

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

**Ridgecrest City Hall
100 W California Ave
Ridgecrest, CA 93555**

Thursday, September 21, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gleason at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commander Brian Longbottom, Department of the Navy
Bob Page, San Bernardino County
Peter Brown, Indian Wells Valley Water District
Chairperson Mick Gleason, Kern County
Mayor Peggy Breeden, City of Ridgecrest
Matt Kingsley, Inyo County
Stephen Johnson, IWVGA Water Resources Manager

Also Present:

Donna Thomas, IWVGA PAC Chairperson
Don Zdeba, IWVGA TAC Facilitator
Lauren Duffy, IWVGA Clerk
Alan Christensen, IWVGA Acting General Manager, Kern County
Phill Hall, IWVGA Counsel

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Keith Lemieux followed by a moment of silence.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Report by United States Geological Survey (USGS) on Status of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin Recharge Study.

The presentation was not available and will be on the October 19th IWVGA Board Meeting agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Approve Minutes of Board Meeting August 10, 2017
- b. Approve Minutes of Board Meeting August 17, 2017
- c. Approve Resolution 07-17 appointing members to the Policy Advisory Committee
- d. Approve Resolution 08-17 appointing members to the Technical Advisory Committee
- e. Approve Resolution 09-17 applying for Proposition 1 Grant Application for up to a maximum dollar amounts available for Groundwater Sustainability Plan and for other Sustainability Projects.
- f. Approve Retainer Agreement with James A. Worth of McMurtrey, Hartsock & Worth, Attorneys at Law.

Public comment:

Don Decker asked for the Priorities List mentioned in the IWVGA TAC minutes of the September 7th meeting be revised to reflect the agreed upon list of priorities in order.

Board comment:

The Board agreed to defer voting on item 5(e), Approve Resolution 09-17, until after Stephen Johnson's presentation regarding Prop. 1 funding status.

Motion was made by Peter Brown and seconded by Peggy Breeden to approve Minutes of Board Meeting August 10, 2017, Minutes of Board Meeting August 17, 2017 including Don Decker's recommended revisions, Resolution No. 07-17 appointing members to the Policy Advisory Committee, Resolution No. 08-17 appointing members to the Technical Advisory Committee, and Retainer Agreement with James A. Worth. Motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Breeden, Brown, Gleason, Kingsley, Page Nays: None.)

REPORT FROM TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Don Zdeba, IWVGA TAC facilitator, provided a report from the September 7th IWVGA TAC Meeting. Adam Bingham volunteered as TAC Chair and Eddy Teasdale volunteered as TAC Vice-chair. The TAC requested the Board to approve the following proposed meeting dates:

- October 12th at 2:00 p.m.
- November 2nd at 2:00 p.m.
- December 6th at 1:00 p.m.

Don Zdeba provided a general outline of the geophysics involved in the SkyTEM airborne survey of the Indian Wells Valley being proposed for inclusion in the Stanford University Groundwater Architecture Project.

The Board discussed the possibility of coordinating the PAC and TAC meetings into one joint meeting in an effort to have the committees working together. The suggested times of the PAC and TAC meetings are subject to change.

Public making comment was Derek Hoffman representing Meadowbrook Farm regarding the times of the October 12th PAC and TAC meetings. Alan Christensen commented that he will inform the public of the times for the October 12th committee meetings.

Board comment:

Commander Brian Longbottom commented that the Navy has resolved almost all conflicts regarding the SkyTEM project flying over the China Lake Naval Base.

Motion was made by Bob Page and seconded by Peter Brown to receive and file. Motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Breeden, Brown, Gleason, Kingsley, Page Nays: None.)

REPORT FROM POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Donna Thomas, Chairperson of IWVGA PAC, provided a report from the September 13th IWVGA PAC meeting. The PAC discussed meeting once a month and for the dates to coincide with TAC meeting dates.

The Board discussed Disadvantaged Community representation on the PAC and Form 700 penalties.

