

MINUTES

Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

Board Members:

SIERRA HIGHLANDS EASTERN SIERRA CSD INDIAN CREEK-WESTRIDGE CSD WHEELER CREST CSD TRI VALLEY GWMD	John Camphouse Ron Stone 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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November 19, 2018

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. at the Bishop Fire Training Center, Bishop, CA.

1. Pledge of allegiance

Dan Totheroh led the pledge of allegiance.

The Chairperson asked for a moment of silence in memory of all those that lost their lives in the wildfires and the recent shooting.

2. Public Comment

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

3. Introductions

The Board introduced themselves with one alternate in attendance; Big Pine CSD – Dave Allen. City of Bishop and Sierra Highlands were absent.

4. Approval of minutes from the October 25, 2018 OVGA Board meeting

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2018 meeting, first by Mr. Totheroh, second by Mr. Elias. Motion passed 9 yes (35 votes) 2 absent (9 votes) – City of Bishop, Sierra Highlands CSD.

5. Board Member Reports

Mr. Stump stated that Mono County/LADWP lawsuit will be in Alameda County and the first initial hearing date is January 18 Or 19, 2019.

6. Financial Report

Laura Piper, Administrative Analyst for ICWD, gave a brief presentation regarding the OVGA finances. She stated the current OVGA cash balance is \$236,151.81. Mr. Totheroh asked how these compare to the expected timeline. Ms. Piper stated that would be discussed in item 12 of today's agenda.

Karen Schwartz, City of Bishop joined the meeting at 2:11 pm.

7. Appointment of Executive Director and discussion with possible action regarding long term recruitment of Executive Director

David Grah presented the staff report with regard to the Appointment of the Executive Director. The Board and staff discussed how fortunate they were to have Dr. Harrington as the defacto Executive Director, the possibility of a sole source contract with Dr. Harrington; the possibility of the need for an RFQ and if this route is taken, staffing would need to be discussed; and with Inyo County Boards approval, the possibility of the new Water Director serving as the interim. A motion was made by Glenn Inouye to enter into

negotiations for a sole source contract with Dr. Harrington prior to his retirement; if an agreement is not reached, negotiate with Inyo Board for interim services of the incoming Water Director until an RFP process can be completed, first by Glenn Inouye with a second by Daniel Cutshall. Motion passed 10 yes (42 votes) 1 absent (2 votes) – Sierra Highlands CSD. Ms. Roper asked if the grantee would audit the sole source justification, Mr. Vallejo stated he would need to review the grant agreement to see if there were any issues.

8. Approve Resolution Adopting Purchasing Policy of the OVGA

Jason Canger gave a brief summary of the purchasing policy being presented which he stated is a replica of the Mono County policy; allows for greater flexibility; and appoints the Executive Manager as the purchasing agent and specifies specific guidelines.

The Chairman called for a motion to accept Resolution 2018-05 as stated with a first by Dan Cutshall and a second by John Dukes With a correction to the purchasing policy under section 3H, reference to County services instead of OVGA services. The motion passed 10 yes (42 votes) 1 absent (2 votes) – Sierra Highlands CSD.

9. Approve Resolution Establishing Bylaws of the OVGA – Appointment of OVGA representative

Mr. Vallejo provided a brief follow up of the previous meetings discussions regarding the Bylaws and presented the final draft for adoption. He stated a reserve policy will be drafted and presented separately at a future meeting by the Inyo County Auditor-Controller. The Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution 2018-06 with a first by Dave Doonan, seconded by Dave Allen. The motion passed 10 yes (42 votes) 1 absent (2 votes) - Sierra Highlands CSD.

10. Approval of MOU with the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Plan

Dr. Harrington stated at the previous meeting, the OVGA Board voted to join the IMRWM and deferred to this meeting to sign the MOU and designate a representative. Holly Alpert provided a brief overview of the responsibility in participating with the IMRWM. Chairman Stump stated he is comfortable with staff from both Counties continuing to participate in the IMRWM and representatives will be respective county staff from both Inyo/ Mono/City of Bishop. The Chairperson called for a motion that the primary representative for the IMRWM be staff from Inyo/Mono/ and City of Bishop with no alternate and to sign the MOU, first by Ron Stone, second by Daniel Cutshall. The motion passed 10 yes (42 votes) 1 absent (2 votes) - Sierra Highlands CSD.

The Chairperson called a break at 3:16 pm and reconvened the meeting at 3:29 pm.

11. Discussion regarding Associates & Interested Parties

Dr. Harrington referred to the previous meetings discussion regarding the inclusion of Associate and Interested Parties with a conclusion and direction to prepare a process for potential Associate and Interested Parties to show interest in joining the OVGA. He stated two statements of interest (Associate & Interested Parties) were provided in the packets for the Boards consideration; the statements are modifications to applications that were brought before the Board previously. April Zrelak requested a few wording changes to the statements of interest; Ms. Roper asked if the applications will be formatted the same and if the Interested Parties statement of interest could include an alternate also. Ken Toy stated he feels the mutual water companies are being treated unfairly in this process and there has been no inclusiveness. Karen Schwartz stated the City of Bishop is not interested in adding additional seats to the Board. Ms. Schwartz made a motion to stop the process of adding any additional seats to the Board with no second, motion dismissed. The Board decided on the following changes to the statements of interest:

- Associate applications: #7 needs to be BOLD and the wording changed to “generally describe how the applicant will implement and fund the groundwater sustainability plan when developed”; BOLD and larger print to the conflict of interest statement
- Interested Parties application: form should include an alternate

By unanimous consensus of the Board, it was agreed to make the above changes to the Associates & Interested Parties forms, and send out the forms to gauge interest.

12. Approval of Inyo/Mono/City of Bishop invoices for staff services

Dr. Harrington reviewed the staff report with the Board, stated the first two quarters had utilized half of the three year administrative budget which included preparation of the RFQ, DWR contract, contract with the consultant, preparation of the Bylaws and purchasing policy, etc. and stated we are under budgeted. The Chairman called for a motion to approve the invoices for Inyo/Mono/City of Bishop, motion by Dan Totheroh, second by Ron Stone. The motion passed 10 yes (42 votes) 1 absent (2 votes) – Sierra Highlands CSD.

13. Reports from OVGA members' staff

Dr. Harrington stated a final signed contract has been received from DWR on the grant and from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates for the consulting contract.

14. Discussion regarding future agenda items

The Board requested a discussion regarding inclusions of mutual water companies, letters of interest, analysis of costs included with financial report, discussion of Executive Director, Election of Chair & Vice Chair.

15. Set Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for December 13, 2018 in the Bishop Fire Training Center if available.

16. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:42 p.m.