

# 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		

February 13, 2020

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. at the Bishop City Council Chambers, Bishop, CA.

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

The Chairman led the pledge of allegiance.

The Chairman stated he would be moving item 11 prior to item 8 to accommodate a request from the City of Bishop.

### **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 alternates in attendance, Carol Ann Mitchell - Tri Valley GWMD and Dave Allen - Big Pine CSD.

### **4. Approval of minutes from the January 9, 2020 OVGGA Board meeting**

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2020 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Ron Stone, seconded by Dan Totheroh. Motion passed, 8 yes (34.18 votes).

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

The Chairperson suspended this item.

### **6. OVGGA 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 transactions since the previous meeting were consultant charges in the amount of \$48,631.61 and Inyo legal staff services of \$4,500.00. She stated the OVGGA cash balance is \$187,350.21. John Vallejo stated the IWVGMD adopted their GSP on a 4/1 vote on 1/16/20; they are making corrections to the substance of the GSP; the GSP was submitted to the state on 1/31/20; once posted to the state website there will be opportunity for public comment; Inyo County intends to submit comments. Philip Anaya inquired if John Vallejo could expound on the components of imported water from the Owens Basin if it is included in their GSP. John Vallejo stated the IWV uses approximately four times more than it receives in natural recharge; no surface water sources in substantial amounts; and their goal is to import approximately 5,000 af. He stated they have two options available to them; an approximate \$170 million dollar project with AVEC, a water distribution agency in Kern County or an approximate \$50 million dollar project with LADWP; both projects don't include the cost of water or ongoing maintenance. He stated IWVGMD received comments from the Mono County Planning Dept., the Lone Pine Tribe, and the Friends of the Inyo regarding their opposition to the LADWP project.

## **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**

The Chairperson stated two requests to terminate membership in the OVGA have been received, Tri-Valley GWMD, and Sierra Highlands CSD. Carol Ann Mitchell stated her Board voted unanimously to withdraw from the OVGA which the Board felt was the best decision for their constituents and residents of the Tri-Valley area. The motion was made subject to the provisions of the JPA allowing the removal of the Tri Valley GWMD, by Chris Costello, seconded by Carol Ann Mitchell, motion passed 8 yes (34.18 votes). John Camphouse stated his letter (Sierra Highlands) was self-explanatory; his Board considered the priority of the basin and felt it was in their best interest to withdraw. Dan Tothoroh thanked John Camphouse for his participation on the OVGA Board and assistance with the draft Guiding Principles. Motion made subject to the provisions of the JPA allowing the removal of the Sierra Highlands CSD, by Luis Elias, seconded by Ron Stone. Motion passed , 7 yes (30.36 votes).

Aaron Steinwand stated there are two agreements provided to release Wheeler Crest and Tri-Valley GMD from the three year funding agreement. He stated each agency would be reimbursed approximately \$9,439.16, a prorated portion of their annual contribution, and would be effective 2/1/20. The Board suspended any decision until after discussion of item 11. The Board moved to item 11. The Chairperson made a motion on behalf of Wheeler Crest to terminate their funding agreement with the OVGA, seconded by Luis Elias. Motion passed 6 yes (30.36 votes) Motion by Chris Costello to terminate Tri-Valley GMD funding agreement , seconded by Dan Tothoroh, motion passed 6 yes (30.36 votes).

## **8. Owens Lake update and direction to staff**

Aaron Steinwand stated LADWP and their consultants proposed a six month pump test on Owens Lake; LADWP filed a notice of exemption from CEQA for the test; Owens Lake working group meeting is scheduled for 3/5/20; and requested that Tony Morgan of DBS&A attend the Owens Lake working group meetings. The Board and staff discussed the considerations and concerns in detail. Saeed Jorat, LADWP provided a very informative background on evaporation and groundwater usage on Owens Lake ; an overview of the geology surrounding Owens Lake; and the challenges with the zone of faults. He stated [www.ladwp.com/OLG](http://www.ladwp.com/OLG) has the proposed test draft.

Chris Costello left the meeting at 3:05pm.

