

# MINUTES

# Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

## Board Members:

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

September 13, 2018

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. at the Bishop Fire Training Center, Bishop, CA by Board Chairperson Fred Stump.

### **1. Pledge of allegiance**

Joe Peci led the pledge of allegiance.

### **2. Public Comment**

The Chairperson opened the public comment period.

Phillip Anaya identified himself as a de minimis user and read a letter into the record expressing his concerns that Associate and Interested Party members have not been included on the OVGA Board to date. He also requested that these additional entities be added to the Board prior to the Board making a decision regarding hiring of a consultant to assist the OVGA with GSP development.

### **3. Introductions**

The Board introduced themselves with two alternates in attendance, Ted Williams alternate for Indian Creek-Westridge CSD and Robert Spry alternate for Keeler CSD; there was no representative for Eastern Sierra CSD present. John Camphouse, Sierra Highlands CSD, noted that he had a prior commitment later in the afternoon.

### **4. Approval of minutes from the August 15, 2018 OVGA Board meeting**

The Chairperson asked Board members for any corrections and then also asked members of the public quoted in the minutes if they had any corrections. There were no corrections to the minutes. The Chairperson made a motion to approve the minutes, first by Mr. Peci, seconded by Mr. Williams. Motion passed 10 yes, 1 absent (Eastern Sierra CSD).

### **5. Board Member Reports**

Mr. Stump stated that Mono County has initiated legal action against the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in regard to the Mono County Ranch Lease Renewal Project, and that LADWP had released a Notice of Preparation for a Draft EIR. Discussion followed indicating that a public meeting would be held in the Town of Mammoth Lakes on September 26 at 6:30 at the Polo Events Center to discuss this issue. The NOP can be found on line at LADWP.com, About Us, Finances & Reports, Reports, Environmental Reports.

### **6. Presentation from Holly Alpert, Program Director Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Program**

Ms. Alpert gave a detailed presentation describing the history, purpose, and current activities of the IRWMP program, having received approximately \$4.5 million in grants and bonds and completed numerous projects with a focus on addressing regional water supply, quality and reliability needs. The IRWMP is a "resource source" and can help community groups identify resources and potential funding for water-related issues. IRWMP recently received a new funding source to work with Disadvantaged Communities.

Discussion with Board members followed. Ms. Vaughan asked how many current OVGA entities were also IRWMP MOU participants, and Ms. Alpert answered eight. Ms. Vaughan suggested that the OVGA Board consider potentially joining the IRWMP MOU. Mr. Stump asked if there were costs associated with joining IRWMP; Ms. Alpert said no, but members have volunteered funds to help with non-grant-reimbursable expenses. There was Board discussion over the complexities of having both the OVGA and individual members of the OVGA participate in the IRWMP MOU and how to avoid any conflicts of interest. Mr. Stump concluded that he would like the subject of OVGA joining the IRWMP MOU to be added to next meeting's agenda.

Mr. Anaya suggested that the IRWMP potentially be added to the OVGA Board as an Interested Party.

The Board thanked Ms. Alpert for her presentation. The IRWMP website is [inyo-monowater.org](http://inyo-monowater.org)

## **7. Recommendation concerning selection of a consultant for preparation of a groundwater sustainability plan.**

Dr. Harrington summarized the RFQ process for hiring a consultant to prepare a GSP for the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin. The RFQ was circulated starting on June 20, and by July 31, five responses had been received. City of Bishop, Inyo and Mono county staff reviewed and scored the 5 proposals and unanimously selected 3 firms to conduct follow-up interviews. The phone interviews were completed on Wednesday (Sept. 12) and staff unanimously recommended Daniel B. Stephens & Associates as the consultant for the OVGA to enter into contract with for GSP preparation. Mr. Grah and Ms. Sugimura expressed their agreement with Dr. Harrington's recommendation and a thorough discussion with the Board and Public ensued.

Mr. Cutshall asked if the staff reviewers score sheets were available. Dr. Harrington said yes, but he did not have them on hand. Dr. Harrington further elucidated staff's rationale for selecting DBS&A including having strong GSA/GSP experience, subcontractors with extensive local knowledge and experience including CCP, Stillwater, TEAM, and T&L. DBS&A's team represented the best fit and most complete components for the OVGA.

Mr. Doonan expressed the importance and implications of the decision.