Public making comment was Judie Decker regarding the IWVGA staff removing an item from the PAC September 13th agenda and suggested a written memo for future agenda issues.

Motion was made by Bob Page and seconded by Peter Brown to receive and file and directed staff to develop a strategy for how the Board can help the PAC and TAC develop priorities and principals. Motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Breeden, Brown, Gleason, Kingsley, Page Nays: None.)

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON REQUEST BY THE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) TO ALTER BYLAWS TO ALLOW ALTERNATE MEMBERS OF THE PAC:

Staff recommended that no action be taken on this item until things have settled within both committees.

Public making comment was Carol Wilson regarding Jim Worth's presentation at the September 13th IWVGA PAC meeting.

The Board decided to not take action on this agenda item at this time and review at a future IWVGA meeting.

Chair Gleason moved to receive and file agenda item with no further action on this matter at this time. The Board agreed unanimously. (Ayes: Breeden, Brown, Gleason, Kingsley, Page Nays: None.)

WATER REOURCES MANAGER REPORT:

Stephen Johnson introduced Jeff Helsley of Stetson Engineering who is managing the Prop. 1 application process. Mr. Helsley provided presentations on the following agenda items:

- a. Status of Proposition 1 Grant Application
- b. Grant Application Data Requests from Stakeholders and Committees
- c. Plan of Action and Milestones (POAM)

d. Project Budgets for Major GSP Tasks.

Stephen Johnson commented with regards to cash flow, Stetson Engineering could possibly hold bills back and work with the accounting system to a certain extent.

Public making comment was Joshua Nugent, Mike Neel, Stuart Fields, and Derek Hoffman.

Commander Longbottom requested that the following link to the Groundwater Resource Sustainability presentation by Desert Resource Institute (DRI) be provided again:

https://www.kerncounty.com/water/DRI-IWV-Public-Meeting-Jan_19_2017.pdf

Vice-chair Breeden asked Stephen Johnson the time frame for understanding and developing a Sustainability Plan.

Motion was made by Bob Page and seconded by Peter Brown to receive and file the Water Resources Manager Report. Motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Breeden, Brown, Gleason, Kingsley, Page Nays: None.)

The Board referred back to Consent Agenda item 5(e) for discussion and action.

Alan Christensen provided clarification on the application process and stated the application for grant funding would be provided to the Board for approval prior to submittal.

Motion was made by Bob Page and seconded by Peter Brown to approve Resolution 09-17 applying for Proposition 1 Grant Application for up to a maximum dollar amounts available for Groundwater Sustainability Plan and for other Sustainability Projects with the following change on page 2 of Resolution No. 09-17, section 1, subsection (e) to read the due date as "November 13, 2017". Motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Breeden, Brown, Gleason, Kingsley, Page Nays: None.)

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

Alan Christensen provided the General Manager's Report on the following items:

- a.** Discussion/Action to Define the Process for Setting the Agenda for the Policy Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee
- b.** Discussion/Action Regarding Filing of Form 700 by Committee Members
- c.** Letter by County of Kern to State Attorney General for an Opinion on Brown Act Compliance Concerns

Public making comment was Derek Hoffman and Mike Neel.

Motion was made by Bob Page and seconded by Peggy Breeden to approve staff's recommendation for assigning tasks to the PAC and TAC until the next regular IWVGA Board Meeting to provide additional time for the PAC and TAC chairs to compile ideas. Motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Breeden, Brown, Gleason, Kingsley, Page Nays: None.)

CLOSING COMMENTS:

Vice-chair Breeden commented on a “Letter to the Editor” published in the Daily Independent which used the words “neo-Nazi” when referring to the IWVGA Board.

CLOSED SESSION:

None.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next IWVGA meeting will be held October 19, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers at Ridgecrest City Hall, 100 W. California Avenue.

ADJOURN:

Chairperson Gleason adjourned the meeting at 12:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lauren Duffy', is written over the printed name.

Lauren Duffy

Clerk of the Board of Directors
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority