

# MINUTES

# County of Inyo WATER COMMISSION

October 19, 2023

Commissioner Huette called the Water Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Inyo County Water Department, Independence, CA. Water Commissioners in attendance were Randy Keller, Paul Huette, and Dan Berry. Commissioner Red Owl was absent, and Commissioner Gratz joined the meeting at the beginning of Item 4. Present from the Water Department were Holly Alpert, Zach Nelson, Tim Moore, & Meredith Jabis.

## **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Huette led the pledge of allegiance.

## **2. Public Comment**

Sally Manning stated she didn't see anything on the agenda regarding Fish Springs. Commissioner Huette asked for Fish Springs to be on a future agenda.

## **3. Approval of minutes from July 25, 2023**

Motion to approve the July 25, 2023, minutes by Randy Keller, seconded by Dan Berry. Motion passed, with two absent, Commissioner Red Owl and Commissioner Gratz.

## **4. Brown Act refresher with County Counsel**

Commissioner Gratz joined the meeting.

John Carl Vallejo provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation regarding The Brown Act. He reviewed the purpose of the Brown Act, types of meetings, communications, social media, serial meetings, etc. Sally Manning inquired if it's ok for a member of the public to send information to the Board; Mr. Vallejo said it restricts the Commission but not the public.

## **5. Commissioner's reports**

Commissioner Keller stated he attended the last field trip to look at mitigation sites and he believes there are a lot of access issues. Commissioner Gratz stated he learned a lot from the field trip also.

## **6. Director's report**

- a. Report from October 7 field trip  
Dr. Alpert stated there were approximately 10 people in attendance for the field trip. Many issues and solutions were discussed for the mitigation projects. She talked about the riparian vegetation and the reasons it is dying off.
- b. 2022-23 Annual ICWD Report  
Dr. Alpert discussed the delay with the report and talked about changing the format. She stated it should be available by the end of the year.
- c. OVGA newsletter

Dr. Alpert stated a mid-year update was assembled as an OVGA newsletter since meetings are now being held annually. She discussed the annual report due each year to the CA Dept of Water Resources and the new process to register non-de minimis wells.

d. AEM surveys

Dr. Alpert stated the CA Dept of Water Resources is going to use an airborne electromagnet to check aquifers in the valley, but not the entire area. Tim Moore provided a brief explanation on how this will take place to make these calibrations.

Sally Manning stated there are acronyms here that the public may not understand and discussed mitigation. Lynn Boulton commented on the tour and the present mitigation issues and stated a meeting should be held to discuss mitigation changes. Edie Trimmer stated she agreed with Sally and Lynn and these issues should be taken to the Board and Standing Committee.

## **7. 2023 Conditions**

- a. Groundwater levels
- b. Pumping to date
- c. Vegetation conditions
- d. Oct 1 ON/OFF status

Dr. Alpert provided a Powerpoint presentation on the water conditions in the valley, reviewed the wellfield groundwater levels, LADWP pumping, etc. Lynn Boulton asked if the slides would be available on the website. Zach Nelson provided an overview of the valley's current vegetation conditions and provided the link to access the data and hydrographs. Sally Manning stated we are here 20 years later with the same distressed conditions.

## **8. Type D Study Update**

Meredith Jabis provided an in depth PowerPoint presentation on Type D riparian vegetation conditions. She explained recruitment theory, and why changes are taking place.

## **9. Future meeting schedule**

The next Water Commission meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2024

## **10. Public Comment**

## **11. Adjourn**

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