

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	

July 11, 2019

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. at the Whiskey Creek Banquet Room, Bishop, CA.

1. Pledge of allegiance

The Chairman 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 two absent, Wheeler Crest and Keeler CSD, and one alternate, Dave Allen, Big Pine CSD.

4. Approval of minutes from the June 13, 2019 OVGA Board meeting

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2019 meeting. Motion to approve the corrected minutes by Dave Doonan, second by Luis Elias. Motion passed 9 yes (34.18 votes) 0 abstentions, 2 absent (5.82 votes).

5. Board Member Reports

Dave Allen called attention to BryAnna Vaughan's letter requesting that Dr. Holly Alpert participate in the OVGA Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Dan Totheroh provided an update on the Southern California Edison power safety shutoff. Fred Stump stated SCE will be holding a meeting in the Mono County Town Hall to discuss the same issues as well as grid resiliency and Mono County continues to receive notification of proposed pump back projects.

6. OVGA staff reports

- a. Financial Report
- b. Report on Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority activities
- c. Proposition 68 grant funding

Amy Shepard, Inyo County Auditor provided the financial report and stated the OVGA cash balance is \$186,288.90, with only three transactions since last meeting, 2019-2020 insurance costs, staff billing and a revenue from the City of Bishop for their 2019-2020 OVGA contribution. She stated there will be additional accrual postings to the end of July for the 2018-19 fiscal year. John Vallejo provided an update on the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority activities such as a review of their draft GSP, an upcoming technical report before the end of July regarding pumping water to the Indian Wells Valley, and stated the agency remains underfunded. Earl Wilson stated the water is shut down in the Trona area due to damage from the recent earthquakes. Dr. Steinwand provided a brief update on the Proposition 68 grant funding and that it would be available by application submission in the summer of 2020. Dr. Holly Alpert stated the IRWMP is working with Proposition 1 funds and currently going through another round of funding for 2021.

7. Status of Keeler CSD participation in the OVGA

Dr. Steinwand stated there is a draft letter for approval for Keeler regarding their participation on the OVGA Board. A motion was made by Chris Costello and a second by Dan Tothoroh to send the letter to Keeler, include a response date prior to the September OVGA meeting, and authorize the Executive Director to sign. Motion passed 9 yes (34.18) 0 abstentions, 2 absent (5.82 votes).

8. OVGA Fiscal Audit Services for 2018-19

Amy Shepard, Inyo County Auditor-Controller stated in order for the OVGA to continue to be eligible to receive grants, the OVGA is required to have an independent auditor audit the OVGA books. She stated three estimates were received; only one formal quote and her staff recommendation is to move forward with the formal quote from Fechter & Company. A motion was made by Luis Elias with a second by Ron Stone to authorize Amy Shepard to obtain the audit services of Fechter & Company with a termination clause in the agreement. Motion passed 9 yes (34.18 votes) 0 abstentions, 2 absent (5.82 votes).

9. Discussion and possible direction to staff concerning the implications of DWR reprioritization of the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin

Dr. Steinwand provided an introduction for Dr. Tim Ross from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to discuss the implication of the basin reprioritization. He stated the final basin prioritization should be out by August 2019. The Board requested Dr. Ross go into detail regarding the process of basin prioritization. Dr. Ross provided detail of the rating categories, specific nuances such as critical overdraft, legislation, and the goals of SGMA. The Board and staff discussed this item in detail. April Zrelak asked if there was any internal discussion of low priority basins being required to have a GSP in the future. Philip Anaya inquired if we are rated low, is there a possibility down the line we can end of medium again. Dr. Ross stated yes, the priority can change. Deb Murphy asked if the two counties formed a GSA would that apply to all entities regardless whether they are on the Board or not. Dave Doonan clarified that Tri Valley Groundwater Management District is a separate legislative body.

The Chairperson called a break at 3:30 pm and reconvened the meeting at 3:43 pm.

10. Stakeholder Engagement Plan Development Subcommittee

Tony Morgan provided an overview and stated the importance of a stakeholder engagement plan. He stated he required some feedback from the Board and the plan development process should only require approximately three meetings with a working group. The Board directed staff to form the adhoc group for the stakeholder engagement plan.

11. Discussion and possible determination of Board Seats for Associate and Interested Parties

The Board, per staff's recommendation deferred this item to a future meeting. Philip Anaya stated his displeasure at deferring this agenda item again.

12. Discussion regarding future agenda items

The Chairperson stated they would continue with the financial reports, the report on Indian Wells Valley, status of Keeler, a report on the conclusion of the audit services, possible DWR basin rating finalization, a discussion with options regarding the continuation of the OVGA including a previous staff report, and a report on the formation of the ad hoc committee for the stakeholder engagement plan.

11. Set next meeting

The next OVGA meeting was tentatively scheduled for August 8, 2019.

12. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:16 pm.