

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020 – 2:00 P.M.

TELECONFERENCE
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

Attendees: Ron Kicinski, Don Zdeba, Jason Lillion, Renee Morquecho, and Tyrell Staheli, David Saint-Amand.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:13 p.m.

2. Committee/Public Comments

None

3. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA)

The Committee discussed the May 21, IWVGA Regular Board Meeting and actions taken. Topics to discuss at the May IWVWD Regular Board meeting were decided and include:

- Fees going forward; Replenishment and potential increase of the current \$30/acre-foot pumping fee. Data package in process.
- Drafting a process for addressing failure to comply with well registration, pumping fee payment or filing the Groundwater Verification Report (32 received out of 56 non-de minimis pumpers).
- Revising the job description for an independent IWVGA General Manger position. Edits and suggestions to the current job description requested by tomorrow. Once finalized, will consider where to advertise including Water District Jobs and ACWA.

4. Brackish Water Study

GoToMeeting held May 7th to review project status. The Group is facing the possibility the project may not be able to achieve its goal due to the many constraints it has encountered in attempting to secure a test site that meets optimum conditions. Understandably, we are denied access to best potential area for brackish water for this study located on the base. Next best option for sampling and doing an aquifer test using existing wells is a Meadowbrook Dairy well in the area of interest. However, Meadowbrook declined to participate. The only remaining option for obtaining a representative brackish groundwater sample and conducting a pump test to obtain aquifer characteristics is to drill a new well in the area. Options for that include possible State funding or private funding on private property. This would present challenges as structuring the finances would be complex given the cost of drilling. Status updates have been presented to DWR and we are awaiting their response on potential paths forward. We are reluctant to spend funds unless we have access to areas with a high probability of success. Have not yet determined the meeting on June 4th is necessary.

5. Alternate Water Sources

Letter sent May 14th to the City Council with a copy to the City Manager requesting a commitment from the Council for City and District staffs to initiate negotiations, when appropriate, on an agreement meeting both of our objectives in the best interest of the citizens of Ridgecrest and the District's ratepayers.

6. Future Agenda Items

None.

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.