

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

City of Ridgecrest, Kern County, Inyo County, San Bernardino County, Indian Wells Valley Water District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Thursday, April 19, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

IWVGA Members Present:

Commander Brian Longbottom, Dept. of the Navy	Mick Gleason, Kern County
Peter Brown, Indian Wells Valley Water District	Matt Kingsley, Inyo County
Chairperson Peggy Breeden, City of Ridgecrest	Ron Strand, IWVGA General Manager
Stephen Johnson, IWVGA Water Resources Manager	Lauren Duffy, IWVGA Board Clerk
Keith Lemieux, IWVGA Legal Counsel	Bob Page, San Bernardino County

Meeting recording and public comment letters submitted are made available at:

<https://iwvga.org/iwvga-meetings/>

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting is called to order by Chairwoman Breeden at 10:01 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance is led by Chairwoman Breeden.

Chairwoman Breeden announces that agenda item #5 will be switched with item #4.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The Board hears comments from Penelope LePome, regarding developing a financial committee.

Derek Hoffman regarding agenda item #3a.

Stan Rajtora regarding the Desert Research Institute (DRI) Model.

Judie Decker regarding the hiring of a local manager to coordinate between the Board and Stetson Engineers.

Raymond Kelso regarding transparency.

Sophia Merk regarding public letters being published on the IWVGA website.

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approve Minutes of Board Meeting March 15, 2018. - Item deferred for discussion.
- b. Approve Expenditures
 - i. Daily Independent \$76.44
 - ii. Stetson Engineering \$88,417.08 & \$76,971.03
 - iii. USGS \$22,301.48
- c. Financial Report

d. TAC committee member approval

Motion is made by Matt Kingsley and seconded by Peter Brown to approve expenditures in the amount of \$76.44, \$88,417.08, \$76,971.03, and \$22,301.48, and Financial Report.

Matt Kingsley amends Motion to defer item #3a and #3c for discussion. Motion carried. (Ayes: Breeden, Brown, Kingsley, Page. Abstain: None. Nays: None. Absent: Gleason)

Bob Page asks, regarding the first Department of Water Resources (DWR) Prop. 1 stressed counties reimbursement, why it doesn't match any of the claims submitted. Alan Christensen replies that he will look into it. DWR has a retention policy and does not reimburse the full amount at once.

Motion made by Bob Page and seconded by Peter Brown to approve item #3c Financial Report. Motion carried. (Ayes: Breeden, Brown, Kingsley, Page. Abstain: None. Nays: None. Absent: Gleason)

The Board hears comments from Derek Hoffman, Judie Decker, Carol Wilson, and Sophia Merk.

Motion made by Peter Brown and seconded by Bob Page to approve item #3a Minutes of Board Meeting March 15, 2018. Motion carried. (Ayes: Breeden, Brown, Kingsley, Page. Abstain: None. Nays: None. Absent: Gleason)

4. WATER REOURCES MANAGER REPORT:

(Agenda item #5 is addressed prior to this agenda item)

a. Report/Discussion on Plan of Action and Milestones (POAM)

Jeff Helsley provides an update on the POAM and comments on significant issues.

The most significant current issue is updating the existing Desert Resources Institute (DRI) model to be suitable for use with the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Funding has been approved by the Navy and the wheels are in motion for the contract with DRI. Once the work has begun, the POAM will need to be updated to reflect an accurate start date. Another current significant item is evaluating options for importing water into the basin, as well as options for increased use of recycled water.

Steve Johnson comments that direction has been given to Stetson Engineers from legal counsel that if an outside consultant must be hired, it should be done through the IWVGA versus Stetson Engineers.

At the next meeting an agreement with DRI should be presented to the Board for approval.

Commander Longbottom comments that the Navy, for lack of a better word, donated the DRI model to the IWVGA to use and run as they see fit. He would ask for additional funds should there be a need to modify the model in the future.

The Board hears comments from Derek Hoffman.

b. Report on Submittal of Proposition 1 Grant Application Status:

Steve Johnson comments that a formal award was made and the IWVGA was granted the full amount which it applied for. Stetson Engineers will receive a letter for the formal award which requires a response to DWR within 30 days accepting the award. The letter will either include a draft agreement or template agreement which Stetson Engineers has already reviewed to understand the work required to complete it. DWR asks that a detailed work plan be presented after the agreement is submitted.

Steve Johnson hopes to provide the board with an assessment of the conservation efforts of the basin thus far.

