

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		

March 10, 2022

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

1. Pledge of allegiance

Deston Dishion led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Comment

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

3. Introductions

The Board introduced themselves with no alternates in attendance and one absence, Rhonda Duggan, Mono County.

4. Approval of minutes from the February 10, 2022 Board meeting

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2022 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by Dan Totheroh, seconded by Luis Elias. The Chairperson requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, Rhonda Duggan – absent, Karen Kong – Y, Dan Totheroh - Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Mel Joseph - Y, Mary Roper – Y. Motion passed 6 yes, 1 absence.

5. Request that OVGA adopt finding pursuant to AB 361 that: A) the Board reconsidered the circumstances of the existing State of Emergency issued on March 4, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and B) local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing, and/or the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the request that OVGA adopt finding pursuant to AB 361 that: A) the Board reconsidered the circumstances of the existing State of Emergency issued on March 4, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and B) local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing, and/or the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person. Motion to approve by Dan Totheroh, seconded by BryAnna Vaughan. The Chairperson requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, Rhonda Duggan – absent, Karen Kong – Y, Dan Totheroh - Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Mel Joseph – Y, Mary Roper - Y. Motion passed 6 Yes, 1 absence.

6. Board Member Reports

BryAnna Vaughan thanked the firefighters and emergency responders for their service in keeping the fire from

the town of Big Pine. Dan Tothoroh stated due to the dry conditions, he recommended deep watering now to conserve during the hot months with infrequent watering.

7. Staff Member Reports

a. Financial Report

Laura Piper, Inyo County Water Department provided the financial report and stated the OVGA cash balance is \$351,775.75 and there were no transactions since the last meeting. Dr. Steinwand provided an update on the past and current audit which should be available in the upcoming months.

b. Update on Tri-Valley and Fish Slough

Dr. Steinwand stated the GSP included projects for additional monitoring and preparing the groundwater model for the Tri-Valley area; there were discussions to hand off those projects to Mono County; Inyo County provided information to Mono for grant funding from DWR regarding monitoring; and Inyo County offered technical assistance if requested. Luis Elias inquired if Mono County and Tri-Valley would apply as two GSA's or one. Stacey Simons stated the expectation is there will be two GSA's which would coordinate with each other and the OVGA.

8. Presentation of draft 2022-2023 OVGA budget

Dr. Steinwand presented a recap of the draft 2022-2023 OVGA budget; a staff report that outlined revenues and expenditures; a breakdown of costs for projects the OVGA may engage in within the upcoming year; funding contributions are not needed for this budget; fund balance can sustain the OVGA at this time; and the budget needs to be approved prior to May 1, 2022. The Board and staff reviewed the budget and discussed this item detail and at length. Tony Morgan reiterated what Aaron had stated with regard to a contract for database management and possible technical assistance. Sally Manning stated she agrees with Mel Joseph in that she feels it is a conflict to have the same person that represents the OVGA and Inyo County on the Owens Lake Planning Group.

9. Update on the Proposition 1 grant completion

Dr. Steinwand stated the Proposition 1 grant deadline and final report were due to DWR on April 30, 2022.

10. Discussion regarding future meeting dates and agenda items.

Dr. Steinwand stated the next scheduled regular meeting will be April 14, 2022. He stated a meeting will also be necessary prior to that to meet the AB361 30 day rules. The agenda items discussed for next meeting were the boundary adjustments, funding, and the budget adoption.

11. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3:24 pm.