After further discussion, Mr. Stump invited Tony Morgan and Naomi Garcia from the DBS&A team to address the Board. Mr. Williams asked how confident DBS&A was with having access to LADWP data; Mr. Doonan asked about DBS&A staff members who have agricultural expertise. Mr. Stump asked about potential repercussions regarding delaying the contract decision.

Mr. Stump called a break at 3:28 and re-convened the meeting at 3:36.

Tony Morgan offered further discussion as to his firm's experience and qualifications.

Mr. Anaya asked DBS&A about collaboration and about stakeholder engagement.

Earl Wilson inquired how reductions in pumping are being handled in Ventura County.

April Zrelak asked for clarification as to whether data from LADWP would be made available for the GSP process.

Ryan Smith noted that the DBS&A budget was a "Not to Exceed" value and said that was important.

Mary Roper inquired as to DBS&A's strategy for handling the adjudicated part of the basin (Inyo-LADWP Long Term Water Agreement managed lands) with the non-adjudicated area.

Sally Manning commented that the budget for public engagement was low.

Mr. Cutshall inquired as to DBS&A's strategy for handling LADWP's pumping as it related to sustainability.

After further discussion, Mr. Peci made a motion to recommend staff engage in contract negotiations with DBS&A for GSP creation; Mr. Williams seconded. Board discussion followed including consideration of a week delay. Mr. Stump called for a vote on the motion: Sierra Highlands CSD (2 votes, absent), Easter Sierra CSD (2 votes, absent), Indian Creek-Westridge CSD (4 votes, aye), Wheeler Crest CSD (4 votes, aye), Tri Valley Groundwater Management District (4 votes, abstain), Mono County (6.66 votes, aye), City of Bishop (6.66 votes, aye), Inyo County (6.6 votes, aye), Big Pine CSD (4 votes, aye), Keeler CSD (2 votes, aye), Starlite CSD (2 votes, nay). The motion passed 34 yes, 2 no, 4 abstain, 4 absent.

## **8. Consideration of DWR Technical Support Services General Application**

Mr. Rainville gave a brief summary of the process to apply for DWR Technical Support Services. The General Application is an initial step that provides a point of contact and other general information to DWR. The OVGA would be committed to acting as the Basin's coordinator for all TSS. If DWR accepts the General Application, the OVGA can apply for specific TSS like monitoring well installation or bore-hole video logging.

Board and Public discussion followed. Ms. Zrelak asked what the implications of disbanding the GSA/GSP would be on TSS grants. Dr. Harrington responded that the TSS grants are specifically for GSA's developing GSPs.

Mr. Doonan moved to direct staff to proceed with the TSS General Application submittal, and Mr. Peci seconded. Mr. Stump called for a vote on the motion: Sierra Highlands CSD (2 votes, absent), Eastern Sierra CSD (2 votes, absent), Indian Creek-Westridge CSD

(4 votes, aye), Wheeler Crest CSD (4 votes, aye), Tri Valley Groundwater Management District (4 votes, aye), Mono County (6.66 votes, aye), City of Bishop (6.66 votes, aye), Inyo County (6.66 votes, aye), Big Pine CSD (4 votes, aye), Keeler CSD (2 votes, aye), Starlite CSD (2 votes, aye). The motion passed 40 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

#### **9. Reports from OVGA members' staff**

Dr. Harrington reported that he received notification from DWR that the grant for preparing the Basin's GSP had successfully been transferred from Inyo County to the OVGA. Mr. Stump requested that the Inyo Board of Supervisors be notified at their next meeting. Dr. Harrington also stated that the Basin's DWR contact had changed and was now Jen Wong. Dr. Harrington announced his retirement at the end of 2018. Mr. Grah had nothing to report from the City of Bishop. Ms. Sugimura advised the OVGA Board that although Mono, Inyo, and City staff are frequently identified as such, that all three groups serve as one staff for the OVGA Board, and that Board members should feel to reach out to staff.

Ms. Vaughan requested an update on the status of the JPA bylaws and her desire to see this item placed on next month's agenda. Board members expressed interest and support.

#### **10. Comments from Members of the Board**

Mr. Cutshall reported that DWR had accepted Starlite's Basin Boundary request as complete and that there were two comments in support of the request and no comments against.

The Board thanked staff, the public and DBS&A for their input and efforts.

#### **11. Set Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for October 11, 2018 in the Bishop Fire Training Center if available.

#### **12. Adjourn**

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at approximately 5 pm.