

# 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 2:03 p.m. at the Bishop City Council Chambers, Bishop, CA.

The Chairperson asked for a moment of silence in memory of the recent passing of Earl Wilson.

### **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 new Board Member representing Wheeler Crest, Charlie Tucker, and two absences, Tri Valley GWMD and Big Pine CSD.

### **4. Approval of minutes from the November 14, 2019 OVGA Board meeting**

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2019 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by Chris Costello, seconded by Dan Totheroh. Motion passed unanimously 7 yes (26.54), 1 abstention (3.82 votes), 2 absences (7.64 votes).

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

Charlie Tucker (Wheeler Crest CSD) announced Glenn Inouye had retired and moved to Reno and stated his alternate would be Brian Cashore. Fred Stump thanked Inyo County for the copy of their letter to DWR. Chris Costello stated his staff member Deston Dishion was not available this week; City Administrator interviews were held; and City of Bishop should have a new administrator by years end. Dan Totheroh stated one of the links provided stated basins must achieve sustainability by 2040 and low priority basins by 2042. He stated he is thankful the Board has decided to move forward with the plan. Fred Stump stated Mono County staff in attendance is Michael Draper.

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

- a. Financial Report
- b. Report on Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority activities

Laura Piper, Inyo County Water Department, stated the incorrect financial reports were included in the packets; updated financial reports would be emailed; all Board contributions were received; and approximate cash balance is \$250,000. John Vallejo stated the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority was holding a public workshop this evening in Ridgecrest to get public input on their draft GSP; public comments will be considered and possibly included as revisions in the GSP; they are up against their deadline; they are short on cash flow; and they have a serious water deficit that they are trying to address which would cap the availability for

many users which would possibly invite lawsuits. He stated a lawsuit had already been filed against the Indian Wells Valley Water District which is a member of the GSA and some other water users by large agriculture users; and Inyo's possible concerns are the intention to import water from the Owens Valley which is one of the two options they are seriously pursuing. Michael Draper stated Mono County's IT Department would have the ability and be interested in maintaining the water management data base for the OVGA. Rick Kettleman, stated the IRWMG group is also developing a regional water management data base tool that will be available within a few weeks.

#### **7. Consideration of letters to Dave Grah and Jason Canger recognizing their service to the OVGA**

The Chairman stated he would like to see a similar letter come forward next meeting for Glenn Inouye. Dr. Aaron Steinwand stated last meeting that the OVGA Board requested staff prepare letters of appreciation to consider for approval at this meeting; drafts are included in today's meeting packet. Motion to approve the letters as submitted by Dan Tothoroh, seconded by Ron Stone. 8 yes (30.36) 2 absent (7.64 votes)

#### **8. Discussion and direction to staff regarding amending the Executive Manager contract to provide hydrologic services**

Dr. Aaron Steinwand stated the staff report included in the packet is self-explanatory, the OVGA attempted to contract with Dr. Harrington, he declined. He stated staff would like to modify the Executive Manager contract to add up to one day and one meeting a month for hydrologist Keith Rainville, Inyo's staff hydrologist that has performed work for the OVGA previously and would work with GSP consultant, DBS&A. He stated this proposal would increase the annual contract limit by approximately \$10,000. He stated if directed by the Board, a revised contract will be presented next meeting. Keith Rainville gave a brief summary of his involvement with the OVGA over the past few years. Motion to approve the contract modification for Keith Rainville by John Camphouse, seconded by Luis Elias. 8 yes (30.36 votes) 2 absent (7.64 votes).

#### **9. Update from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan status and schedule for future Board topics**

Tony Morgan of DBS&A presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the proposed technical topics for future monthly Board discussions; suggested reading materials (guidance documents); and the GSP key components. Luis Elias stated he was thankful that LADWP was responsive to the requests for information to assist with the data compilation. Sally Manning stated this looks basin wide and she doesn't see the CSD's on the list. Tony Morgan stated the CSD's have been queried as to what data they may have available, some information has been received, and some area's may not have that information. He stated he would be discussing data gaps next month. Tony Morgan discussed the Ad Hoc Committee; starting the Stakeholder Engagement Program; and internet links for guidance materials. He stated once completed, DWR has two years to review the GSP with updates due in five years.

#### **10. Update on the Stakeholder Engagement Plan from Daniel B. Stephens and the Consensus and Collaboration Program**

Dave Ceppos provided a presentation via teleconference on the Communications and Engagement Plan process. He stated this would provide a clear path for the public to get an understanding of what this agency is going to do and the exercises the committee will go through to develop guiding principles. He stated the local decision making under SGMA is guided by two bodies of information; technical data and social science data from stakeholders. He stated if bylaws don't describe decision making process, they will work with the OVGA to advise or make possible modifications if necessary; and the C & E plan and process will provide the Board with the tools to follow the SGMA regulations. The Board and staff discussed this in detail. Philip Anaya stated he would like to see the inclusion of an environmental and tribal representative (Associate & Interested Parties) on the OVGA Board and stated there are great opportunity at all OVGA meetings for public input. Sally Manning stated speaking as a representative of the Big Pine Tribe, the tribes care about what type of outreach and engagement is conducted. She stated the tribes would prefer more personal contact instead of public notices or emails; this group better consider that the tribes are sovereign entities in the valley; they require different handling then other stakeholders; and the tribes are watching this process. Dave Ceppos stated there is specific guidance from DWR related uniquely to SGMA regarding tribal engagement; CCP has a tribal liaison; a tribal team; and a collaboration program. Sally Manning stated it is comforting that the public will be engaged in working on the mission statement and guiding principles. Rick Kettleman stated after the group gets beyond the guiding principles step, he requested the Board take advantage of the IRWMG as a resource, and stated they have contacts with all concerned over water in the region.

The Chairperson called a break at 3:36 pm and reconvened the meeting at 3:46 pm.

#### **11. Review of draft Mission Statement for the OVGA**

Dr. Aaron Steinwand stated staff collaboratively worked on the draft mission statement and prepared versions based on either low or medium priority basin status. He stated based on input from the Board, a final draft will be brought back to the meeting in January. The Board and staff discussed this in detail with changes to item 4, 5, & 6 and agriculture being called out in both mission statements. Sally Manning stated one important statement that should be included in the strategies is to gather and share data and information about the waters of the Owens Valley Groundwater basin and make sure the data is accurate. The Board and staff

concurrent on incorporating her suggestion into item 4 of the strategies.

**12. Discussion regarding future agenda items**

The Board requested preparation of a letter to Glenn Inouye thanking him for his service to the OVGA Board; topics of discussion from our consultant; and a draft thank you letter to LADWP for when we obtain the groundwater model files; a revised mission statement; contract amendment for services provided by Inyo's staff hydrologist, and information regarding final basin priority status. Philip Anaya requested the inclusion of Associate and Interested Parties.

**13. Set next meeting**

The next OVGA meeting was scheduled for January 9, 2020 in the Bishop City Council Chambers.

**14. Adjourn**

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:07 pm.