

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	Scott Marcellin	OWENS VALLEY COMMITTEE	Mary Roper

July 18, 2024

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at approximately 2:15 pm at the Inyo County Water Department, Independence, CA.

1. Pledge of allegiance

Mary Roper led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Introductions

The Board introduced themselves with one member absent, BryAnna Vaughan.

3. Public Comment

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

4. Approval of minutes from the March 14, 2024 OVGA Board meeting

Motion to approve the March 14, 2024 minutes by Luis Elias, seconded by Mel Joseph. Motion passed.

5. Board Member Reports

Mel Joseph reported on the Tribal Youth Camp and gave updates on the recent Lone Pine Fire. Karen Kong stated she is up for re-election.

6. OVGA Staff Reports

a. Financial Report

Laura Piper provided the financial report and stated the OVGA cash balance is \$309,444.97 with revenue of \$1,788.56, total expenses of \$12,109.00 which included public liability insurance, website services, and consultant costs.

b. Inyo County Drought Response Plan

Dr. Alpert provided an update on the Inyo County Drought Response Plan. The County is leading the preparation of a Drought Response Plan in response to SB 552 (2021). SB552 requires counties to develop drought response plans that assess risk and propose short- and long-term strategies for mitigating drought. We are currently in the risk assessment phase of the planning project. A draft of the DRP should be complete by the beginning of the year. Staff will make the plan available to the Board, and the Board may wish to submit public comment.

7. Ordinance 2022-01 Well Registration Program update

Tim Moore provided a brief overview on the progress of the well registration program, stated 25% have complied with the request, and thirteen well registrations were received by the April 1, 2024 deadline. There was discussion among the Board and staff about reaching out again to those that have not submitted. Tim will provide a color-coded list to guide Board outreach.

8. **Water Year 2022 OVGA Annual Report**

a. Discuss response to public comments.

Holly provided an introduction to this item stating the draft report went to the Board in March, public comments closed on 4-26-24 and the responses to public comments were made and included in the report. Mel Joseph stated in Section 3.2 it should be added that 2023 was a high-water year. Tim Moore stated he would include that in the document. Mel also questions why some data was not included in the report, Tim Moore stated it was not provided to DBS&A in a usable format at that time. Karen Kong stated she wanted to discuss B-3, public accessibility and requested in the future, could a summary be written so that lay people could understand. Mary Roper stated on figure 4 & 5 of the maps is it possible to indicate Independence/Big Pine on the map to make it clearer for location purposes. Tim Moore provided an explanation of the difficulty in fitting all that data on the one sheet to be legible. Luis Elias made reference to Owens Lake Bed for reference also.

b. **Action Item: Approve submittal of revised WY2022 Annual Report to DWR**

Motion made by Mel Joseph to approve the submittal of the revised WY2022 Annual Report to DWR with the discussed changes, second by Mary Roper. Motion Passed.

9. **Water Year 2023 OVGA Annual Report**

a. May 3, 2024 letter from DWR concerning WY2023 Annual Report

Dr. Alpert referred to a letter received from DWR regarding the 2023 Annual Report. She reminded them we are a voluntary GSP and are working to catch up and has not received a response.

b. Tim Moore provided the status on the 2023 Annual Report, is currently working on getting data into the OVGA data management system with a possible draft in November 2024. Karen Kong asked if the Fish Slough data would be included. Tim Moore stated it would be left in to avoid confusion for the Dept of Water Resources and stated the data is sparse for that area. Dr. Alpert stated the Water Department is currently overseeing a contract for Mono County and Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District for groundwater modeling. Edie Trimmer stated part of Fish Slough is south of the Inyo/Mono County line, will the OVGA have any responsibility for the part in Inyo County. Dr Alpert stated yes. Tri Valley would only be responsible for the Mono County portion. John Vallejo stated there are wells down gradient that in theory could affect the Fish Slough area, some are LADWP wells managed by the Long-Term Water Agreement which are excluded from our jurisdiction, but there are private wells. The Board and staff discussed this item in detail.

10. **Meeting schedule**

The Board and staff discussed a possible late fall/early 2025 meeting to review the 2023 annual report.

11. **Adjourn**

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:10 pm.