

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 19; 10:00 a.m.

IWVGA Members Present:

Chairman Ron Kicinski, IWVWD	Don Zdeba, IWVGA General Manager
John Vallejo, Inyo County	James Worth, Legal Counsel
Mick Gleason, Kern County	Steve Johnson, Stetson Engineers
Scott Hayman, City of Ridgecrest	Commander Peter Benson, US Navy, DoD Liaison
Thomas Bickauskas, Bureau of Land Management	Lauren Duffy, Clerk of the Board
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 Chairman Kicinski at 9:57 a.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION:

None.

With no public comments, Chairman Kicinski calls the meeting into Closed Session at 9:57 a.m.

3. CLOSED SESSION:

- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - POTENTIAL 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.

4. OPEN SESSION:

Meeting was reconvened into Open Session at 11:05 a.m.

a. Report on Closed Session:

Jim Worth reported that no action was taken which would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

b. The Pledge of Allegiance is led by Chairman Kicinski.

c. Lauren Duffy calls the following roll call:

Director Vallejo	Present
Director Hayman	Present
Chairman Kicinski	Present
Director Page	Present
Vice Chair Gleason	Present

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Board hears public comments from Judie Decker, and West Katzenstein.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approve Minutes of Board Meeting August 15, 2019
- b. Approve Expenditures
 - i. \$9,620.00 - RWG Law
 - ii. \$20,979.34- DRI
 - iii. \$92,087.22- Stetson Engineers
 - iv. \$1,162.00 – City of Ridgecrest (unbudgeted)
 - v. \$14,030.37 – Capitol Core Group
 - vi. \$676.00 – Daily Independent – Legal Notice of Ordinance No. 01-19 (unbudgeted)

Motion made by Scott Hayman and seconded by Mick Gleason to approve Minutes of Board Meeting August 15, 2019, and the following expenditures in the amount of \$9,620.00 to RWG Law, \$20,979.34 to DRI, \$92,087.22 to Stetson Engineers, \$1,162.00 to City of Ridgecrest, \$14,030.37 to Capitol Core Group, and \$676.00 to Daily Independent. Motion unanimously carries by the following vote: (Ayes: Gleason, Hayman, Kicinski, Page, Vallejo. Nays: None. Abstain: None.)

7. BOARD DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE DEFENSE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (DCIP)

Michael McKinney, from Capitol Core Group, joins via teleconference. He explains that this program was designed to support off base infrastructure, therefore, this could serve as a potential source of funding for the IWVGA in the future. The Board is simply approving a letter to show support for Congress to continue funding this program. (Please see board packet for additional handouts/information)

Director Page clarifies with McKinney that the staff report indicates the Defense Spending Bill would need to go to Conference with the House due to not being included in the original budget.

Director Vallejo states that this seems like an obvious program the IWVGA should support.

The Board hears public comments from Stan Rajtora, and Derek Hoffman

Motion made by Mick Gleason and seconded by Scott Hayman to approve the letter of support for the DCIP. Motion unanimously carries by the following vote: (Ayes: Gleason, Hayman, Kicinski, Page, Vallejo. Nays: None. Abstain: None.)

8. WATER REOURCES MANAGER REPORT:

- a. Report on Proposition 1 Grant Status:

Steve Johnson provides a status update on invoice #2, which has been approved for a total of \$352,087.42, and should be received within four to six weeks. Invoice #3 (months of April – June 2019) has been drafted and will be submitted to Department of Water Resources (DWR) by the end of this month. (Presentation made available in the board packet).

- b. Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDAC) Programs Update:

Johnson states that this process was delayed due to a cashflow issue. Prop. 1 agreement extension was filed, and an informal approval has been received granting an extension until the end of 2020. Jim Worth states that the Board approval was contingent on receiving a complete authorization from DWR before signing. SDAC Program also involves a Rebate, Water Audit, and Leak Detection Program. WaterWise Consulting has signed an agreement to assist with the rebate program, which will include various water conserving devices. California Rural Water Association will be performing the Water Audit and Leak Detection. The agreement is still pending signature.

c. Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP):

Johnson provides presentations (included in board packet), outlining significant dates regarding progress of the GSP. Stetson Engineers are working diligently to release draft sections 4 and 5 for public review. Johnson noted they are still receiving/reviewing public comments on sections 1, 2, and 3.

Vice Chair Gleason suggests the Board should hold a special evening meeting to review the final draft of the GSP with the public.

