

MINUTES

Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

Board Members:

SIERRA HIGHLANDS EASTERN SIERRA CSD INDIAN CREEK-WESTRIDGE CSD WHEELER CREST CSD TRI VALLEY GWMD	John Camphouse Walt Pachuki Luis Elias Glenn Inouye Dave Doonan	COUNTY OF MONO CITY OF BISHOP COUNTY OF INYO BIG PINE CSD KEELER CSD STARLITE CSD	Fred Stump Joe Pecci Dan Totheroh Bryanna Vaughan John Dukes Daniel Cutshall
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May 10, 2018

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. at the Tri County Fairgrounds, Tallman Building, Bishop, CA.

1. Pledge of allegiance

The Chairperson led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Comment

Philip Anaya – Mr. Anaya stated it is a pleasure to be able to participate in the Authority’s business. He stated he has given great thought to get LADWP to begin to look at sustainability in the Owens Valley. He stated the changes with the SGMA should be called “destination 2042” because it will be a sorely needed change for the Eastern Sierra to reach sustainability with the water issues.

3. Introductions

The Board introduced themselves with three alternates in attendance Karen Schwartz – City of Bishop, Dave Allen – Big Pine CSD, and Bill Dunlap – Wheeler Crest CSD.

4. Approval of minutes from the April 12, 2018 OVGA Board meeting

Mr. Camphouse stated there were repeated words on page 2 item 6 under Mr. Grah’s comment, remove “we while”. The Chairperson made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, first by Mr. Doonan, seconded by Mr. Elias. Motion passed 10 yes, 1 abstention (Karen Schwartz).

5. Board Member Reports

Mr. Luis Elias stated Indian Creek/Westridge CSD held a public hearing to approve a rate increase to fund SGMA costs which was approved. Mr. Stump stated the Mono County Board approved to withdraw their GSA status.

6. Consideration of agreement between the OVGA and Inyo County Treasury for deposit and investment of excess funds into the County Treasury

Mr. Vallejo gave a brief overview of the depository agreement for the Treasurer’s office, the financial services agreement with the Auditor’s staff, and a resolution for the agreements. He stated this agency would need to approve those agreements to obtain financial services from Inyo County. Mr. Cutshall asked if there is any estimate of how many hours the OVGA will be billed for the Treasury/Auditor services. Ms. Amy Shepard stated she really couldn’t provide an estimate without a history of possibly the first few quarters. Mr. Elias stated Inyo County handles his CSD’s financials and they are happy with the services provided. Ms. Schwartz asked if there would be an auditor in this process to audit the billings provided to the OVGA. Mr. Elias stated the Board could have someone come in to audit the books of the OVGA. Ms. Shepard stated Inyo County has a contract with an Independent CPA to perform annual audits, the OVGA can also hire an outside auditor if they so choose. Mr. Vallejo, Ms. Shepard, and the

Board discussed this in detail.

The Chairperson made a motion to approve both financial agreements and the resolution (2018-01) related to the agreements, first by Luis Elias, second by Karen Schwartz. Motion passed unanimously (11 yes, 0 no).

7. Public hearing and consideration of becoming the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin

Dr. Harrington provided a brief overview on the requirements and process of becoming a GSA. He stated the four current GSA's (Inyo, Mono, Tri Valley, and City of Bishop) will be going to their respective Boards for approval to withdraw their GSA status contingent on this Board becoming the GSA for the basin. Mr. Vallejo stated there was a draft resolution circulated (2018-02) that the current GSA's, with Board approval, will submit to DWR (withdrawing their GSA status) concurrently with the OVGA notice of intent to become the GSA. The Board and staff discussed this item in detail.

Ken Toy – Mr. Toy stated he wanted to reiterate his former statement that the mutual water companies are not properly represented in this process. Mr. Toy read a memorandum from the General Counsel for the Ca Rural Water Association regarding inclusion of the mutual water companies with regard to SGMA.

Philip Anaya – Mr. Anaya stated the decision to unify into one GSA shows there is great trust among the authority.

Mr. Vallejo stated the language to the resolution would be amended to reference the contingency nature of the withdrawal of the existing GSA's under the 5th whereas on the resolution, would include language “contingent on acceptance by DWR of the OVGA as the exclusive GSA in the basin”.