Phil Kiddoo, GBAPCD, wanted to clarify some of the questions regarding the salinity of the water put on Owens Lake during the test. He stated the test will coincide with the dust control period; there are no requirements from GBAPCD on what the salinity or freshness of that water is; as long as LADWP meets the wetness requirements they will be in compliance. He stated the salinity has always been a concern, and the area meets the wetness requirements for dust control. Philip Anaya stated protecting CEQA is a concern. He stated two categorical exceptions were filed by LADWP. The Board concurred that Tony Morgan, DBS&A attend the Owens Lake working group meetings.

The Chairperson called a break at 3:21 pm and reconvened the meeting at 3:34 pm.

## **9. Update on the Communications and Engagement Plan and discussion of draft Guiding Principles**

The Chairperson thanked John Camphouse for his contribution to the draft Guiding Principles. Aaron Steinwand stated the Ad Hoc Committee has completed the draft Guiding Principles and introduced Meagan Wylie, the consultant, via teleconference. She stated the Committee had three meetings to develop this draft. She provided an overview of the document and the collaboration within the group. The Board requested this item be brought back to the March meeting for approval. Ms Wylie, provided the process followed for completing the Communication and Engagement Plan and the outreach to the IRWMP. Holly Alpert stated she will be meeting with Meagan Wylie and Aaron Steinwand.

## **10. Presentation from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates on elements of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

Tony Morgan provided an introduction to the presentation and the upcoming topics of discussion with an emphasis on sustainable management criteria. Gus Tolley provided the presentation and update on the Owens Valley GSP. He reviewed the water budgets; how they are calculated; and the components involved. Philip Anaya asked if there is an outflow due to the export of alfalfa, Gus Tolley stated no that would be included in the evapotranspiration estimates. Tony Morgan presented and discussed the Distributed Parameter Watershed Model (DPWM) that DBS&A is working on; the model components; how it will predict the amount of infiltration that will occur into the subsurface; the primary focus is the Tri-Valley and Fish Slough area due to lack of other data; the steps to develop different types of models; the data comes from USDA and published land use maps; and weather station information. Lyn Boulton inquired if the watershed for Tri-Valley stops at the Nevada/California border. Tony Morgan stated this

model is cut off at the boundary definition approved by DWR which stops at the state line. She asked if they were not counting all the amounts coming in; Gus Tolley explained it was a very small fraction of the overall water budget in that portion of the valley; she inquired if there are any snow surveys in the White Mountain Range and if not how is the precipitation analyzed; will the consultants be going in the field to obtain measurements. Tony stated there are no measurements in that area so the model is extrapolating using existing data. Ian Bell asked if the consultants could elaborate more on the evapotranspiration. Jason Canger asked what the water level elevation declines are; Tony stated multiple feet. Richard Shore, Team Engineering stated in another high priority basins' sustainability plan it was approximately 400 feet in a 50 year decline. Philip Anaya asked how the models will balance the adjudicated area with the outside adjudicated area. Tony Morgan stated they will be able to once the data is received from LADWP.

#### **11. Discussion of financial implications of adjustments to OVGA Board membership**

Aaron Steinwand stated article 4 of the JPA spells out the member funding and voting procedures and how they are determined; the GSP Development budget should be revisited; and the JPA allows if there is a funding shortfall to have a GSP Developmental Budget meeting which staff is proposing in March. John Vallejo stated the JPA allows each member an equal opportunity to contribute funds to this agency and have equal vote share. Chris Costello asked how much of the grant is to cover grant administration; Dr. Steinwand stated approximately \$45,000. The Board and staff discussed this item in detail

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

The Board and staff stated the upcoming agenda items will be; discussion of financial implications of adjustments to OVGA Board membership; draft OVGA budget, presentation by consultants, Owens Lake update, draft Guiding Principles, Interested Parties, and an RFP for OVGA website development.

#### **14. Set next meeting**

The next OVGA meeting was scheduled for March 12, 2020 in the Bishop City Council Chambers.

#### **15. Adjourn**

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:49 pm.