

MINUTES

Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

Board Members:

SIERRA HIGHLANDS	John Camphouse	COUNTY OF MONO	Fred Stump
EASTERN SIERRA CSD	Ron Stone	CITY OF BISHOP	Chris Costello
INDIAN CREEK-WESTRIDGE CSD	Luis Elias	COUNTY OF INYO	Dan Totheroh
WHEELER CREST CSD	Glenn Inouye	BIG PINE CSD	BryAnna Vaughan
TRI VALLEY GWMD	Dave Doonan	KEELER CSD	John Dukes
		STARLITE CSD	Daniel Cutshall

December 12, 2018

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. at the Bishop Fire Training Center, Bishop, CA.

1. Pledge of allegiance

Chris Costello led the pledge of allegiance.

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; Jeff Griffiths – Inyo County.

4. Election of OVGA Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Philip Anaya stated he would like BryAnna Vaughan to be Chairperson of the OVGA. Moved by Dave Doonan and seconded by Ron Stone to elect Fred Stump as Chairperson and BryAnna Vaughan as Vice-Chairperson. 7 yes for Fred Stump (27 votes), 2 yes for BryAnna (6 votes), 2 abstentions (11 votes). Unanimous vote for BryAnna as Vice-Chairperson.

5. Approval of minutes from the November 19, 2018 OVGA Board meeting

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2018 meeting, first by Dave Doonan, second by Luis Elias as amended; item #5 date should be corrected to January 18 or 19; item #9 change Alan to Allen. Motion passed 10 yes (40 votes) 1 abstention (4 votes).

6. Board Member Reports

Jeff Griffiths provided an update on the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority; an update on the Laws, Independence & Lone Pine water systems which will now be run by Public Works and will undergo a rate study; BryAnna Vaughan stated Big Pine CSD is recruiting members if there is any interest; John Dukes states Keeler CSD was currently undergoing a rate change process; he will be removing himself from the Keeler CSD Board; and he should be replaced in the near future. Fred Stump stated Mono County is involved in the Walker River irrigation district water issue which crosses state lines.

7. Financial Report

Laura Piper, Administrative Analyst for ICWD, stated she would be providing the financial report and Amy Shepherd, Auditor-Controller would present the Reserve Policy discussion. Ms. Piper gave a brief presentation regarding the OVGA finances. She stated the current OVGA cash balance is \$201,233.33. She provided a financial overview and future budget forecast requested by the OVGA Board at its last meeting. Jeff Griffiths stated Inyo County has further comments regarding this discussion that will be addressed in item 14. The Board and Ms. Piper discussed this in detail. Ms. Shepherd stated the Board may have interest in the future for staff service agreements. Peter Sickles suggested the use of the grant budget to show actuals for the Board. Philip Anaya

inquired how the legal work performed is separated from the Authority vs the entity's individual Boards.

8. Discussion of Reserve Policy

Amy Shepherd, Inyo County Auditor Controller provided a brief presentation on reserve policy options. After discussion, the Board chose a 16% of annual fiscal year end fund balance that will transfer to a contingency fund for reserves (a maximum of a 2 month operating capital), the Board will decide regulation on spending from the fund. Ms. Shepherd will present a draft policy at the next OVGA meeting per the Boards input.

The Chairperson called a break at 3:22 pm and reconvened the meeting at 3:38 pm.

9. Discussion regarding DWR's draft approval of Starlite CSD's basin boundary modification request

John Vallejo stated the draft decision that was submitted to DWR is approving that the basin boundary modification if final would mean that Starlite would be removed from the basin boundary, removing Starlite's ability to be a GSA. He provided an overview of the process and timeline. Daniel Cutshall thanked the Board for their support, offered to remove himself from the OVGA temporarily until DWR's final decision and the Boards future vote to remove Starlite from the JPA should the decision become final. The Board requested Daniel Cutshall continue on the OVGA Board until DWR's final decision. The Board discussed sending an additional support letter to DWR for Starlite's basin boundary modification, motion by Jeff Griffiths, second by Chris Costello. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion regarding mutual water company GSA participation

John Vallejo presented the staff report that was in response to the comments from the mutual water representative from the previous OVGA meeting. He stated the conclusion is that SGMA allows for mutual water companies to participate in the GSA but does not provide a mandate that they be included. He stated the JPA can authorize the mutual water companies to participate by being a member of the Board, but it is not required. Ken Toy, mutual water company representative stated he doesn't believe the letter addresses his basic concern. April Zrelak stated a January deadline for the forms is too soon. The Board and staff agreed to a February 28, 2018 deadline for the forms to be returned. Philip Anaya suggested a press release with regard to the interested parties & associate members forms. Mr. Vallejo stated the process is to publicize the request so the general public will be aware. He stated part of the outreach process would be to issue a press release, radio statements, newspaper, internet, and email. Sally Manning stated her understanding is the tribe would be receiving a letter regarding the associate members & interested parties.

11. Reports from OVGA members' staff

The Chairperson suspended this item due to time constraints.

12. Discussion regarding future agenda items

The Board requested the following be included on the January agenda; contracting for staff services-discussion and possible action, reserve policy, kickoff meeting for Daniel B Stephens & Associates (GSP plan consultant).

13. Set next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for January 10, 2019 in the Bishop Fire Training Center.

The Chairperson adjourned the regular meeting at 4:35 pm.

CLOSED SESSION

14. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT [Pursuant to Government Code §54957] – Title: Executive Manager

The OVGA reported the following action taken during Closed Session on 12/13/18. "By unanimous voice vote, the OVGA Board appointed the Inyo County Water Director as Interim Executive Manager."

15. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:30 pm.