

MINUTES

County of Inyo WATER COMMISSION

February 4, 2015

The Chairperson called the Water Commission meeting to order at 5:57 p.m. at the Inyo County Water Department, Independence, CA. Water Commissioners in attendance were Chairperson Mike Prather, Teri Red Owl, Bruce Dishion, Craig Patten, and Mike Carrington. Present from the Water Department were Bob Harrington and Laura Piper.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Prather led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comment

April Zrelak – Ms. Zrelak asked if the LORP Recreation Plan would be discussed at tonight's meeting. Commissioner Prather stated it is not on the agenda. Commissioner Patten stated we could include this on the next Water Commission meeting agenda.

Sally Manning – Ms. Manning asked if an update on the pumping was going to be provided. Dr. Harrington stated there was not an update at this time. Dr. Harrington stated it would be presented at the February 9, 2015 Standing Committee meeting in Los Angeles and the February 12, 2015 Technical Group meeting.

3. Election of Water Commission Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Moved by Commissioner Patten and seconded by Commissioner Dishion to elect Mike Prather as Chairperson, and Teri Red Owl as Vice-Chairperson. Motion carried.

4. Approval of minutes from December 15, 2014 meeting

Moved by Commissioner Dishion and seconded by Commissioner Patton to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2014 meeting. Motion carried.

5. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Patten reported on the recent Bishop Creek Water Association meeting.

6. Water Directors Report

The Water Director provided a brief summary on the Draft LORP report and the process in which it is handled; the upcoming Technical Group and Standing Committee meetings; the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act; and the Green Book facilitator contracts.

7. Workshop for the Board of Supervisors – State of the Valley

Commissioner Prather stated he would like to report to the Board of Supervisors on the Commission's past year's activities as well as the upcoming years goals to include; the vegetation monitoring process; Owens' Lake field trip; LORP field trip, EM projects, and water quality on the LORP for paddling trails. Commissioner Red Owl suggested a list of enhancement mitigation projects and status. Dr. Harrington stated both LADWP and the Water Department have these listed in their annual reports. Commissioner Red Owl suggested providing the Board with a summary of Water Commission public comment from 2014. The Commissioner's and Dr. Harrington discussed the Bartell Parcel. Dr.

Harrington stated that the Bartell Parcel was not mapped as Type E in the baseline maps, but that aerial photos clearly showed that it was irrigated in 1981.

Public Comment – Sally Manning – Ms. Manning stated if the Bartell Parcel was not mapped as Type E then what is Dr. Harrington implying. Dr. Harrington said he was simply stating a fact.

Commissioner Prather suggested two field trips, Owens Lake and the Bartell Parcel. Commissioner Prather suggested an all-day field trip between Owens Lake and the LORP with Commissioner Red Owl stating the Bartell Parcel and Laws could be combined as well. Commissioner Prather requested that one Water Commission meeting be held in the fifth district (Lone Pine).

8. Goals for 2015

Commissioner Prather reviewed the Water Commissions goals from 2014. The Commissioner's discussed meetings online, field trips, mitigation projects, LORP Recreation Plan and the LORP goals being met. The Commission decided on the following goals for 2015: two field trips; investigate phone line-conference line for meetings; work on enhancement mitigation list and prioritize concerns, report issues on the Bishop Cone to the Board of Supervisors twice per year; and the LORP Recreation Plan.

9. LADWP Adventure Trails System comment letters

Commissioner Prather provided a brief summary and highlights of the comments from the LADWP Adventure Trails meeting. He stated LADWP concerns were increased impacts on their land and interference with long term obligations such as the Water Agreement, EM projects, and leases. Commissioner Prather stated LADWP encouraged Inyo County to develop an ordinance allowing the Inyo Co Sheriff's Dept. to site violators of certain harmful activities on LADWP land.

10. Public Comment

Daris Moxley – Ms. Moxley stated she heard mention of a Standing Committee and Technical Group meeting and asked when and where? Dr. Harrington provided the information. Ms. Moxley also asked if the meeting would be televised. Mr. Tillemans stated most of the meetings have been so he is under the assumption this will be as well.

Sally Manning – Ms. Manning stated she had a comment on the pumping program for the current year. She stated there are supposed to be certain mitigation projects that get done in Laws (McNally Ponds and pasture projects) and she stated last she heard LADWP was not providing them with water and stated that is a huge violation of the Water Agreement. She stated she has not heard that anything is being done about it. Dr. Harrington stated that a letter was submitted to LADWP that they submit a letter requesting reductions to the Standing Committee if that is their intent as per the process of the Water Agreement. He stated there has been no response at this time. He stated LADWP requested the Technical Group exempt the well which the Water Department is not in favor of.

Daris Moxley – Ms. Moxley stated if this letter was written to LADWP two years ago, they should have contacted someone by now and that is a direct violation of the Water Agreement so why doesn't the County sue them and get it handled. Dr. Harrington stated the letter was from last November.

Commissioner Prather suggested that McNally Pond discussion be placed on the next Water Commission agenda.

Sally Manning – Ms. Manning stated she would like to clarify that most people would not be in favor of exempting a well for the project in Laws. She stated LADWP did complete a six month pumping program and you can see from both the first six month and second six month program they had no plans to implement it.

Nancy Masters – Ms. Masters asked how does the City of Los Angeles report on their mitigation monitoring and reporting program that's required by CEQA guidelines the success of that mitigation measure. Dr. Harrington stated in their annual report.

Daris Moxley – Ms. Moxley stated when Blackrock 94 was in dispute, LADWP and the Water Department were both following different procedures so that's why it went to court.

11. Schedule next Water Commission meeting

The next Water Commission meeting was tentatively scheduled for April 23, 2015.

12. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.