

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee Meeting

April 26, 2018

Meetings Minutes

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

PRESENT:

Jaffe, Roberta – Chair
Kelly, Brenton – Vice Chair
Alvarardo, Claudia
DeBranch, Brad
Draucker, Louise
Furstenfeld, Jake
Haslett, Joe
Post, Mike
Beck, Jim – Executive Director
Hughes, Joe – Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

Valenzuela, Hilda Leticia

1. Call to order

Chair Jaffe called the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) to order at 3:05 pm.

2. Roll call

Hallmark Group Project Coordinator Taylor Blakslee 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. Minor editorial changes were suggested, and a motion was made by Committee Member Draucker to approve the revised minutes and seconded by Committee Member Post. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Report of the General Counsel

Legal counsel Joe Hughes provided an update on the status of the funding agreement. He let the SAC know one of the main hang ups with the funding agreement is the issue of Kern County's participation, but let the Committee we are working with County of Kern staff to come to a resolution on this issue. Lastly, Mr. Hughes provided clarification on telephonic/remote meeting participation according to the Brown Act.

6. Report of the Executive Director

a. Report of the Executive Director

Nothing to report.

b. Revise Standing Advisory Committee Meeting Time

Mr. Beck discussed the SAC's request to push back the start time from 3 pm to 4 pm to accommodate greater community participation and match the Board of Directors start time. Mr. Beck reported that this item has been added to the CBGSA Board agenda and will be considered for approval by the Board.

c. Board of Directors Agenda Review

Mr. Beck provided an overview of the May 2, 2018 CBGSA Board of Directors agenda.

7. Groundwater Sustainability Plan

a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update

Woodard & Curran (W&C) Mr. Van Lienden provided an update on GSP activities. He reported that they drafted the Description of the Plan Area and are working on the hydrologic conceptual and numeric models. He also provided an update on the GSP timeline that includes the upcoming public workshops on June 6, 2018 that will discuss what sustainability means.

Chair Jaffe asked what proxy monitoring is and Mr. Van Lienden replied that it is measuring groundwater well levels to determine basin levels.

Vice Chair Kelly asked if staff is still engaging Cal Poly on land subsidence monitoring. Mr. Van Lienden replied that that type of monitoring will occur and a more detailed discussion of the monitoring network will take place in the July timeframe. Committee Member Draucker asked when we will start measuring/determining consumption. Mr. Van Lienden said we are not required to monitor consumption, but will be tracking sustainability indicators as prescribed by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Vice Chair Kelly asked how you run a model if you do not know the draw down. Mr. Van Lienden said we can look at land use, evapotranspiration values and historic groundwater levels to calibrate the model.

Committee Member Draucker asked how we determine need. Mr. Beck said the Board gets to determine that. He explained that you get to develop a portfolio of options to get in balance and then through a public process, determine what is the best option for your area.

Chair Jaffe encouraged community members to attend the upcoming public workshops and stressed how important they are.

Regarding community data contributions, Mr. Van Lienden reported that the Cuyama Community Service District is expecting to get him their data by April 30.

Several SAC Members noted that landowners have told them that they are waiting to be contacted for their data. Mr. Beck said that we will distribute the list of workshop landowners we had that indicated they have data and if folks know others that have data, please add them to the list and

we will follow up with them.

Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center Lynn Carlisle asked if ground truthing is being done on the data and Mr. Van Lienden confirmed that they are spending significant time to do this.

b. Technical Forum Update

Mr. Van Lienden reported that the technical forum met via conference call on Friday, April 6, 2018 with 15 participants from W&C, EKI, Cleath-Harris, Santa Barbara County Water Agency, and HydroFocus. He reported that topics included discussion about geology, and the model grid among other items. Mr. Van Lienden reminded the Committee that this group meets monthly and activities and discussions from this group will be reported at the SAC and Board meeting.

c. Description of the Plan Area

Mr. Van Lienden noted that draft Description of the Plan Area has been drafted and we are asking for any comments on the plan be provided to Taylor Blakslee by May 24, 2018 via email at tblakslee@hgcpm.com. Vice Chair Kelly asked if this will be the section of the GSP that will define other beneficial users (ex. Bureau of Land Management land, recreation areas, etc.). Mr. Kelly said it would be good to define the recreational land use areas.

