

# 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>	Ron Stone	<b>CITY OF BISHOP</b>	Chris Costello
<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		

November 14, 2019

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. at the Bishop City Council Chambers, Bishop, CA.

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

Bob Harrington 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; all Board members were in attendance.

### **4. Approval of minutes from the October 10, 2019 OVGA Board meeting**

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2019 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by Chris Costello, seconded by John Camphouse. Motion passed unanimously 9 yes (38 votes).

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

Glenn Inouye stated his district received their contribution invoice and payment is being processed. Fred Stump stated at Tuesday's Mono County Board meeting the Supervisors discussed if the low rating was sustained, the Board would remain on the OVGA until the plan is completed; if the rating remains low after the plan is completed the Board may revisit the option to remain on the OVGA Board. Bryanna Vaughan thanked the Board for their letter of support with regard to the IRWMP grant.

### **6. OVGA staff reports**

- a. Financial Report
- b. Report on Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority activities
- c. Report on Owens Lake Groundwater Working Group meeting

Laura Piper, Inyo County Water Department, provided the financial report and stated the OVGA cash balance is \$106,109.50. She stated transactions since the last meeting was a fourth quarter interest payment, contribution payment from Inyo County and consultant fees. Fred Stump stated Mono County/Wheeler Crest/Tri-Valley contribution invoices are being processed for payment. John Vallejo stated IWVGA are approximately \$1,000,000 in the red in their GSP development budget; they will extend their GSP development fees for their jurisdiction well beyond the GSP submittal to the state; they have a contract with Capitol Core Group ( a water marketer) which is suspended to acquire more grant funding; they've had a Water Smart grant application for an import infrastructure project be rejected; and they continue to look to the north (LADWP aqueduct) as the least costly possibility of water import. The Board and staff discussed this in detail. Aaron Steinwand stated LADWP is developing a master project to reconfigure dust control measures on Owens Lake to reduce the water demand; mitigate dust control; preserving habitat value; and to develop saline water from under the lake to replace potable water for dust control. He stated there are two stakeholder groups

involved; the groundwater and habitat working groups; typically the Water Director is the Co-Chair for the groundwater working group; and he was asked to explain how SGMA may apply to Owens Lake proposed pumping by LADWP. He stated LADWP alerted the group they were exploring the possibility for water banking projects near the lake; the question whether the LTWA applies to their project on the lake has not been resolved; and if pumping is not managed pursuant to the LTWA and the OVGA develops a GSP, it could have authority over LADWP's pumping in coordination with State Lands Commission. Sally Manning asked why LADWP is water banking. Aaron Steinwand stated they were exploring the idea.

- The Chairperson added a staff recognition item. Aaron Steinwand stated Dave Grah will be retiring and Deston Dishion will be his replacement; Jason Canger, Deputy County Counsel has been reassigned and Stacey Simons, County Counsel and Michael Draper with the Mono County Planning Department will be OVGA staff representing Mono County. The Chairperson stated he would like to see a future agenda item providing a letter for Dave Grah and Jason Canger, thanking them for their service to the OVGA.

## **7. Termination of Members & Funding Agreements**

- a. Consideration of requests from Members to terminate OVGA membership;
- b. Consideration of requests from Members requesting membership termination to cancel their respective funding agreements with the OVGA.
- c. Set future GSPDB Funding Meeting (Article IV 1.1), if needed.

The Chairperson stated there are no definite answers so this discussion will move to a future agenda. Aaron Steinwand stated there is not a final report from DWR on the status of the basin priority and therefore it is premature for the Board to act on this item. The Chairperson stated that Inyo County at their Tuesday's meeting expressed impatience with DWR and were going to draft a letter. He requested that letter be forwarded to Mono County so they may prepare a similar request.

## **8. Update from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

Tony Morgan, DBS&A provided a detailed summary of the SGMA project schedule; the Communication and Engagement Plan; and the database management system. He stated the following twelve months are critical with a compressed schedule to complete the plan in a timely manner; multiple items will be reviewed/discussed at each meeting; he encouraged the Board to read the guidance documents provided to them by DBS&A previously; and reviewed the timeline. The Board asked that they be informed in advance of the topics for upcoming meetings to provide time for review. The Board and staff discussed the Mission Statement, with the conclusion that staff would complete a draft for the Board's review. Dr. Douglas Tolley of DBS&A was introduced as staff that will be assisting with OVGA's GSP. Tony Morgan stated in the regulations it is stated that the GSP must have a database management system. He provided an example on the DWR website, water data library. The Board and staff discussed this in detail. Lynn Bolton suggested another layer such as a contour map. Sally Manning stated with regard to the Mission Statement, are we balancing the needs of our region vs the needs of LA and stated DRECP has a helpful platform that maybe the County can look into for data management. Earl Wilson discussed the dire straits of IWVGM; a workshop in Ridgecrest; and their website IRWVGA.org posting public comment. Holly Alpert stated the IRWM is developing a similar database.

The Chairperson called a break at 3:17 pm and reconvened the meeting at 3:25 pm.

## **9. Presentation by TEAM Engineering on Owens Valley Hydrogeology**

Per the Boards request at a previous meeting, a hydrology presentation was given by Dr. Harrington of Team Engineering on the Owens Valley hydrogeology, a subcontractor of DBS&A. Dr. Harrington provided an in-depth Power Point presentation of basic hydrology and how groundwater basins work. The discussion covered the use of groundwater without causing an undesirable result; predictions; avoidance and mitigation; hydrogeologic systems; aquifers; aquitards ; groundwater levels; alluvial fans; groundwater flow paths; pumping; drawdown; groundwater capture, cones of depression; recharge, and water budgets. The Board and staff discussed this in detail. Sally Manning inquired if the USGS figure is what the basin would be without LADWP or is it a starting point for the presentation. Tony Morgan stated these are simulated water levels from a groundwater model in 1984. Sally Manning stated there is no extra water between the pumping and discharge. Daniel Cutshall stated he did not see anything in the presentation regarding the surface water that would have normally gone to recharge and stated that needs to be shown. Dr. Harrington stated water budget is something reviewed at a certain point in time; this one is for recent decades and the water budget predates the diversion. Philip Anaya stated a goal is avoiding the issue such as in 2013/14 in west Bishop when several wells went dry with the drought, and groundwater levels being reduced in domestic wells. Aaron Steinwand stated the items included in this presentation, conceptual model, water balance, aquifer system, are all also components of the GSP.

## **10. Discussion regarding future agenda items**

The Board requested a thank you letter to Dave Grah & Jason Canger for their service to the OVGA, a draft Mission Statement from staff, and an item (to be determined) from Tony Morgan of DBS&A. Philip Anaya stated he believes the Associate & Interested parties should be on the agenda as an action item. Board members reiterated their direction to staff during previous meetings to consider that item when the composition of the Board has been settled. Earl Wilson stated he would encourage the Ad Hoc

committee.

**12. Set next meeting**

The next OVGA meeting was scheduled for December 12, 2019 in the Bishop City Council Chambers.

**13. Adjourn**

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:39 pm.