

MINUTES

Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

Board Members:

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

August 11, 2022

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m. at the Bishop City Council Chambers, Bishop, CA.

1. Pledge of allegiance

Dr. Steinwand led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Comment

Sally Manning stated on June 21, 2022 the tribe was invited to present a workshop to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors on their issues with Fish Springs Fish Hatchery; a huge amount of ground water has been pumped for 50 years to supply the hatchery; that pumping takes its toll as far as under the Big Pine Reservation and up to the Baker Creek area; well 332 would be going off sometime this week but it is still on.

3. Introductions

The Board introduced themselves with no alternates in attendance and 1 absence, Mel Joseph, Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe.

4. Board Member Reports

Luis Elias stated the Indian Creek Westridge CSD was one of the major suppliers of water for the Fairview fire in Bishop.

5. Approval of minutes from March 10, March 30, and April 14, 2022

Motion to approve the March 30, 2022 minutes as presented by Mary Roper, seconded by BryAnna Vaughan. The Chairperson requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, Karen Kong – Y, Dan Totheroh - Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Mel Joseph – absent, Mary Roper - Y. Motion passed 5 Yes, 1 absent.

Motion to approve the March 10 and April 14, 2022 minutes as presented by Luis Elias, seconded by Dan Totheroh. The Chairperson requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, Karen Kong – Y, Dan Totheroh – Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Mel Joseph – absent, Mary Roper – Y. Motion passed 5 yes, 1 absent.

6. OVGA Staff Reports

a. Financial Report

Laura Piper provided the financial report and stated the OVGA cash balance is \$293,976.93. Revenue since last meeting was interest in the amount of \$480.21; expenses were \$27,998.62 in staff services costs: \$7,122.50 audit costs: \$2440.00 for insurance; \$91.55 copy charges.

- b. Update on the Proposition 1 grant final report
Dr. Steinwand stated the grant completion report and final invoice were submitted to DWR in late April; DWR is currently reviewing the last 3 invoices; and after the final report is accepted, the retention should be processed.
- c. Update on the GSA boundary modifications
Dr. Steinwand stated the GSA boundary modification was approved by DWR on August 2, 2022; that allowed Mono County to be a GSA for its portion of the basin as well as Tri-Valley's request to be a GSA be posted making 3 GSA's covering the Owens Valley groundwater basin; Inyo/Mono worked on a groundwater model proposal which was accepted for funding by the IMRWGMG.
- d. Update on database hosting contract
Dr. Steinwand stated the contract has been finalized with DBS&A for database hosting and technical support and the contract is for one year. Sally Manning asked if the database would be kept up to date, currently it stops at 2017. Dr. Steinwand stated it will be updated; the Water Department is in the midst of current staffing changes.

7. First Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 2022-01: An Ordinance of the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority Establishing the Regulations and Procedures for the Registration of Owners and Users of Groundwater Extraction Facilities within the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin.

Dr. Steinwand stated SGMA requires the OVGA to prepare and maintain an accounting system of the water balance for the groundwater system in the basin; there were pumpers that did not provide data so the GSP identified that as a data gap and included this management action for the OVGA to consider an ordinance to register groundwater production wells and require annual reporting. Exemptions to this are households with private wells that produce less than two acre feet for domestic use; federal; state; and tribal reservations. The ordinance will only apply within Inyo County. John Vallejo provided the process to adopt the ordinance and stated the adoption will be set at the next regularly scheduled OVGA meeting. Aaron Johnson asked where is the ordinance posted for review; Dr. Steinwand stated on the OVGA website under today's meeting.

Motion to approve the Ordinance of the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority establishing the Regulations and Procedures for the Registration of Owners and Users of Groundwater Extraction Facilities within the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin; to make the CEQA findings; and to make the date to adopt the ordinance - BryAnna Vaughan made a motion to follow the recommendations of staff for this ordinance, seconded by Luis Elias. The Chairperson requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, Karen Kong – Y, Dan Tothoroh - Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Mel Joseph – absent, Mary Roper - Y. Motion passed 5 Yes, 1 absent.

8. Request to authorize Executive Manager to send letter to Inyo County requesting exchange of new well permit applications with the OVGA

Dr. Steinwand stated the GSP included a second ordinance be prepared that required the sharing of well permit applications that have been submitted to Inyo County with the OVGA; this can be accomplished with a simple letter that is enclosed in the agenda material. Motion to approve the Executive Director to send the letter by BryAnna Vaughan, seconded by Mary Roper. The Chairperson requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, Karen Kong – Y, Dan Tothoroh - Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Mel Joseph – absent, Mary Roper - Y. Motion passed 5 Yes, 1 absent.

9. Discussion regarding future meeting dates and agenda items.

The next meeting was scheduled for September 15, 2022 at 2pm, Bishop City Council Chambers to adopt the above ordinance and to select a Vice Chairperson.

10. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2:53 pm.