

# MINUTES

# Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

## Board Members:

<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 SHOSHONE TRIBE</b>	Mel Joseph
<b>CITY OF BISHOP</b>	Chris Costello	<b>OWENS VALLEY COMMITTEE</b>	Mary Roper
<b>COUNTY OF INYO</b>	Dan Totheroh		

September 10, 2020

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. via videoconference.

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

The Chairman led the pledge of allegiance.

### **2. Public Comment**

Philip Anaya stated he made comments in the minutes that he doesn't want changed but wishes to provide clarification. The Board Chair requested that he hold those comments until Item 4. He said a GSP should be completed for the entire area to make it sustainable not just the non-adjudicated portions of the basin.

### **3. Introductions**

The Board introduced themselves with no alternates in attendance.

### **4. Approval of minutes from the July 9, 2020 OVGA Board meeting**

Philip Anaya reiterated his request not to amend the minutes but to provide clarification to item 12. He stated a GSP should be completed for the entire area to make it sustainable not just the non-adjudicated portions of the basin. He said he is aware that the OVGA can't produce a GSP for the adjudicated area however; maybe Inyo County Water Department could approach LADWP and the MOU parties to participate in a voluntary GSP for the adjudicated portion of the basin that could be merged with the non-adjudicated to help with management of the boundary. Philip asked if the Inyo County Board could direct the Inyo County Water Department to approach the above. The Chairman stated they would include this on the next agenda.

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2020 meeting. Mel Joseph requested a correction to the Board members/entity headings. Motion to approve the minutes as amended by Dan Totheroh, seconded by Chris Costello. The Board requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Dan Totheroh – Y, Chris Costello – Y, Fred Stump – Y, Mel Joseph – Y, Mary Roper - abstention . Motion passed 6 Yes, 1 abstention.

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

The Chairperson stated Mono County hopes that everyone is moving through the COVID situation staying well and healthy.

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

- a. Financial Report
- b. Voting share update
- c. OVGA logo Zoom poll
- d. Website RFP status

Laura Piper, Inyo County Water Department provided the financial report and stated the OVGA cash balance is \$468,010.91, total revenues are \$250,566.88 and total expenditures \$47,985.36. The Chairperson asked if all the staff contributions had been received, Ms. Piper stated yes. Chris Costello asked why the interest and grant revenue reflected zero on the report. Ms. Piper stated none have been received so far in this fiscal year. Dr. Steinwand reviewed the voting share updated based on the current Board

composition; Inyo/Mono County 5.03 votes each, Indian Creek/Westridge and Big Pine CSD 2.91 votes each, City of Bishop 4.12, Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe 1 vote, and Owens Valley Committee 1 vote. Dr. Steinwand stated a zoom poll will be online during the meeting, panelists as well as the public may vote, and a final logo will be selected by the Board at the end of the meeting. Michael Draper, Mono County, provided a brief overview of the OVGA website RFP process, the scoring, and reported Mountain Studio was recommended. Julie Faber, Mountain Studio thanked the Board, gave a brief history of her work experience; what she could bring to the OVGA website; and that she was grateful for the opportunity. Sally Manning inquired if there was a conflict of interest with this person because of the relationship with the Inyo County Water Department employee. John Vallejo stated anyone directly connected to Julie Faber was kept out of the process to avoid any potential conflict, so the answer is no.

#### **7. Action item: Approval of draft Communications and Engagement Plan**

Dr. Steinwand stated this item is carried over from the previous meeting; the plan is the same as presented last meeting; and staff has brought it forward to approve the plan today. Luis Elias stated on page 4, governance and decision making ESCSD is no longer part of the Board and should be updated; the next paragraph down is very specific about when the Board meets and he believes flexibility should be there; page 6 CSD's, Indian Creek/Westridge was left out of this, page 10 item 10 presentation of key messages – "The OVGA is committed to responsible water management but cannot regulate LADWP activities or surface water rights, he would like to add wording that would convey that "the OVGA would work in coordination with LADWP to manage the entire basin". The Board and staff discussed this item in detail. John Vallejo stated water code should be added such as "we are only authorized to regulate specific areas specified in water code section, etc. and in spite of these limitations, the OVGA seeks to coordinate with LADWP outside of its jurisdiction to ensure sustainable management of the basin". Dr. Steinwand stated they would change the language per John Vallejo and Stacey Simon and bring it back to the next meeting. BryAnna Vaughan stated the title of the document needed correction; Dr. Steinwand stated it would be corrected to Owens Valley Basin. Mel Joseph stated in the basin overview section, it should be mentioned that the designation could be changed in the future; under basin governance, currently OVGA has offered interested party seats which has already been accomplished; in the stakeholders chart, he inquired why are the Cabazon Indians included; under the essential communication strategy he requested to include a link to the interactive groundwater map; under 3 E, make sure the social media interface doesn't have more information than the website; under 4b add at least 72 hours for regularly scheduled meetings; under 6 regular stakeholder outreach and engagement opportunities, will outreach and engagement comments be recorded and brought back to the OVGA Board for inclusion. John Vallejo stated 4b should state only 24 hours required for "special" meetings. The Chairman noted that under the government section it should be noted that we have two interested parties, Lone Pine Paiute Tribe and Owens Valley Committee, and completely strike the offer for Interested Parties. Motion by Dan Totheroth to approve the document as a draft and at the next meeting take action for a final, seconded by Luis Elias. The Board requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Dan Totheroth – Y, Chris Costello – Y, Fred Stump – Y, Mel Joseph – Y, Mary Roper - Y. Motion passed 7 Yes.

#### **8. Action Item: Formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to assist Sustainable Management Criteria development**

Tony Morgan shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding the schedule and timeline that needs to be followed. He gave a brief overview on the formation of an Ad Hoc committee to get input from the Board and assist in obtaining the necessary information. John Vallejo stated there is a potential for possible Brown Act issues forming the Ad Hoc committee. He stated the Board should be comprised solely of less than a quorum of Board members alone (no more than 3); or staff members without Board members; discreet purpose; and only advisement not decision making. The Board and staff discussed this item in detail and at length. Sally Manning stated this is the most important thing the Board should do; the sustainable management criteria; and the Board does not need an Ad Hoc committee. Philip Anaya stated he wanted to see staff and Director's working on the group as well as a member of the public. Volunteers for the Ad Hoc committee are BryAnna Vaughan, Deston Dishion, and Dan Totheroh. Stacey Simons stated the committee could not be comprised of Board members and staff. She said if that composition is chosen, it would be subject to the Brown Act. Sally Manning provided a question via Q/A - Why not have a mix of staff and Board and continue with zoom meetings and follow the Brown Act. Dr. Steinwand suggested due to time constraints, to push this discussion to the next meeting. Philip Anaya stated the consultant asked to create an Ad Hoc committee; this should be created and shouldn't be moved forward for another two months.

The Chairperson called a break at 3:54 pm and reconvened the meeting at 4:02 pm.

The Board decided to table this item until the next meeting and decided upon a meeting the following month, October 8, 2020.

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

Tony Morgan provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation; provided a URL for the database; a GSP schedule, GW basin budgets; discussed DWP groundwater models; a review of the west Bishop groundwater conditions, sustainable management criteria; and information necessary to complete the plan. He stated an administrative draft of the GSP should be completed by mid to late February and gave an overview of the process. Gus Tolley provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation on management areas and sustainable management criteria. He reviewed the Tri-Valley/Fish Slough, Owens Valley, and the Owens Lake and the justifications for the basin being sectioned in this manner. He reviewed and provided a summary of wells and the changes in water levels. Tony Morgan finished the presentation by stating the Board is not responsible for enforcing drinking water quality standards; or collecting

data to support water quality programs; or fix issues existing prior to Jan 2015 prior to SGMA, but should not make conditions worse. The Board and staff discussed this in detail. April Zrelak inquired about the data from LADWP up to 2017. Dr. Steinwand stated data has been provided to the consultant up to 2017 and it will be appended as data becomes available. Lynn Boulton asked what happens when the GSP is submitted to DWR, do they evaluate it as a sustainable plan or just that you met a deadline and put it on a shelf. Tony Morgan stated there is a formal review process and a two year window. He stated a plan receives a status of approved, incomplete (fix deficiencies), or a not satisfactory rating. If the plan receives a not satisfactory, the state will take over the basin. Philip Anaya stated the ditch system of the Bishop Creek Water Association, which DWP holds 45% of the vote, benefits as a conveyance to their lease holders. He provided information regarding west Bishop flows.

#### **10. Action Item: Selection of OVGA logo**

Motion by Chris Costello, seconded by Mary Roper to adopt #6 as the official logo of the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority. Roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Dan Totheroth – Y, Chris Costello – Y, Fred Stump – Y, Mel Joseph – Y, Mary Roper - Y Motion passed 7 Yes.

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

Advisory committee, consultant presentations, financial report, any website updates, Philip Anaya's request for Inyo County Water Department to approach LADWP and the MOU parties regarding completing GSP for the adjudicated areas of the basin.

#### **12. Set next meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for October 8, 2020 via videoconference.

#### **13. Adjourn**

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5:26 pm.