

# MINUTES

# Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

## Board Members:

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

March 11, 2021

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:03 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 of Directors.

### **3. Introductions**

The Board introduced themselves with no alternates in attendance.

### **4. Approval of minutes from the February 11, 2021 Board meeting**

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2021 meeting. Motion to approve by Rhonda Duggan, seconded by Dan Totheroh. 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**

Rhonda Duggan stated the GBAPCD provided a presentation on the Keeler Dunes recovery project, the outcome was better than expected, and she has obtained the slides if the Board has any interest. Mary Roper stated March 15 there is a webinar on “Water Wars – What are they good for”, go to “maven” and you should find it on her website.

### **6. OVGA staff reports**

- a. Financial Report
- b. Report on Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority activities
- c. LADWP data requests update

Laura Piper, Inyo County Water Department provided the financial report and stated the OVGA cash balance is \$183,238.99; revenues were second quarter interest of \$866.84; expenses were \$31,211.50 to the consultant, and staff costs of \$2,184.00. John Vallejo provided an update on the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority activities and stated there are a lot of challenges to the pumping fees; an action has been brought forward by the water district to circumvent the SGMA process; and funding for a percolation test was approved and provided the background. Stacey Simon stated Mono County received a favorable ruling from Superior Court in its litigation related to Long Valley. Aaron Steinwand reviewed the data requests presented to LADWP and stated groundwater models were not provided; there are subsidence survey points around Owens Lake but the data is not available, and INSAR dated has been substituted for the data not provided. Tony Morgan provided information regarding the subsidence survey stating that the data exists, but we don't have access to the information.

### **7. Stakeholder engagement update**

Dr. Steinwand stated two workshops for the general public were held in February; he is working with local tribes to schedule

individual workshops; additional public workshops will be held late summer; and expecting the final draft GSP to be adopted by the OVGA Board in December 2021. He stated a presentation was provided to the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District in December as well as at their meeting in February; and Mono staff is preparing a survey/mailer for the portion of the Tri-Valley area with connectivity issues. Sally Manning stated she attended both outreach meetings; she's concerned public comment will be pushed off until the administrative draft is completed; restated to the OVGA Board the authority provided to them by SGMA; and LADWP & Inyo County should work cooperatively on their own GSP; discussed monitoring, groundwater levels, and the Urban Water Management Plan.

#### **8. Presentation of draft 2021-2022 OVGA budget**

Dr. Steinwand presented the proposed draft 2021-2022 OVGA budget; reviewed the revenues and expenses; discussed the grant funding and retention; and the consultant costs. He stated the OVGA Board had fulfilled their three year obligation for funding contributions.

#### **9. Direction to staff and consultants regarding Management Areas and the GSP**

Tony Morgan reviewed the discussions leading up to the three management areas, Tri-Valley, Owens Valley, and Owens Lake. He inquired if the Board would like to continue the GSP with the proposed management areas, the Board concurred.

#### **10. Update from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates on status of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

Tony Morgan provided an overview on the GSP progress, the subjects in progress and under staff review, and those in final draft. He discussed the final process for the GSP; groundwater models; and management actions. The Board, staff, and consultant discussed this in detail.

#### **11. Discussion regarding future agenda items**

The future agenda items requested were; overview of GSP as it applies to Owens Lake to include jurisdictional issues, and final budget approval. Sally Manning stated the Board can complete a GSP that may apply to Owens Lake but State Lands Commission could decide not to follow the GSP and would like that clarified at the next meeting. Philip Anaya stated he would like the Board to write a letter to LADWP and Inyo County regarding a voluntary GSP in the area of the LTWA as a way to begin to manage the adjudicated/non adjudicated boundary.

#### **10. Adjourn**

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3:17 pm.