

MINUTES

Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

Board Members:

INDIAN CREEK-WESTRIDGE CSD	Luis Elias	BIG PINE CSD	BryAnna Vaughan
COUNTY OF MONO	Fred Stump	LONE PINE PAIUTE SHOSHONE TRIBE	Mel Joseph
CITY OF BISHOP	Chris Costello	OWENS VALLEY COMMITTEE	Mary Roper
COUNTY OF INYO	Dan Tothoroh		

July 9, 2020

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:28 p.m. via videoconference.

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 alternate in attendance, Nancy Masters, Owens Valley Committee.

4. Election of OVGA Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

The Board discussed various time options for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. It was decided to continue with the current Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson through the end of the year. Motion by Dan Tothoroh to extend the current Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson's terms through December 2020, seconded by Luis Elias. The Board requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Dan Tothoroh – Y, Chris Costello – Y, Fred Stump – Y, Mel Joseph – Y, Nancy Masters – Y. Motion passed, 7 yes.

5. Approval of minutes from the May 14, 2020 OVGA Board meeting

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2020 meeting. Mel Joseph requested a correction to item 10. Motion to approve the minutes as amended by Dan Tothoroh, seconded by Luis Elias. The Board requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Dan Tothoroh – Y, Chris Costello – Y, Fred Stump – Y, Mel Joseph – Y, Nancy Masters - abstention . Motion passed 6 Yes, 1 abstention.

6. Board Member Reports

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

7. 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 is in discussion with the Department of Defense and members of Congress that have budget influence; some Board members are pushing for the LADWP option; Inyo County is in discussion with the IWV Board and the Navy regarding the legal, political, and economical hurdles to choose the LADWP option; Inyo states the better policy option would be obtaining water from the south. Dr. Steinwand, Inyo County Water Department, provided the financial report and stated the OVGA cash balance is \$265,439.39; transactions are consultant costs of \$25,143.60 and Mono County staff services of \$4,160. Dr. Steinwand stated the annual invoices will be sent to the funding members this month; an RFP for the OVGA website was posted to

the Mono County website last month; proposals are due July 17; a consultant will be selected; and an update will be provided to the Board at the September meeting.

8. Consideration of request from Eastern Sierra Community District to terminate OVGA membership

The Chairman stated a letter requesting withdrawal from the OVGA Board has been received from ESCSD; John Vallejo stated that could be accomplished with a majority vote from the Board; Dr. Steinwand stated they are a non-funding member. Motion to terminate ESCSD's participation in the OVGA by Chris Costello, seconded by Luis Elias. The Chairman requested that staff draft a thank you letter to ESCSD for their contribution to the OVGA. The Board requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Dan Tothoroth – Y, Chris Costello – Y, Fred Stump – Y, Mel Joseph – Y, Nancy Masters - Y. Motion passed 7 Yes.

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

Dr. Steinwand stated at the May meeting it was decided that the Meadowcreek Mutual Water Co. provide \$11,327 as a condition for their membership as an Associate member on the OVGA Board; the agreement was provided to Meadowcreek in May; a reminder was sent in June that this item would be on July's meeting agenda; and there has been no response. The recommendation by staff was to table the item until such time a response is received from Meadowcreek Mutual Water Co; the Board concurred.

10. Approval of Communications and Engagement Plan Guiding Principles

Dr. Steinwand stated the Communications and Engagement Plan Guiding Principles was presented and discussed with the Board at the February meeting and is before the Board today for approval. Motion by Dan Tothoroh, seconded by Luis Elias to approve the Communications and Engagement Plan Guiding Principles as presented. Roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Dan Tothoroth – Y, Chris Costello – N, Fred Stump – Y, Mel Joseph – Y, Nancy Masters - Y Motion passed 7 Yes.

11. Consideration and possible approval of draft Communications and Engagement Plan

Meagan Wylie stated the communications plan was presented last month and there were no substantial changes requested; the document is for guidance and not prescriptive. The Chairman asked Ms. Wylie if she could update the Board on various methods of engagement. The Board and Ms. Wylie discussed this in detail to include areas without internet access; those without a computer or internet capabilities; and management areas. The Chairperson requested the document come back to the next meeting to allow more time for review.

The Chairperson called a break at 3:30 pm and reconvened the meeting at 3:40 pm.

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

The Board and staff discussed the database management system; if the GSP would include and address the impacts from groundwater test pumping on the lake with the recent earthquakes; is State Lands involved in looking into this; and what agencies are the providers of data. Dr. Steinwand stated there will be an ability to update the database in the future when completed and transferred to the Water Department. Tony Morgan provided a brief PowerPoint presentation; he stated they have not received LADWP's model files and are currently working on a work around; have a request in with LADWP for the data; and the database may go live soon. Tony introduced Dr. Shey Rajagopal, who has now joined DBS&A and is assisting with the GSP. Philip Anaya stated he inquired about surface flows in west Bishop with regard to the Chandler Decree, regarding adjudicated /non adjudicated lands and wants to be sure the consultant is looking into this; LADWP could draw surface water across boundaries and there is nothing in the GSP to cover this? Tony Morgan stated the GSP will deal with nonadjudicated land which is its area of jurisdiction and the GSP will look at larger management areas and not small parcels. He stated GSA's have no authority over surface water, just groundwater. Sally Manning stated the data base compilation is great but still doesn't know how we will deal with the boundary issue and LADWP and doesn't know how that can be managed. Dr. Steinwand stated wells in the Owens Valley covered under the Water Agreement are exempt from SGMA. Owens Lake is not LADWP-owned land and it is unclear how it will be managed at this time. The portion of the GSP that covers Owens Lake will have to be coordinated with the State Lands Commission for implementation. Lynn Bolton asked if staff is collecting all non-adjudicated and adjudicated data from LADWP. Tony Morgan stated they are collecting all the information that is provided to Inyo County. Philip Anaya stated in 2013-14 there was an event that happened across those boundaries (adjudicated-nonadjudicated), with both a combination of drought and pumping, and he would like the GSP to address that and expects the consultant to come up with solutions in the management section to manage the non-adjudicated waters. The Chairman stated our consultant is on board to come up with a plan to manage the nonadjudicated areas, not the adjudicated. Dr. Steinwand stated the plan will not regulate LADWP pumping. Lynn Bolton stated if LADWP lowers the water in the adjudicated areas that should be reported to DWR. Philip Anaya stated a GSP should be completed as well for the adjudicated areas, making the entire basin sustainable not just the nonadjudicated area. The Board and staff discussed this in detail.

13. Discussion regarding future agenda items

The Board and staff stated the upcoming agenda items to include; update on website RFP's; reconsideration of Meadowcreek Mutual

Water Company if necessary; approval of Communication and Engagement Plan; consultant updates, and consideration of OVGA logo's.

14. Set next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for September 10, 2020 via videoconference.

15. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm.