

MINUTES

County of Inyo WATER COMMISSION

April 26, 2021

The Chairperson called the Water Commission meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. via videoconference. Water Commissioners in attendance were Teri Red Owl, Randy Keller, Nate Gratz, Paul Huette, and Holly Alpert. Present from the Water Department were Aaron Steinwand and Laura Piper.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairperson led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Comment

The Chairperson opened up the public comment period and there was no one wishing to address the Commission.

3. Election of Water Commission Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Moved by Commissioner Gratz and seconded by Commissioner Keller to re-elect Teri Red Owl as Chairperson; The Chairperson called a roll call vote; Randy Keller – Y, Nate Gratz – Y, Holly Alpert – Y, Paul Huette – Y, motion carried. Moved by Commissioner Gratz and seconded by Commissioner Alpert to re-elect Randy Keller as Vice-Chairperson. The Chairperson called a roll call vote; Teri Red Owl – Y, Nate Gratz – Y, Holly Alpert – Y, Paul Huette – Y. Motion passed.

4. Approval of minutes from the March 31, 2021 meeting

Motion by Commissioner Huette, seconded by Commissioner Keller to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2021 meeting with corrections. The Chairperson called a roll call vote; Teri Red Owl – Y, Randy Keller – Y, Nate Grate – Y, Holly Alpert – Y, Paul Huette – Y, motion passed.

5. Commissioners' reports

Commissioner Keller corrected information he provided in the last meeting regarding the Big Pine wells; the spring at the fish hatchery; and the mitigated loss of habitat. Commissioner Red Owl stated tomorrow at 5:30pm there is a presentation via zoom on Indian land and water rights history and she will provide the link via email if you have interest.

6. Director's report

a. Technical Group meeting items

Dr. Steinwand stated the next Technical Group meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2021; they will discuss the county's comments on the draft 2021-22 operations plan, well 76 in Bairs George; a possible presentation on the hydrologic analysis of the existing McNally ponds project; and the Standing Committee meeting will be set which is May 26, 2021.

7. Discussion of LADWP's 2021-22 Draft Annual Operations Plan

Dr. Steinwand provided a presentation on the 2021-22 draft annual operations plan and an overview of the effects of the proposed pumping plan. The Board and staff discussed this item in detail. Sally Manning stated we've had the water agreement 30 years; degradation is still occurring and we still allow pumping; she would like to see the regression equations in the actual wells; and the county recommendation should be the bare minimum. Edie Trimmer restated

Commissioner Alpert's comment about LADWP's contention that they only use imported water to subsidize in valley uses and have been for 20 years; and stated she doesn't agree with this and it needs to be addressed. Daris Moxley stated she irrigates off of Bishop Creek and she hasn't received any water; Bishop Creek is dry; she received a letter from LADWP that she would receive her allotment; where will the water come from; the LTWA states vegetation should remain as it was in 81/82 and it is not; and why doesn't the County dispute this. Sally Manning requested to review slides 18/19; and stated the table shows that 2022 average from baseline will be one foot lower, the Water Department states less pumping than that will give a 1.3 foot lower than baseline, declining more with less pumping so something doesn't make sense. Dr. Steinwand explained the charts which clarified the information for Sally Manning.

8. Future meeting schedule

The next Water Commission meeting was scheduled for late July or early August with a possible field trip.

9. Adjourn

The Vice Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.