

# MINUTES

# Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

## Board Members:

<b>EASTERN SIERRA CSD</b>	Ron Stone	<b>COUNTY OF INYO</b>	Dan Totheroh
<b>INDIAN CREEK-WESTRIDGE CSD</b>	Luis Elias	<b>BIG PINE CSD</b>	BryAnna Vaughan
<b>COUNTY OF MONO</b>	Fred Stump	<b>LONE PINE PAIUTE TRIBE</b>	Mel Joseph
<b>CITY OF BISHOP</b>	Chris Costello		

May 14, 2020

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. via videoconference.

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

The Chairman led the pledge of allegiance.

### **2. Public Comment**

Philip Anaya submitted via email public comment regarding the Bishop Creek Chandler flows and the possible upcoming issues and requested Inyo County discuss LTWA plan of the GSP boundaries with LADWP and to include the OVGA Director and GSP consultant.

### **3. Introductions**

The Board introduced themselves with all Board members present.

### **4. Approval of minutes from the March 12, 2020 OVGA Board meeting**

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2020 meeting. BryAnna Vaughan requested a correction to her name in item 8. Motion to approve the minutes as amended by Dan Totheroh, seconded by Luis Elias. The Board requested a roll call vote; Ron Stone – Y, Luis Elias – Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Dan Totheroh – Y, Chris Costello – Y, Fred Stump – Y. Motion passed, 6 Yes.

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

The Chairperson opened the Board member reports and there were none at this time.

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

- a. Report on Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority activities
- b. Financial Report
- c. Request for Proposals for OVGA website

John Vallejo stated IWVGMD continued to seek movement on the project to import water; are hoping to acquire funding from the Navy; to acquire the water from LADWP; with a secondary option of down south. Laura Piper, Inyo County Water Department, provided the financial report and stated the OVGA cash balance is \$294,732.99, the final grant reimbursement funds transfer is \$215,288.81, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter interest posted is \$4,673.02; reimbursement to Mono County \$9,439.16; copy charges \$181.49; consultant costs \$106,106.45, and staff services charges \$18,870.84. Dr. Steinwand stated a draft RFP has been completed to create an OVGA website; DBS&A have expressed interest in preparing the website; and the budgeted \$11,700 for the website is within the purchasing authority of the Executive Manager. The Board supported the direction of the Executive Manager. He inquired if the Board would like to include the development of a logo for the OVGA; the Board supported the idea and BryAnna Vaughan volunteered to reach out for submissions of a logo.

### **7. Consideration of final 2020-2021 OVGA budget**

Dr. Steinwand stated the draft budget was sent via email to the Board as well as posted on the Water Department website. He reviewed the budget with the Board, stated the Prop 1 grant would cover the consultant costs, and there should be no cash flow issues. Motion to adopt the 2020-21 OVGAs budget as presented by Luis Elias, seconded by Dan Tothoroh. The Board requested a roll call vote; Ron Stone – abstention, Luis Elias – Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Dan Tothoroh – Y, Chris Costello – Y, Fred Stump – Y. Motion passed 5 Yes, 1 abstention.

**8. Consideration and possible approval of agreements for Interested Party status for the Owens Valley Committee and the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation (Article V Sections 1.2 and 1.3 of the OVGAs JPA).**

The Chairman stated the Owens Valley Committee member is ill and unable to attend today's meeting. Mel Joseph stated the agreement with the Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe is acceptable and appreciates the opportunity to participate as a Board member. Motion to approve the agreement between the OVGAs and the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation to become a member of the Board by Luis Elias, seconded by BryAnna Vaughan. The Board requested a roll call vote; Ron Stone – Y, Luis Elias – Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Dan Tothoroh – Y, Chris Costello – Y, Fred Stump – Y. Motion passed 6 Yes. Dr. Steinwand stated he was directed to notify the Board Ms. Roper stated the agreement was acceptable to the Owens Valley Committee. Motion to approve the agreement between the OVGAs and the Owens Valley Committee to become a member of the Board by roll call vote; Ron Stone – Y, Luis Elias – Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Dan Tothoroh – Y, Chris Costello – Y, Fred Stump – Y, Mel Joseph - Y. Motion passed 7 Yes.

