28, 2018 deadline, and an ad hoc of the Board was set to review these candidate applications on Friday, March 2, 2018. A recommendation will be made to the Board at the March 7, 2018 meeting.

**c. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update**

Mr. Melton presented on update on GSP accomplishments, and reported that his team had reached out to the four counties (Kern, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura) and the Cuyama Basin Water District and Cuyama Community Services District for data and are looking for additional landowner data.

Mr. Melton reported that Woodard & Curran developed a website, and it will be a valuable tool to communicate with stakeholders.

Ms. Jaffe asked if there is an ideal set of data that Mr. Melton wants to have collected, and how do you determine that? Mr. Melton replied that there is not, but they are looking to gather as much available data as they can.

Mr. Melton reported that Woodard & Curran modeler Ali Taghavi was one of the recent recipients of the prestigious California Water and Environmental Modeling Forum Hugo B. Fischer Award for modelling.

Mr. Melton reported that they looked very hard at the reports EKI and USGS developed. He said the USGS model has gaps, does not cover the whole basin and model results are not readily reproducible, but there are still useful components of that model and we will use their data and update it. Mr. Melton said that there are two model platforms to choose from. Either, use an expanded USGS model (that has issues), or use the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) new Integrated Water Flow Model (IWFM). Using IWFM has more efficient surface interface options and it is what DWR prefers. Mr. Melton noted that the IWFM may actually cost

less than updating the USGS model, and is what they are recommending. He noted they will be looking for Board consensus on using the IWFM at the March 7, 2018 meeting. Vice Chair Kelly asked what the timeline is on selecting a model, and Mr. Melton replied it is later this month because of the need to move quickly on developing the water budget. Mr. Beck relayed that the Board does not need to vote on this technical component, but we will seek consensus from the Board on the approach. He further noted that the SAC does not need to make a motion on this, but it is helpful to receive the SAC's feedback. Ms. Carlisle asked why an efficient surface interface option was a benefit with the IWFM model when Cuyama Valley does not have surface water. Mr. Melton replied that the Cuyama Valley does have surface water in different forms. The groundwater basin is recharged through surface streams (and upstream fingerlings), as well as irrigation percolation. Vice Chair Kelly mentioned that he read a report from UC Davis that compared multiple models and it concluded that the most important factor in developing a robust model is the quality of the inputs. He said the report confirmed that the DWR IWFM model addressed more factors for ag land than the USGS model. Mr. Melton said they will use Irrigation Training and Research Center data and historic pumping to define consumptive use in the basin. Mr. Melton received feedback from the SAC to clarify what each cell represented in the hydrologic model. Chair Jaffe said there is a lot of interest in the model, and a future workshop to understand it may be appropriate.

**d. Draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Overview**

Catalyst Group GSP outreach consultant Charles Gardiner outlined the draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy goals, and the use of a planning roadmap to assist in procuring public input on key issues. He suggested we may do future workshops on a different day than the Board meeting to facilitate greater participation. He reported that the draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy is intended to be very adaptive to stakeholder needs. He provided an overview of outreach methods that included workshops, presentations, fact sheets, an e-newsletter, and draft reports.

Mr. Gardiner reiterated the need to develop a robust and inclusive contact list for disseminating basin information and noticing for important meetings and events. He reported that he will work with the SAC to expand the list of educational topics. Chair Jaffe suggested adding a printed newsletter, in addition to an e-newsletter, and having it available at different distribution points in the Valley. It was noted that distributing physical copies of meeting materials should always be considered to effectively reach residents in the Cuyama Valley. Ms. Carlisle said that the Recreation Center purchases a mailing list from the U.S. Post Office that is competitively priced and covers most residents in the Cuyama Valley.

Ms. Carlisle suggested a feedback loop (likely on the website) where you can filter community questions, develop an answer, and post these answers online in the form of a FAQ. Mr. Gardiner said workshop summaries will be prepared as another vehicle demonstrating a recognition of key issues and presenting solutions. Chair Jaffe suggested using a workshop comment sheet to fill out at the end of the workshop to provide feedback. Mr. Gardiner said that is a great point and they had planned to utilize something like that at the upcoming workshop.

Chair Jaffe said she thinks they need to incorporate high school students since the 2040 sustainability deadline will impact them. Committee member Haslett suggested sending the newsletter to high school students. Ms. Carlisle suggested getting the local 4H involved, and the SAC thought that was a great idea. Chair Jaffe said she would like to incorporate an educational section on the SAC agenda that is more technical in nature. Lastly, Chair Jaffe suggested having snacks and coffee at the upcoming public workshops.

**e. Website/Logo/Newsletter Update**

Catalyst Group GSP outreach consultant Mary Currie provided an update on the website, logo and newsletter. Some SAC members commented that they would like the logo to better represent the Valley. Other feedback on the logo was that it does not reflect living in the desert, or include the unique mountains. There was also a comment that the logo appeared “too wet.” The consultants were appreciative of the feedback and will redraft the logo.

Vice Chair Kelly asked if final meeting minutes will be posted on the website. Mr. Beck let him know they will. Committee member Haslett suggested adding a separate section for final meeting minutes.

Ms. Currie reported that about five or six newsletters will be published this year with the first one scheduled for mid-April 2018. Newsletter content will include a message from the Executive Director and the SAC, milestones/upcoming issues/workshops, and an educational section. Chair Jaffe suggested a community-based section to include community high school interviews that will draw in readership.

Committee member Mike Post said that he loves the logo and did not want to spend much additional time changing it. Committee member Louise Draucker said she did not have a problem with the white version of the logo. Vice Chair Kelly asked Committee Member Brad DeBranch who came up with the Cuyama Valley Water District logo, and Mr. DeBranch replied it was developed by the managing consultant.

**f. Standing Advisory Committee Responsibilities and Guidelines**

Chair Jaffe discussed the need for defining SAC member roles. Mr. Beck discussed addressing the conduct of the meeting in the form of guidelines. Mr. Haslett asked if the CBGSA Board dissolves once the GSP is accepted by the State. Mr. Beck replied that a functional shift will occur to monitoring and reporting by the Board, specifically for the mandated 5-year updates.

The SAC decided it would develop Guidelines and Responsibilities to adopt, and a draft will be presented at the March 29, 2018 SAC meeting by an ad hoc consisting of Chair Jaffe, Vice Chair Kelly and Committee Member Draucker.

**g. Items for upcoming sessions**

Nothing to report.

**7. Committee Forum**

There were no items discussed in the Committee forum.

**8. Public comment for items not on the Agenda**

Ms. Carlisle provided an update on a meeting with the Promotora Group and the Hispanic community, and pointed out there still is a disconnect on groundwater issues and retail water usage.

**9. Adjourn**

Chair Jaffe adjourned the meeting at 5:29 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 1, 2018, by the Cuyama Basing Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee.

**Jim Beck**

Dated: March 1, 2018