The Board hears public comments from Stan Rajtora, Elaine Mead,

9. UPDATE ON IWVGA FINANCES:

Don Zdeba provides an update on the monthly IWVGA finances. Tyrell Staheli, CFO of the Indian Wells Valley Water District, answers questions regarding the updated Pro-Forma. Staheli noted that without the WaterWise grant approval, the IWVGA will accrue a debt of \$1.3 million dollars by the end of 2020. Zdeba presented a proposed Organizational Chart for the IWVGA going forward. He states this chart is an early concept and open for discussion. Additionally, Zdeba provided a template for structuring a proposed 2020 administration budget. (Presentations made available in the board packet).

Chairman Kicinski states the Board needs to come up with a plan to make up for this shortfall.

Vice Chair Gleason questions why the pumping fees are not meeting the estimates. He states that this type of debt load is unacceptable, and the Board needs to trim any unnecessary expenditures. Kern County is willing to provide office space for an IWVGA staff, however he believes that, due to the current finances, an administrative staff is not feasible.

Director Page questions what the Board is expecting back from staff for the October 17 meeting, due to the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agreement requiring budget adoption as of next month.

Director Vallejo comments on the Organizational Chart. He questions the key differences between the Water Resources Manager and General Manager and asks if they could ever be joined into one, and if so, is there any thought to putting the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) under the General Manager? Vallejo further suggests removing the Clerk of the Board box under the Board due to redundancy.

Director Hayman states that speaking of an administrative staff is premature, due to finances.

The Board hears public comments from Josh Nugent, Judie Decker, Renee Westa-Lusk, and Derek Hoffman.

10. UPDATE ON OUTREACH EFFORTS:

a. IWVGA Billboard:

Lauren Duffy and April Nordenstrom created a billboard regarding Well Registration. Initially, 7 concepts were sent to staff and Board, and with the feedback received from Karen Watkins, a final billboard was conceptualized. Due to the time constraint, the final billboard idea was sent to Chairman Kicinski and Vice Chair Gleason for approval. The billboard will be on Inyokern Road between Brady and Mahan. Earliest day the billboard could be posted is September 30, 2019. The Indian Wells Valley Water District will be funding the billboard to be reimbursed by the IWVGA at a later time.

Vice Chair Gleason suggests removing the date from the billboard.

Chairman Kicinski agrees with Vice Chair Gleason and asks that the billboard be edited to remove the date.

11. BOARD QUESTIONS REGARDING POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) REPORTS:

Both Dave Janiec and Adam Bingham have no comment.

Chairman Kicinski clarifies that the models presented at the PAC and TAC meetings were not “forced” to

fit the data. The models themselves tracked the actual data for a length of time and matched very closely to the inputted information. Additionally, Kicinski speaks of the El Paso Sub Basin. He believes those voicing concern, should provide a presentation to the TAC to bring any data/information forward to reach a final determination.

The Board hears public comments from Josh Nugent, Don Decker, and Derek Hoffman

12. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

- a. Report on IWVGA's Water Marketer (Capitol Core Group)
Don Zdeba summarizes the update from CCG (Project update memorandum available in the board packet). The Board received a Technical Memorandum on Sources of Imported Water in early August. CCG has met with the Governor's Office, Governor's Military Council, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and several members of the California Legislature to discuss an Order of Magnitude Funding Request. They are finalizing the Funding Source Strategic Plan and will present it to the Board at the October meeting.
- b. Well Registration Update:
Legal staff has drafted a letter to send out to all private domestic well owners. A list of Accessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) was received from both Inyo County and Stetson. The APN's were then researched by Lauren Duffy and April Nordenstrom to retrieve mailing addresses. A total of 6 new Well Registration Forms have been received since the previous meeting.

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk, Camille Anderson, Don Decker, and Bob McDermont.

13. CLOSING COMMENTS:

Director Hayman shares billing concerns that have been brought to his attention by well owners. He asks if well owners can pay ahead of time and have a credit remaining on their account. Don Zdeba responded payments may be made in advance and credits issued against the balance.

Vice Chair Gleason states that we are all going to be paying more for our water and using less.

Director Vallejo states he is encouraged by the agenda item seeking grant funding at the national level. He urges more resources being applied towards finding additional grant funding, due to the potential costs of the infrastructure needed to bring water to this valley. Commends staff and CCG for pursuing the grant.

Chairman Kicinski thanks staff on all their hard work and thanks the public for their comments and attendance.

14. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – October 17, 2019; 10:00 a.m.

15. ADJOURN:

Chairman Kicinski adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

April Nordenstrom

Executive Secretary
Indian Wells Valley Water District