

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

January 10, 2019

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. at the Bishop Fire Training Center, Bishop, CA.

1. Pledge of allegiance

John Camphouse led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Comment

April Zrelak wished to bring up the JPA as it relates to Article 5; Philip Anaya wanted to discuss the final prioritization. Staff stated both items would be discussed in upcoming agenda item #10 and staff reports, respectively.

3. Introductions

The Board introduced themselves with one absence, Keeler CSD.

4. Approval of minutes from the December 13, 2018 OVGA Board meeting

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2018 meeting, first by Daniel Cutshall, second by Chris Costello as amended; item #8 remove 4/5 vote and replace with “The Board will decide on further requirements for spending from the fund”. Motion passed 9 yes (35.34 votes) 1 abstention (6.66 votes) 1 absence (2 votes).

5. Board Member Reports

The Chairperson stated Mono County’s court hearing is one week from tomorrow in Alameda County in their action filed against DWP; DWP filed a demurrer asking the court to reject both Mono and Sierra Clubs lawsuit; Mono County has filed documents with the court; Ca Dept. of Fish & Wildlife and Sierra Club have filed documents supporting Mono County.

6. Financial Report

Laura Piper, Administrative Analyst for ICWD provided the financial report and stated the current OVGA cash balance is \$201,233.33.

The Chairperson stated the contributions provided by the JPA are currently being used to support its operation; the grant funding will be expended solely for the consultant and apologized if he provided any misleading information. The Board and staff discussed the finances and possibility of alternate revenue streams.

7. Prop 1 Grant Funding – DWR Representative Jennifer Wong

Jennifer Wong, Department of Water Resources, introduced herself to the Board, stated she held a kickoff meeting with Aaron Steinwand and Laura Piper this morning to review the grant agreement, invoicing, and quarterly reports. She stated she will be the

contact for the grant administration and our groundwater basin. The Chairperson asked how Prop 1 is funding the grant. Jennifer Wong stated the OVGA put in a grant application to receive Prop 1 funding to complete a GSP in which DWR awarded this basin \$713,000 in grant funding. She stated there is not a cost share; the basin received a waiver as a disadvantaged community and the source of funding is through Proposition 1, approved by the voters. The Chairperson asked Ms. Wong if she had any comment regarding our basin rating. She stated we are going into phase 2 of the basin prioritization, because there was a basin boundary modification that was submitted to exempt the Starlite area. She stated once DWR has reviewed the requests, they will reassign basin prioritizations. She stated there will be a comment period after the draft basin prioritizations are released. Mr. Anaya asked what would be the status of the previous public comment; Ms. Wong stated everything submitted previously (for that phase) will be taken into account. The Board asked if there was any additional funding available; Ms. Wong stated there will be Prop 68 funding available to further continue the GSP. Philip Anaya stated he spoke with DWR and they stated new comment letters should be drafted, the previous ones will not be considered because it is a new process.

8. Consultant kickoff – DBS & A – Tony Morgan

Tony Morgan provided a detailed and in depth PowerPoint in starting the GSP process. He discussed data transfer/management and the various potential data sources, the project schedule, interested stakeholders, stakeholder engagement plan and touched on alternate funding sources and sustainable criteria. The Board, staff, and the consultant discussed this in detail. Deb Murphy asked if it was possible to develop a plan with another agency pumping from the aqueduct, staff stated they will have to comply with the regulations of this agency. Mary Roper stated data is necessary, LADWP redacts so much, we are unique because of DWP and there is no transparency. Sally Manning stated the Water Agreement isn't working and the Board will need to make sure the County achieves some Water Agreement goals, and the consultant is really working for the stakeholders. Mr. Morgan stated the stakeholders have access to the Board to make recommendations and the Board makes the final decisions. Philip Anaya suggested having a broad stakeholder representation on the Board. Peter Sickles inquired if there will be a gantt chart in terms of cost proposals for the Board to control the consultant expenses.

The Chairperson called a break at 3:26 pm and reconvened the meeting at 3:38 pm.

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

The Chairperson stated there was only one invoice available at this time from Inyo County for October thru December 2018 and requested a motion for approval, first by Glenn Inouye and a second by John Camphouse 10 yes (42 votes), 1 absent (2 votes). The Board asked when they can expect to have billings from City of Bishop and Mono County. Mono County and Bishop stated they expect to have their October-December 2018 invoices provided to the Board at the February meeting.

10. Discussion of Associate and Interested Parties

Aaron Steinwand provided a brief overview on the Associate & Interested Parties forms and letters reviewed the past three meetings, with approvals at the December meeting. He stated the press release was sent, advertised in the local newspaper, and is also posted on the Water Departments SGMA webpage along with the forms. He stated it was the Boards request at the December meeting to have further discussion on the January meeting. The Board, staff, and the public discussed this in detail and at length. April Zrelak, Philip Anaya, and Earl Wilson suggested wording changes and corrections to the drafted letters. Sally Manning stated after reviewing the forms, the statements of interest were onerous. Deb Murphy asked if the application would be more extensive than the letter of interest.

The Chairperson requested a motion to allow the interim Executive Manager, Aaron Steinwand, to sign the Associate and Interested Parties letters and email/mail accordingly with the final statement in question reading "The OVGA may request formal applications at a later time", first by Glen Inouye and a second by Ron Stone, 10 yes (42 votes), 1 absent(2 votes).

April Zrelak stated in the JPA article 5, 1.3.3 there is a sentence "The GSP shall only otherwise apply to LADWP water management activities to the extent the City of Los Angeles and Inyo County agree that the GSP requirements do not directly conflict with the Water Agreement" she stated she reads this to mean that LADWP can become a member if the Board allows, and always say we don't agree and say that it does conflict and they can therefore never have to participate in the GSP and it's not being addressed. John Vallejo stated the agreement between the OVGA and LADWP required for them to join the Board can be worded to avoid this potential outcome.

11. Reports from OVGA members' staff

John Vallejo stated form 700 will be coming to the Board members and stated insurance options are being investigated by staff for the OVGA.

Glenn Inouye left the meeting at 4:25pm.
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12. Discussion regarding future agenda items

The Board requested the following be included on the February agenda; contracting for staff services-discussion and possible action, reserve policy, insurance, and discussion of possible alternative revenue streams.

13. Set next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for February 14, 2019 in the Bishop Fire Training Center.

The Chairperson adjourned the regular meeting at 4:42 pm.

CLOSED SESSION

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

15. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT [Pursuant to Government Code §54957] – Title: Legal Counsel

The OVGA reported there was no action taken during closed session that is required to be reported.

16. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned closed session at approximately 6:22 pm.