The Chairperson made a motion to approve resolution 2018-02 as amended, first by John Camphouse, and seconded by Daniel Cutshall. Motion passed unanimously (11 yes, 0 no).

The Chairperson called a break at 3:00 p.m.

The Chairperson reconvened the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

8. Consideration of request for qualifications for procurement of a consultant to prepare a Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Dr. Harrington stated this RFQ was discussed in detail at the April OVGA meeting. He stated a few items were changed to provide more detail; the public engagement plan and adaptive management per Board direction at the last meeting, to include the work plan and budget detail; and clarified procedure for respondents to the RFQ. Mr. Vallejo stated the disclosure added regarding conflicts of interest is overlapping with the special meeting agenda item coming up. The Board and staff discussed this in detail.

Philip Anaya – Mr. Anaya stated he would still like this to be referenced as “destination 2042” a groundwater sustainability plan for the Owens Valley.

Sally Manning – Ms. Manning stated her concern with #7 on the list of tasks as sustainable management criteria.

The Chairperson made a motion to accept the draft RFQ and move on to Inyo County for submission/review with a first by Luis Elias, seconded by Walt Pachuki. Motion passed unanimously (11 yes, 0 no).

9. Consideration of bylaws for the OVGA

Mr. Vallejo stated this item was put on the agenda as a placeholder. He stated Inyo is waiting on comments from Mono County Staff as well as City of Bishop staff and there is not a new draft available at this time. He stated a final draft will come back before the Board in the near future for adoption. Mr. Vallejo stated this Board could set a process for how it wants to receive applications to become a member of the Board. The bylaws cannot contradict or be contrary to the JPA document.

Chris Costello – Mr. Costello stated page 4 has specifications regarding new members. Mr. Vallejo stated there are language nuances in the documents JPA/bylaws.

Mary Roper – Ms. Roper requested a copy of the draft bylaws.

10. Consideration of a letter of support for the Starlight Community Service District's request to the Department of Water Resources to modify the boundaries of the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin

OVGA Board member Dan Totheroh recused himself from this item. The Chairperson stated he was informed the deadline for

submission of documentation related to this item is near and it would be appreciated if the Board could act on this today. Mr. Cutshall stated he provided a statement last meeting in regards to this item with additional reference material and invited questions. Mr. Elias asked Dr. Harrington if he had a recommendation regarding this letter, Dr. Harrington stated he reviewed the material provided at the last meeting to support this request and the points made in that material are valid, and the request is supportable.

Philip Anaya - Mr. Anaya stated if someone drops a basin, then they are no longer within the existing GSA. Mr. Cutshall stated Starlite is taking some risk in doing this but he believes they would be considered a low priority basin or not even considered a basin at all.

Earl Wilson – Mr. Wilson stated the concepts of SGMA and salt intrusion, he stated he would be cautious under those conditions considering Starlite is a rocky area in separating from the rest of the basin.

Philip Anaya – Mr. Anaya asked what does Starlite hope to gain from leaving the basin? Mr. Cutshall stated autonomy; the fact they truly don't belong. He stated there is some risk involved.

The Chairperson called a motion to approve the letter and authorize the Chairperson to sign on behalf of the OVGA with a first by John Dukes and a second by John Camphouse. Motion passed, 10 yes, 1 recused (Totheroh).

11. Reports from OVGA members' staff

Dr. Harrington stated Inyo County received a grant award notification letter from DWR; within 14 days an acceptance letter would need to be drafted to DWR; providing this grant doesn't mean they will approve the GSP; and within 45 days provide any changes to the work plan, budget & schedule.

12. Comments from Members of the Board

The Chairperson stated he also sits on the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District Board; that Board also meets on the second Thursday of the month at 10am anywhere from Bridgeport to Independence. He requested at the OVGA's next meeting to create a chair pro tem position in case both Chair and Vice Chair cannot attend; also to agendize a discussion item on participation by Associates or Interested Parties along with the bylaws.

13. Set next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for June 14, 2018 in the Bishop Fire Training Center if available.

14. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.