The Board hears comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

5. DISCUSSION ON ISSUES AND OPTIONS FOR GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT IN THE INDIAN WELLS VALLEY UNDER THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT:

Ron Strand announces that this presentation is for informational purposes only and will not be received and filed by the Board.

Anthony Brown, of aquilogic, Inc., presents a Discussion Paper outlining concepts for achieving sustainability in the Indian Wells Valley to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The discussion paper presents an approach to address the issues in a way that provides for:

- Sustainable Groundwater Management and compliance with SGMA
- Long-term viability to support the mission of the Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) with respect to water
- Economic stability and continued growth
- A means to fund the needed water projects
- Long-term water security

Matt Kingsley states concerns on behalf of Inyo County regarding Indian Wells Valley (IWV) importing or banking water, specific to the use of the Los Angeles aqueduct. Inyo County is not looking to expand their history as a water exporter. Inyo County Board has not formally considered exporting water to IWV, however Mr. Harrington presents some issues that would need to be addressed.

The Board hears comments from Don Decker, Judie Decker, Alan Christensen, West Katzenstein, Sophia Merk, Stuart Fields, and Paul Nugent.

The Board reiterates that the intent of this presentation was for informational purposes only.

6. REPORT FROM TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC):

Adam Bingham, TAC Chairperson, provides a report from the April 5, 2018, TAC meeting.

7. ACTION ITEMS FROM TAC MEETING OF APRIL 5, 2018 – None.

8. REPORT FROM POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC):

Donna Thomas, PAC chairwoman, provides a report from the March 29, 2018, PAC meeting.

9. ACTION ITEMS FROM PAC MEETING OF MARCH 29, 2018:

a. Presentation And Approval Of Resolution On Communication and Engagement (C&E) Plan

Lorelei Oviatt provides a presentation of the C&E Plan created by the PAC with input from the public. The C&E Plan can be found at: <https://iwvga.org/iwvga-meetings/>

The PAC hopes that the C&E Plan will be sent along with the agreement for the Prop. 1 Grant funding award letter.

The PAC recommends a Speaker Bureau be established by the Board to accept and generate speaker engagement requests and relay focused messages. The speaker bureau would include speakers appointed by the Board. The PAC provides a notification list of organizations to broaden the horizon of knowledge. Ms. Oviatt's staff is compiling a full mailing list of the organizations, including emails and phone numbers. The idea is to provide the mailing list to the Board and staff for when a mailer is released all organizations would also be notified.

Ms. Oviatt comments that the PAC did discuss the most effective ways to reach as many people as possible. In the past, Kern County has sent a notice, three times, to every single property owner to notify them of rezoning. This option is very expensive, yet effective. The PAC recommends at least once the IWVGA utilize that option, perhaps when the draft GSP is completed.

Ms. Oviatt comments that the budget allotted for outreach needs to be increased to at least \$35,000 versus the current \$21,000 budget.

Mick Gleason directs staff to provide a list matching Board members to service organizations for the speaker bureau.

The Board hears comments from Judie Decker.

Motion made by Mick Gleason and seconded by Bob Page to adopt Resolution approving the C&E Plan, additionally directing Staff to immediately implement the outreach plan by establishing a speaker bureau and assigning Board members to service organizations, and directing staff to provide a recommendation on when the first mailer needs to be sent to every parcel. Motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Breeden, Brown, Gleason, Kingsley, Page. Abstain: None. Nays: None.)

10. BOARD DISCUSSION FOR DIRECTION OF ACTION ITEMS TO TAC & PAC COMMITTEES (IF BOARD HAS ANY): None.

11. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

Ron Strand has nothing to report.

12. CLOSING COMMENTS:

Bob Page asks what the Board approved earlier regarding the TAC committee member approval.

The TAC asks for Don Quist to be added as a member to represent small agriculture.

Motion made by Mick Gleason and seconded by Bob Page to appoint Don Quist as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee. Motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Breeden, Brown, Gleason, Kingsley, Page. Abstain: None. Nays: None.)

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next IWVGA Regular Board Meeting will be held on May 17, 2018; at 10:00 a.m.

With no further Board or Public comments, Chairwoman Breeden adjourns to Closed Session at 12:37 p.m.

14. CLOSED SESSION:

- a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)(e)(1)) Number of cases: One (1) Significant exposure to litigation in the opinion of the Board of Directors on the advice of legal counsel, based on: Facts and circumstances that might result in litigation against the IWVGA but which are not yet known to a potential plaintiff or plaintiffs, which facts and circumstances need not be disclosed.

No action is taken that would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

15. ADJOURN:

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting is adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Duffy
Clerk of the Board of Directors
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority