

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		

January 9, 2020

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. at the Bishop City Council Chambers, 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 one absence, Tri Valley GWMD.

4. Approval of minutes from the December 12, 2019 OVGA Board meeting

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2019 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted by John Camphouse, seconded by Luis Elias. Motion passed 7 yes (30.36), 1 abstention (3.82 votes), 1 absent (3.82 votes).

5. Board Member Reports

Bryanna Vaughan reported that the Big Pine CSD was awarded their project DAC grant, with the IRWMP to tie-in with the Big Pine Paiute Tribes water system. She thanked the OVGA for the letter of support.

6. OVGA staff reports

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

Laura Piper, Inyo County Water Department, provided the financial report and stated the OVGA cash balance is \$240,481.82. She stated transactions since the previous meeting were copy charges of \$144.34, and Mono County's staff billing of \$8,959.00 for the period of April 2019 through September 2019. John Vallejo stated IWVGA will be conducting a public hearing on the draft GSP recommended for adoption next Thursday in Ridgecrest; the draft plan includes two import options; one obtaining water via the aqueduct through an agreement with LADWP; Inyo County Board of Supervisors will hear a presentation regarding the IWVGA proposed GSP; and Inyo County is opposed to a GSP that includes an LADWP project. The Chairman requested that a copy of the presentation for that agenda item be forwarded to Mono County clerk to be included as correspondence. He stated Mono County will be interested in Inyo County's discussion and their direction. Rick Kettleman asked what time the Inyo Board's presentation will be; John stated it will be scheduled as a timed item on the agenda. Sally Manning asked if Mono County is going to take a position on this; the Chairman stated he doesn't know the answer to that question. He stated this is new information for them; it has not been discussed; and his impression of his colleagues views would be that they would be opposed to any plan that would import water into the IWV from points north.

7. Consideration of letter to Glenn Inouye recognizing his service to the OVGA

Mr. Tucker stated Glenn Inouye's service to the district has been invaluable and it is a great loss to the district that he's moving on. The Chairman stated after the Round Fire when power was lost to the district, Glenn worked tirelessly to get that system back up and running so that fire hydrants could work in that community. The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the letter to Glenn Inouye. Motion to approve the letter as submitted by Ron Stone, seconded by Dan Tothoroh, motion passed 8 yes (34.18) 1 absent (3.82 votes)

8. 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

Dr. Steinwand stated in December the basin was prioritized low, at that time, all members were requested to provide letters requesting termination if they so desired; one request was received from Wheeler Crest. He stated not all member agencies were able to meet during the holidays and may come forward at a future meeting; and this requires a majority vote of the Board. The Board and staff discussed item 8 a-c in detail. John Vallejo stated the JPA is clear that no member will be required to contribute additional funding but will have the opportunity to make up any shortfall on an equal basis. Motion to terminate the OVGA membership of Wheeler Crest CSD by John Camphouse, seconded by Luis Elias. Motion passed 7 yes (34.18 votes) 1 absent (3.82 votes).

9. Approval of amendment to the Executive Manager contract to provide hydrologic services

Dr. Steinwand provided a brief overview of the hydrologic services that would be necessary which would increase the contract by approximately \$9,000; the Inyo County Board discussed these services by staff at their Board meeting on January 7, 2020; and there would be no overlap of services provided by Dr. Harrington or Keith Rainville. Motion to approve the amendment to the Executive Manager contract for the additional services by BryAnna Vaughan, seconded by John Camphouse, Motion passed 7 yes (30.36) 1 absent (3.82).

10. Update on the Communications and Engagement Plan

Dr. Steinwand stated there is an update from the consultant facilitating the communications and engagement plan and the Ad Hoc committee in the agenda package. He stated due to the holidays, the ad hoc committee has not met yet, but will meet next week to begin considering recommendations to the Board for guiding principles on its communications and engagement plan.

The Chairperson called a break at 2:43 pm and reconvened the meeting at 2:54 pm.

11. Presentation from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates on elements of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Tony Morgan of DBS&A provided a brief overview of the upcoming presentation with regard to the progress of the GSP; a calendar of upcoming topics of discussion; hydrogeologic conceptual models; water budgets; data gaps; and how to fill those gaps over time. Gus Tolley provided a detailed presentation of the above mentioned topics. He stated the presentation is a crash course for the Board in hydrology so they may have a basic level of understanding of the topics being discussed. The Board, consultants, and staff discussed these items in detail. Sally Manning asked if those wells listed are holes in the ground or pumping wells; Gus stated pumping, monitoring, domestic, and t-wells. Rick Kettleman inquired if the OVGA jurisdictional boundary given by DWR was GPS'd and any idea what the spatial uncertainty is with respect to hydrogeology. Gus Tolley stated the boundary is a combination of tribal and LADWP lands, and the LADWP adjudicated areas came directly from the state. He stated given the number of boundaries DWR had to draw, there is no possibility someone walked around every basin with a GPS. He stated it is most likely a combination of geologic mapping and GIS methods.

12. Consideration of a Mission Statement for the OVGA

Dr. Steinwand stated at the previous meeting a draft mission statement was provided; changes were made according to the Boards requests; and the final version is presented for the Boards consideration. Sally Manning stated item #6 is written "federally recognized tribes" and stated the SGMA with regard to AB52 states "tribes" and not restrictive to federally recognized. The Board and staff agreed to revise the Mission Statement to say "Federal and State" recognized tribes. John Camphouse made a motion to adopt the Mission Statement as amended, seconded by Ron Stone, Motion passed 7 yes (30.36) 1 absent (3.82).

13. Discussion regarding future agenda items

The Board requested the following agenda items; reconsideration of Board members that would like to terminate membership with

the OVGA Board; financial consequences; and refunds.

14. Set next meeting

The next OVGA meeting was scheduled for February 13, 2020 in the Bishop City Council Chambers.

15. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:12 pm.