Chair Jaffe asked if figures 1.6 and 1.7 are only up to 2000. Mr. Van Lienden said that was correct, but data through 2016 will be available soon for survey data.

Board member Jane Wooster said the draft plan refers to agricultural use and the report only refers to irrigated ag, but there is a lot of ag that is not irrigated.

Chair Jaffe asked how current the data is that will be used for the model. Mr. Van Lienden said we will use the most current data sets, but they are varied depending on the data set.

d. Data Management Approach

W&C Data Management expert Gina Bomb reported on the data management approach. She let the Committee know that the goal is to make the data management tool very user friendly and to function as an effective system. She expounded that the data management tool will help the CBGSA to perform automated reporting and track undesirable results. Ms. Bomb discussed several data management systems, but recommended Opti as the data management tool.

e. Stakeholder Engagement Update

Catalyst Group Mary Currie provided an update on stakeholder engagement activity including the upcoming June 6, 2018 public workshops starting at 6:30 pm. She reported that there will be an informal session from 6:30-7 pm, and then an open house forum for the remainder of the meeting.

8. Grapevine Capital Partners Presentation

Ray Shady from Grapevine Capital Partners (Grapevine) provided an overview of their operations. His main reason for presenting to the SAC was to introduce Grapevine, present the information they have been sharing with W&C, and to answer questions from the community. He let the SAC know he joined Grapevine Capital about two years ago.

Committee Member Post asked if they are pursuing a separate Water Management Area (WMA) as opposed to a boundary modification. Mr. Shady said their current perspective is that a separate WMA is what they are pursuing, but if data collected through a public process supports a separate basin, they will

pursue a boundary revision.

Committee Member Post asked if Grapevine's frost ponds are calculated in the estimate of the acreage they considered planting. Mr. Shady confirmed that they have.

Committee Member Haslett asked where the Russel fault separation is on the west side of the fault. Mr. Shady said it is the bedrock that pops up on that side.

Vice Chair Kelly asked if Grapevine Capital has done any of its own groundwater modelling. Mr. Shady let him know that their monitoring wells collect data every five minutes and help them determine how much pumpable water they think they have.

Director Jane Wooster asked where they measured total dissolved solids on the east side of the Russel fault, and asked if they believe the Russel Fault is impermeable at the bottom as well.

Steve Gliessman expressed concern regarding the impermeability of the fault and potential impacts downstream. Mr. Shady said they factored in the flashiness of the flows in their calculations.

Chair Jaffe asked if they have only invested 10 percent of their land, what will Harvard do with the rest of the land. Mr. Shady said the land was sold as a big chunk and he is not aware of what they plan on doing with the remaining piece of land, but reiterated that their vision is for the long-term.

Mr. Beck reminded the Committee that W&C will review all the data from Grapevine and will present their findings from their review.

9. Standing Advisory Committee Responsibilities and Guidelines

Chair Jaffe presented the revised SAC responsibilities and guidelines to the SAC and provided additional language to address SAC participation by Committee members who are also Board member alternates. Committee member Haslett made a motion to approve the revisions present them to the Board for consideration of adoption. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Post and passed unanimously.

10. Items for Upcoming Sessions

Nothing to report.

11. Committee Forum

Nothing to report.

12. Public comment for items not on the Agenda

Nothing to report.

13. Adjourn

Chair Jaffe adjourned the meeting at 5:16 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, April 26, 2018, by the Cuyama Basing Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee.

Jim Beck

Dated: May 31, 2018