

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		

February 11, 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. Sally Manning and Philip Anaya requested to have the ability to view the zoom attendee list.

3. Introductions

The Board introduced themselves with no alternates in attendance.

4. Approval of minutes from the January 14, 2021 Board meeting

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2020 meeting. Rhonda Duggan requested the heading be updated and her comment in item 5 reflect “through the GSP process”, and date change on the minutes. Motion to approve as corrected by Mary Roper, seconded by Luis Elias. The Chairperson requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, Rhonda Duggan – Y, Karen Kong – Y, Dan Totheroh - Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Mel Joseph - abstain, Mary Roper - Y . Motion passed 6 Yes, 1 abstention.

5. Board Member Reports

Rhonda Duggan stated she had been attending the CSAC rural caucus and an exchange of ideas for the vaccine rollout in rural counties and an LTC meeting regarding the storm and how it impacted north county with avalanches and snow removal. She attended a meeting with the Mono Lake tribe to work with them on goals in north county. Karen Kong thanked Aaron Steinwand for walking her through the ovga.us website.

6. OVGA staff reports

- a. Financial Report
- b. Owens Lake update

Laura Piper, Inyo County Water Department provided the financial report and stated the OVGA cash balance is \$215,767.65; expenses were \$37,882.50 to consultant. Philip Anaya asked if we were saving money by holding zoom meetings on consultants travel, Dr. Steinwand stated yes. Dr. Steinwand stated the Owens Lake groundwater habitat and working groups met last week; LA staff and consultants provided presentations on the hydrologic work conducted over the previous year; an update was provided on proposed pumping test for test well east; and DWP expects to release a draft CEQA analysis in the next few weeks; an update was provided by Dr. Steinwand on OVGA activities and reported the GSP is being prepared assuming it could apply to the Owens Lake.

7. Stakeholder engagement update

Dr. Steinwand stated the first community outreach meeting was conducted last night covering Round Valley to Lone Pine which was attended by sixteen members of the public; the meeting was advertised on the radio as well as valley wide newspapers. It reviewed SGMA; the OVGA and GSP process; and introduced the sustainability management criteria that has been presented to the Board the past few months. He stated another meeting will be held next week for the southern portion of the valley south of Lone Pine and he had reached out to each Owens Valley tribe to schedule meetings. He encouraged the public to review the Communications and Engagement Plan located on the ovga.us website. Sally Manning inquired how the comments in the outreach meetings will be communicated to the OVGA Board. Philip Anaya stated the LTWA participants should come up with a voluntary GSP for the adjudicated portion of the basin, not associated with DWR to assist with the issues of management across the adjudicated/non-adjudicated boundary; and find some way to manage the water flow above the Chandler Decree flows for groundwater recharge in west Bishop to avoid the 2015 issues. April Zrelak asked if there can be a page on the ovga.us website to leave public comments. Sally Manning stated the Communication and Engagement Plan discusses social media.

8. Approval of revisions to the Conflict of Interest Code

John Vallejo provided a brief overview of the former Conflict of Interest Code and the current amendment. April Zrelak asked if a Board member has a conflict of interest, is that public information and does it require them to recuse themselves of some votes. John Vallejo stated the form 700 is a public document but what she is asking is a separate analysis from this form. Motion to adopt the resolution notifying the public that there is a public comment period and to approve the revision of the Conflict of Interest Code; Motion to approve by Dan Tothoroh, seconded by Karen Kong. 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.

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

Tony Morgan provided a detailed power point presentation discussing subsidence; monitoring systems; and satellite data imagery. The consultants, Board and staff discussed this in detail. Sally Manning asked clarifying questions regarding INSAR with the consultant. April Zrelak asked if the INSAR data can be added to the interactive map. Edie Trimmer stated she assumed the loss of storage could only go one way as only a permanent loss. Sally Manning stated the cartoons used from the DWP website are misleading.

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

The Board requested an update on the stakeholder engagement progress; presentation from the consultant; an update on the Indian Wells Valley; and a list of requests from the consultant to LADWP for data. The next meeting was scheduled for March 11, 2021. Philip Anaya requested the Indian Wells update; Edie Trimmer inquired when basin wide measurements are taken will it force LADWP and the OVGA to come to some agreement because they are one basin; Sally Manning stated how will the issue with the adjudicated/non adjudicated boundary affect Big Pine if a minimum threshold is hit on LADWP lands. Lynn Boulton asked if there are any riparian corridors, springs, or GDE's that are on federal land near the boundary of the OVGA GSP area and could we monitor on federal lands close to the boundary if pumping in the Owens Valley impacts the sensitive area.

10. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:03 pm.