

MINUTES

County of Inyo WATER COMMISSION

June 29, 2015

The Chairperson called the Water Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at Jill Kinmont Boothe School, George Lozito Conference Room, Bishop, CA. 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

Earl Wilson - Mr. Wilson wished to report the aqueduct was being blocked in various areas.

3. Approval of minutes from the April 23, 2015 meeting

Moved by Commissioner Dishion and seconded by Commissioner Patton to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2015 meeting. Motion carried.

4. Commissioners reports

Commissioner Dishion stated the pasture area north of the Catholic Church in Bishop has many trees dying, there is no surface water, and he believes it is Type E vegetation.

5. Water Director's report

Dr. Harrington stated the Water Department provided LADWP with comments on the Annual Operations Plan in which LADWP proposed to cut irrigation water by 2/3, to which the County disagreed; since that time an agreement has been reached to continue irrigation water through July 2015. He stated the County is trying to reach agreement with MOU parties on reductions to the LORP base flows, releases to the LORP delta, and releases to Warren Lake to possibly provide additional irrigation water. Dr. Harrington provided the Commissioners with information regarding the projects and their background. Dr. Harrington stated work is being done on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act regarding groundwater basin boundary adjustments in the Owens/Tri Valley area. Commissioner Red Owl asked who made the determination that there is only 1500 acre feet going to LAWS area instead of the 10,000 to 15,000 stated by USGS originally thought. Dr. Harrington stated it was modified in a subsequent study by USGS. Dr. Harrington stated LADWP circulated a notice of preparation for an EIR for their Owens Lake Master Project with meetings in the near future; crews from the Water Department are out completing annual vegetation monitoring and water quality monitoring on the LORP; and he provided a hydrograph of Bishop Creek flows. Dr. Harrington stated the Bishop Creek flows will be tracked throughout the summer.

6. Action: Approval of Goals for 2015

Moved by Commissioner Dishion and seconded by Commissioner Patton to approve the 2015 Water Commission goals.

7. New Wells in Bishop

Dr. Harrington provided background and explanation of LADWP's March 9, 2015 letter regarding installation of four new production wells; two located in Bishop, one in Laws, and one in Big Pine. Dr. Harrington stated the Water Agreement provides provisions for LADWP to construct new wells. Dr. Harrington and the Commissioners discussed the installation of new wells in detail and at length.

Public Comment – Sally Manning – Ms. Manning stated if there was a preconstruction study on well W416 in Lone Pine it obviously wasn't very good as it was constructed anyway, they haven't pumped it, and so what good would a preconstruction evaluation be for the new wells. Commissioner Red Owl stated the good thing is that it was shut off and never run, and obviously they saw what happened during the testing period and it was never put into production.

Public Comment – Earl Wilson – Mr. Wilson stated well W416 during testing was struck by lightning which deactivated the electrical system and that is why it wasn't running. He stated the Greenbook should be finished before new wells are discussed.

Public Comment – Daris Moxley – Ms. Moxley stated the map is wrong on well 2B of LADWP's letter.

Public Comment – Sally Manning - Ms. Manning stated the County's role in issuing well permits deals with human health and that is the only reason they would deny a permit. She stated the issue is the Technical Groups role on deciding whether it is appropriate to have a well in these locations; how it's going to be used; and the fact all these years have gone by and there is no adequate monitoring of most pumping, so it is not wise to be installing more wells.

Public Comment – Daris Moxley – Ms. Moxley asked if there was anywhere water was measured back coming from Williams Creek and going into the river. Dr. Harrington stated there is a measuring station on Williams Creek.

Public Comment – Alan Bacoach – Mr. Bacoach read item 3A of the Water Commission Goals. He stated the Water Commission should also hold an emergency meeting after the Technical Group process for the new wells.

Public Comment – Earl Wilson – Mr. Wilson said LADWP's letter stated they would like to follow the same format for the new wells that were completed on the previous wells and what happened in the process for those.

Public Comment – Sally Manning – Ms. Manning stated with regard to well W243 in Laws it was mentioned earlier that most of the recharge in Laws came from running the McNally's, so if they are not run, why would LADWP want to take more water out of no recharge. She stated the tri-valley may be concerned about this trend.

8. Public comment

Sally Manning – Ms. Manning stated the public should be included in the meetings held with the contractors regarding the Green Book.

9. Schedule next Water Commission meeting

The next Water Commission meeting will be scheduled for the month of August 2015.

10. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.