

# Minutes

## County of Inyo Water Commission

### January 6, 2011

Water Commissioner Teri Cawelti called the Water Commission meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Bishop City Hall, City Council Chambers in Bishop, California. Water Commissioners in attendance were Mike Carrington, Mike Prather, and Sally Symons. Absent was Commissioner Daniel Smith. Present from the Water Department were Dr. Bob Harrington, Laura Piper, Aaron Steinwand, Randy Jackson, Larry Freilich, and Meredith Jabis.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Teri Cawelti led the Pledge of Allegiance

#### **Approval of minutes from June 30, 2010 meeting**

Motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Daniel Smith absent and the following sentence replaced; 6/30/10 meeting minutes section 3a – “ the Board and the Water Commission were not accepting most recommendations” be replaced with “the Board was not accepting most recommendations from the Water Commission”.

#### **Election of Officers**

Motion to elect Teri Cawelti, Chairperson and Mike Prather, Vice Chairperson. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Daniel Smith absent.

#### **Briefing on Brown Act**

Randy Keller, Inyo County Counsel provided documentation to the Water Commissioners on the Brown Act open meeting requirements and the rules and laws regarding the Brown Act from the Attorney Generals Office. Mr. Keller gave an in-depth overview of the Brown Act.

#### **Briefing on Conflict of Interest Law**

Kammi Foote, Inyo County Clerk/Recorder provided the Water Commissioners with the Conflict of Interest codes, State Economic Disclosure Law and Reporting Requirements for Public Officials, and discussion regarding the importance of this law.

#### **Introduction to the Inyo County Water Department**

Dr. Bob Harrington provided a brief history on the Long Term Water Agreement. He explained the functions of the Water Department and the public process of the Technical Group, Standing Committee, Water Commission, Board of Supervisors, and Planning Commission.

**The Chairperson recessed the meeting at 7:15 p.m. for a break and reconvened the meeting at 7:20 p.m.**

## **Long Term Water Agreement Groundwater Pumping Management**

Aaron Steinwand gave a presentation on the history of groundwater pumping in the Owens Valley and the procedures relating to the Green Book. Mr. Steinwand discussed the various monitoring sites, wells, and the measuring of soil water sites. He went into further detail regarding the joint management of groundwater pumping between LADWP and Inyo County that began in 1984. He included a brief overview of the Drought Recovery Policy and the water table fluctuations resulting from on/off. Mr. Steinwand concluded with Inyo County and LADWP'S collaborative effort to replace the on/off process.

## **Long Term Water Agreement Mitigation Projects**

Larry Freilich gave a presentation on the various mitigation projects. Mr. Freilich stated there are more than 50 mitigation projects and presented a brief overview on the types of mitigation projects as well as the local projects themselves, the wood lots, and solar projects, etc. Mr. Freilich gave a short commentary on the Lower Owens River Project.

## **Water Department Vegetation Monitoring Programs**

Meredith Jabis gave a presentation on vegetation monitoring, specific plant types and their water usage, rare plants, monitoring components, and the vegetation changes in the Owens Valley.

## **Water Department Hydrology Programs**

Randy Jackson gave a presentation and brief history on the hydrologic monitoring programs. Mr. Jackson explained the various monitoring LADWP performs in the Owens Valley, the data they provide to the Inyo County Water Dept., and the well monitoring completed by the Inyo County Water Dept.

## **Public Comment**

The Chairperson announced the public comment period. Daris Moxley inquired about the requirements of permits to drill a well in the Owens Valley and current well permit requirements. Mr. Harrington explained the permit process to Ms. Moxley and Mr. Randy Jackson explained local water export projects history. The discussion revolved around Indian Wells and the current drilling on the Olancho Ranch.

## **Schedule Next Water Commission Meeting**

The next Water Commission meeting was scheduled for February 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in Independence, CA.

## **Adjourn**

Teri Cawelti, Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.