

MINUTES

Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

Board Members:

INDIAN CREEK-WESTRIDGE CSD	Luis Elias	BIG PINE CSD	BryAnna Vaughan
COUNTY OF MONO	Rhonda Duggan	LONE PINE PAIUTE SHOSHONE TRIBE	Mel Joseph
CITY OF BISHOP	Karen Kong	OWENS VALLEY COMMITTEE	Mary Roper
COUNTY OF INYO	Dan Totheroh		

January 14, 2021

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. via videoconference.

1. Pledge of allegiance

The Chairperson led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Comment

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

3. Introductions

The Board introduced themselves with no alternates in attendance.

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

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting. Motion to approve by Dan Totheroh, seconded by Mary Roper. The Chairperson requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, Rhonda Duggan – Y, Karen Kong – Y, Dan Totheroh - Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Mel Joseph - Y, Mary Roper - Y . Motion passed 7 Yes.

5. Board Member Reports

The Chairperson stated the new OVGA website was live and the address was ovga.us. Rhonda Duggan stated Mono County would continue support of the OVGA through the GSP process.

6. OVGA staff reports

- a. Financial Report
- b. Report on Stakeholder Engagement efforts

Laura Piper, Inyo County Water Department provided the financial report and stated the OVGA cash balance is \$253,650.15; expenses were \$67,021.70 to consultant; \$9,223.69 in staff costs; and \$2,316 to Fechtor and Company for the 2018/19 audit; revenues were 1st quarter interest in the amount of \$1027.13. Luis Elias asked about the Fechtor and Company payments, Ms. Piper stated this was the second payment of the \$4500 contract which is now fully expended for the 18/19 OVGA audit. Dr. Steinwand stated he provided a presentation at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Tri Valley Groundwater Management District on December 16, 2020, and briefly reviewed the procedure and rationale to develop the sustainable management criteria for that portion of the basin. He stated the next outreach will be a direct mailer and survey due to the remoteness of the area; a similar presentation via zoom will be provided for the Owens Valley and Owens Lake area sometime in February; and another meeting will be scheduled for the tribes in late February.

7. Consideration of revision to OVGA Bylaws

John Vallejo stated last meeting that the Board requested the date be adjusted for when the Board appoints the Chair and Vice Chair. He stated most agencies typically appoint their members after the 1st of the year. With that direction, he provided the draft revision

to the Bylaws stating the Chair and Vice Chair will be appointed no later than March. Motion by Rhonda Duggan to approve the amendment of the Bylaws as presented, seconded by Luis Elias. The Chairperson requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, Rhonda Duggan – Y, Karen Kong – Y, Dan Tothoroh – Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Mel Joseph – Y, Mary Roper – Y, motion passed 7 yes.

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

Tony Morgan provided an introduction on subjects reviewed at the previous month's meeting. Dr. Steinwand stated the Board is seeing early work products, and the updates will be an ongoing process. Tony Morgan reviewed the summary of progress, sampling and analysis, data gaps, project management; and is approaching the draft final status. Gus Tolley reviewed the reduction of storage and the lowering of groundwater levels, two of the sustainable management criteria; discussed the process of developing minimum thresholds; and why they came to establish those minimum triggers which he stated can be adjusted; reviewed the management areas and a few wells in each to show those minimum thresholds. Keith Rainville discussed well construction basics, types of aquifers, and definition of storage. Lynn Boulton stated she would like to see something that prevents surface vegetation from being impacted. April Zrelak inquired about intermediate triggers which may apply at Owens Lake. Keith Rainville indicated last month the staff agreed that trigger points were going to be included; and stated this presentation is examples and triggers can be more appropriately used in some areas more than others. Dr. Steinwand stated many declines in the hydrographs are due to drought or LADWP pumping so caution is advised as to what the management trigger should be and if you can implement corrective measures. April Zrelak stated the Owens Lake area is going to be DWP pumping; the triggers in that area are very important; and asked about the status of DWP models. Gus Tolley stated they have been requested and not received. Sally Manning stated 1-2 ft. of groundwater change in the Owens Valley is a big deal. Dr. Steinwand replied that we are preparing the GSP assuming it would apply to Owens Lake. Carol Ann Mitchell, TVGMD asked what type of local information was used as a base for the Tri Valley vulnerability assessment document; and where is the well in Hammil Valley. Tri Valley would like to discuss the vulnerability assessment at one of their future meetings. Gus Tolley stated it is a private well and he can't disclose the location. Peter Stickells asked with regard to management triggers, what a management trigger is going to be applied to if the pumping really is in the adjudicated area other than Tri Valley; who are these management triggers going to be applied too if the largest part of the basin is LADWP; the impacts it may have on the sub basins; and there is a great deal of concern with LADWP pumping in the Laws area and Fish Slough. The Board, staff, and public discussed this in detail and at length. Sally Manning wished to point out specific information on the slides provided by the consultant to the new Board members;. Lynn Boulton stated back in the 80's 385/386 were pumped in high volumes; has that time frame been reviewed; and what would that impact would be on Fish Slough.

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

Keith Rainville provided a presentation on the Tri Valley well vulnerability assessment. He stated the data used came from California Department of Water Resources GIS tool; if interested in viewing, google DWR well mapper; discussed minimum thresholds; and stated the analysis was completed to verify if any wells might be at risk of going dry based on the analysis using publicly available data.

9. Discussion regarding future agenda items and set next OVGA meeting

Financial report; consultant report; and update on Stakeholder Engagement. The next meeting was scheduled for February 11, 2021 via videoconference.

10. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:38 pm.