

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 Totheroh		

October 8, 2020

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. via videoconference.

1. Pledge of allegiance

The Chairman led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Comment

Sally Manning stated the Ad Hoc Committee for sustainable criteria is not on the agenda and she thought that was the purpose of today's meeting. Dr. Steinwand stated he would be discussing that in item #9.

3. Introductions

The Board introduced themselves with no alternates in attendance, one absence, BryAnna Vaughan, Big Pine CSD.

4. Approval of minutes from the September 10, 2020 OVGA Board meeting

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2020 meeting. Mary Roper requested a correction to item #10, roll call votes, and item #8 "staffed" to "staff". Motion to approve the minutes as amended by Dan Totheroh, seconded by Chris Costello. The Chairperson requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, Fred Stump - Y Chris Costello – Y Dan Totheroh - Y, Mel Joseph - Y, Mary Roper - Y. Motion passed 6 Yes, 1 absent.

5. Board Member Reports

The Chairperson stated Mono County/Sierra Club have filed their briefs with the court in Alameda County; DWP has a period of time to respond; the first hearing is set for January 2021; any questions please send to Stacey Simons with Mono County Council. He stated he was invited to participate as a local government tribal panel member with the Public Utilities Commission regarding the bankruptcy of Frontier; they are attempting to change their surface area into two distinct offerings of service as part of their reorganization; and for detailed information you may contact him.

6. OVGA staff reports

- a. Financial Report
- b. Report on website development

Laura Piper, Inyo County Water Department provided the financial report and stated the OVGA cash balance is \$468,010.91, with no revenue or expenses since last meeting. She stated the OVGA grant manager at DWR was expediting the April-June 2020 reimbursement of approximately \$137,000 which should be received in the next 4- 6 weeks. She provided the update on the website development and stated the selected consultant was undergoing a name change and the contract should be finalized in the next few weeks.

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

Mel Joseph stated under the basin overview he has mentioned the designation may get changed again in the future and that was not included; under essential communication strategies it was discussed to provide the link to the interactive groundwater map under 3d,

under 3e to make sure that social media interface didn't have more information than the main website, he felt this is misunderstood in that there is no way the social media site can have all the same information the website provides, but that the social media doesn't have more current information than the main website; under 4b it should be stated the agenda should be posted "at least" 72 hours prior, he said although it's what the Brown Act says, he stated he doesn't feel the public should have to know the brown act details; key messages #10, he feels that shouldn't be stated in the documents, the compatibility with the Water Agreement hasn't been agreed to by the Board and the GSP should be written as needed and not restrained as a compromise agreement. He stated the GSP is the best opportunity to improve practices to make the basin sustainable especially in southern Inyo. Dr. Steinwand stated the changes will be made, the document will be revised as needed with substantive changes and he recommends approving the plan as revised. Mary Roper asked for one page in all of the documents that define the acronyms. Dr. Steinwand wanted to reiterate that this plan will not be regulating LADWP or a replacement for the Water Agreement. Stacy Simon recommended called it the Communications and Engagement Plan and not draft even though there will be ongoing updates. Chris Costello asked if it would be available in Spanish as well. Motion by Chris Costello to approve the document with ongoing modifications and version numbers, seconded by Luis Elias. The Chairperson requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, Fred Stump - Y , Chris Costello - Y , Dan Tothoroh - Y , Mel Joseph - Y , Mary Roper - Y . Motion passed 6 Yes, 1 absent.

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

Tony Morgan provided a power point presentation and provided a GSP update. He stated the LADWP groundwater model files have not been received; they have modified their request to LADWP for data; reviewed the timeline details; data gap evaluations; admin draft of GSP by February 2022; public review draft in May 2022: adjusted document based on comments to Board in October, then consideration of adoption. Shey Rajagopal of DBS&A provided an in depth and detailed presentation on the recharge estimate for Owens basin water budget which is mandated under SGMA be included in the GSP; the various components of the water balance and methods; BCM models; and management areas. The Board and staff discussed this in detail. Sally Manning asked if the models include pumping. Shey stated no. Lynn Boulton inquired about specific recharge estimates from the BCM; April Zrelak asked if this model isn't going to account for the outflow, will this model be refined to actually get real data on the water budget for each management area. Shey stated they are using USGS data; Tony Morgan stated every 5 years the GSP will need to be updated. He stated at this time there is no way to collect new real time data so they have to use best available data at this time which has been the USGS data. Shey stated would refining the model include export; Aaron stated it is part of the basin calculation but not what this model is designed to do. Shey inquired why the ET so variable; Shey stated it is based on precipitation and temperature.

The Chairperson called a break at 3:53 pm and reconvened the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Lynn Boulton submitted a question and Shey Rajagopal addressed. Dr Rajogopal returned to his presentation and stated the management areas are proposed and can be changed. The Board and staff discussed this item in detail. April Zrelak asked if the water that DWP uses for in valley mitigation counted in the pumping for export numbers. Dr. Steinwand stated mitigation uses are combination of surface water and groundwater. Christian Braudrick of Still Water Sciences gave a power point presentation on the Owens Valley groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs). Sally Manning stated this valley was a hot spot for GDE's and its LADWP dewatering that has taken it away. She also asked questions regarding difference in specific vegetation which was answered by Bruce Orr of Stillwater and asked about the removal of vegetation from the map by the Water Department.

9. Discussion regarding schedule for future meetings and agenda items

Dr. Steinwand stated staff removed the request to set up an Ad Hoc Committee based on concerns raised at the last meeting and discussions with County Council. He stated that staff will concentrate on the public engagement process instead of establishing Ad Hoc committees.

10. Set next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for November 12, 2020 via videoconference.

11. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.