

Minutes

County of Inyo Water Commission

December 15, 2014

The Chairperson called the Water Commission meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. at the Jill Kinmont Boothe School, George Lozito conference room, Bishop, CA. Water Commissioners in attendance were Teri Red Owl, Bruce Dishion, and Craig Patten. Present from the Water Department were Bob Harrington and Laura Piper.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Red Owl led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comment

Daris Moxley – Ms. Moxley inquired about the new well she stated was at the Saddle Club by Williams Creek. She stated she thought it had to be approved. Dr. Harrington said we were not notified about a new well. Dr. Harrington stated they should have applied for a well construction permit but he is unaware of this new well.

3. Approval of minutes from August 20, 2014 meeting

Moved by Commissioner Dishion and seconded by Commissioner Patton to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Commissioners Report

Commissioner Patton reported on the Bishop Creek Water Association meeting and the many obstructions in the ditch system.

5. Water Directors Report

Dr. Harrington provided a PowerPoint presentation on the current drought conditions, current precipitations conditions, the winter outlook, LADWP annual operations plan, and the Groundwater Sustainability Act.

6. Report on Bishop Cone Audit

Dr. Harrington provided a memo containing the purpose and effort of the Bishop Cone audit. Dr. Harrington provided a brief background and history regarding the Bishop Cone Audit.

Public Comment – Sally Manning – Ms. Manning stated there were discrepancies in the 2012-13 Bishop Cone Audit. Dr. Harrington stated you can apply more than 5 acre feet per acre per parcel. Ms. Manning stated it runs off. Dr. Harrington stated some infiltrates into the ground and some is lost to evapotranspiration.

Public Comment – Ceal Klinger – Ms. Klinger stated LADWP has been dredging the canals deeper every year, some are now 10 feet in places and deeper than the groundwater tables. At what point does that water cease to be considered as going into a LADWP well?

Public Comment – Daris Moxley – Ms. Moxley stated leases can use more than their 5 acre feet because the water is measured as it comes into the lease with a partial flume and then it is measured again when it goes out through another

partial flume. She stated they take out stock water and ditch loss and that is how the acre feet are measured; if you get more water in than is going out that is how you get your acre feet.

Public Comment – Sally Manning – Ms. Manning stated with her understanding of evapotranspiration in the valley, unless your storing water in a pond or bottling and shipping it offsite, the only way you can use more than 5 acre feet per acre is if it's soaking into the ground, you're not using it, it's soaking into the ground.

Public Comment – Daris Moxley – Ms. Moxley stated on the Bishop Cone Audit that under Lacy Livestock it states he is irrigating 140 acres; how come in 2008 he has 262 acre feet. Ms. Moxley stated somehow 122 acres stopped getting irrigated? Dr. Harrington stated if Ms. Moxley believed there is something in the audit that is incorrect, that she provide him with her concerns and he would investigate the issue.

Public Comment – Sally Manning – Ms. Manning inquired if all the Bishop Cone audits are on the Water Department website; Dr. Harrington stated no.

Commissioner Red Owl suggested flume inspections.

Public Comment – Earl Wilson – Mr. Wilson stated the flume inspection is a good idea and how often these devices are calibrated and cleaned. Mr. Wilson stated LADWP sends out information as to what is going on in LA. He stated they are going to cut their water use in LA by 20% in the next few years and are going to reduce their purchased water by 50% by 2020.

7. Public Comment

The Chairperson opened the public comment period and there was no one wishing to address the Board.

8. Schedule next Water Commission meeting

The next Water Commission meeting will be scheduled for the first week of February.

9. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.