**9. Consideration and possible approval of Associate status for Meadowcreek Mutual Water Co.**

Dr. Steinwand stated he spoke with Mr. Toy and he provided a letter he wished read into the record. The letter stated before MMWC could decide to participate on the OVGAs Board, the specific requirements & benefits for participation need to be presented; their position is for equitable treatment (pursuant to Water Code Sec 7, section 10723.6(b) and the OVGAs JPS, Art IV, Sec 1.1.3 and Sec 2.1.2, to participate as a "non-funding" seat with two votes; and requested a roll call vote. Dr. Steinwand reviewed the Board's choices from the previous meeting regarding funding for MMWC. Motion to offer MMWC an agreement based on the annual cost of ½ of the original \$22,654 contribution for a full funding member which is \$11,327, 2 votes and prorated for this fiscal year by Dan Tothoroh, seconded by BryAnna Vaughan. Roll call vote; Ron Stone – Y, Luis Elias – Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Dan Tothoroh – Y, Chris Costello – N, Fred Stump – Y, Mel Joseph – abstention Motion passed 5 Yes, 1 No, 1 abstention.

The Chairperson called a break at 3:16 pm and reconvened the meeting at 3:25 pm.

**10. Presentation of draft Communications and Engagement Plan**

Megan Wylie shared a PowerPoint presentation on the draft Communication and Engagement Plan and provided a brief overview of the objectives, goals, and outreach strategies. She stated any level of engagement requires significant time and resources such as developing a website, social media, best practices; meetings; public workshops; planning process; and management areas. She stated the document is comprehensive and will be updated as the collaborative process continues. She thanked the Ad Hoc Committee/Board/staff and consultants for their work, assistance, and input. Dr. Steinwand stated the Guiding Principles and Communications and Engagement Plan will come back to the Board this summer for final approval and stated formal consultation was intended with the Tribes.

Sally Manning provided comment via email and stated in Appendix IV relative to communicating with tribes, the OVGAs Board staff should meet with Tribal representatives and leaders.

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

Tony Morgan provided a detailed overview and shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding progress on the Owens Valley GSP; the various elements; background materials for the Board; watershed models; and the data base management system. He stated the groundwater model files have not been received from LADWP at this time so the groundwater model review will be at a future meeting. The Board and the consultant discussed the option of deadline extensions due to the COVID; the deadlines for the administrative draft of the GSP; and the tasks that need to be completed prior. He reviewed the sustainable management criteria and the collaboration that needs to be achieved. Gus Tolley discussed the data base management system with the Board; stated the data is being provided from multiple sources and quite substantial; well data, water level and water quality data, and pumping observations, and provided the stats of all the data thus far, etc. He provided a demonstration preview of the database, its many features, and how to maneuver and search within the database.

Philip Anaya asked the consultant if there has been any work or development of the GSP with regard specifically to Bishop Creek and its management for surface flow recharge of the local aquifers; and any work/development to report regarding the management, management agreements with regard to the adjudicated/non adjudicated boundary and if not, what do you need from local entities to support a sustainable management plan for the boundary management. Tony Morgan stated there is a draft technical memo scheduled to come to the next meeting, named west Bishop hydrology. He stated they have received most information needed for the boundary management.

## **12. OVGA meetings required in 2020-2021 for GSP preparation**

Dr. Steinwand stated the Board discussed and requested fewer meetings, he reviewed deadlines with the consultant, and stated bi-monthly meetings would be sufficient at this time. The Board stated if something urgent arose, they could call a special meeting if necessary.

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

The Board and staff stated the upcoming agenda items; election of Chair and Vice Chair ; reconsideration of Meadowcreek Mutual Water Company; update on Communication and Engagement Plan; update on guiding principles; consultant updates, and consideration of logo's.

## **14. Set next meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for July 9, 2020 via videoconference.

## **15. Adjourn**

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5:24 pm.