

MINUTES

County of Inyo WATER COMMISSION

April 23, 2020

The Vice Chairperson called the Water Commission meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. via videoconference. Water Commissioners in attendance were Vice Chairperson, Teri Red Owl, Randy Keller, Nate Gratz, Mark Nechodom, and Paul Huette. Present from the Water Department were Aaron Steinwand, and Laura Piper.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Red Owl led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Comment

The Chairperson read a comment received from Sally Manning stating a two foot decline in DTW is significant; DWP is exporting water from LAWS; is DWP planning to pump the wells linked to BP1; LADWP pumping needs to be lowered; public comment should be added after the last business item at the end of the meeting; why isn't a discussion regarding the proposed revised Inyo County Groundwater Ordinance on this agenda.

3. Election of Water Commission Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

A motion was made by Randy Keller to elect Teri Red Owl as the Chairperson seconded by Nate Gratz, motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Mark Nechodom to elect Randy Keller as Vice Chairperson, seconded by Paul Huette, motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of minutes from the April 24, 2019 meeting and January 16, 2020 meeting

Motion by Randy Keller to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2019 meeting, seconded by Nate Gratz, motion passed with 2 abstentions (Huette/Nechodom). Mark Nechodom made a motion to approve the January 16, 2020 minutes as submitted, seconded by Paul Huette, 1 abstention (Keller).

5. Commissioners' reports

Commissioner Keller stated he attended the Board hearing on the first introduction of the Groundwater Ordinance and he spoke as an individual on his own behalf in favor and stated it simplifies and expands what types of transfers would be subject to approval. Commissioner Huette concurred.

6. Director's report

a. Technical Group meeting items

Dr. Steinwand provided the Board with the possible upcoming Technical Group agenda items; W385 Five Bridges data; LORP Work Plan and annual report; adoption of the test procedure for W415 in Big Pine; use for makeup water for Big Pine ditch system. He stated the main reason for the meeting was to discuss the pumping plan comments. Commissioner Red Owl read a public comment from Sally Manning asking where can she find the data from Well 385; Zoom meetings are not fair to the public; Well 415 may affect the Big Pine Reservation; and if there are adverse effects the County should object; and what is wrong with well 402. She requested consultation with the Big Pine Tribe before proceeding; and inquired about water usage in the town of Big Pine and baseline depth to water for W415. Mary Roper stated the Owens Valley Committee hasn't received data on W385.

7. Discussion of LADWP's 2020/21 Draft Annual Operations Plan

Dr. Steinwand provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the draft Annual Operations Plan. He reviewed what the plan includes; stated the Water Department is still preparing the analysis; reviewed last year's data; the runoff; depth to water levels; LADWP proposed pumping is between 75,000 - 93,000 af, he stated this is the highest proposed pumping since 1990; and provided a brief review of the process. The Board and staff discussed this in detail. The Chairperson read a comment received via email from Sally Manning which she stated DWP should be held to a more specific pumping amount; pumping needs to be lowered; DWP has pumped well 415, there is supposed to be a Technical Group agreed upon plan to pump well 415. The Commissioners stated their concern with the high proposed pumping numbers.

8. Future meeting schedule

The Chairperson requested the following items on the next agenda, Green Book vegetation management, and water table based management. The next Water Commission was proposed for the last week of August.

9. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.