

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022 – 2:00 P.M.

BOARD ROOM
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

Attendees: Stan Rajtora and Don Zdeba

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm.

2. Committee/Public Comments

None.

3. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Director Rajtora reported on the May 11, 2022, Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) Regular Board meeting and actions taken:

- There was a Public Facilitation Meeting held by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on May 17th. Paul Gosselin, the Deputy Director of DWR, and his facilitator stressed the need for collaboration among the major pumpers. He also stressed the need for overdraft solution to be a local solution and emphasized that the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) could be modified as needed. It may also be possible to modify the grant that the IWVGA received earlier this month if and when modifications are made to the GSP.
- The Annual Report release process will be discussed at the next board meeting. There is a push for the Annual Report to be a board approved document.
- Director Rajtora is also pushing for the use of planning tools. There is now a GSP Update, an Annual Report, and a Grant Funded Imported Water Interconnection Effort that should each have a plan with a schedule and a budget.
- The 2020 Audit Report will be presented at the June board meeting.
- Director Rajtora's primary concern remains the lack of a validated method to measure the change of groundwater in storage. This makes it difficult to calculate the recharge and estimate the safe yield.
- The primary Stetson effort continues to be the Recycled Water Analysis and Section 5 of the Recycled Water Report was due to be released to the technical team during the week of May 16th, however, there has been no word on if that has happened or when it will happen.
- The transfer of the Navy Groundwater Model to the IWVGA is starting to make some progress. The model is critical for the January 2025 GSP update.
- Don Zdeba reported that there is a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting scheduled for tonight and that the main agenda item is the Communication Engagement Plan

Public Comment regarding the IWVGA –

➤ Mike Sinnott –

- At the last IWVGA meeting it was mentioned that there was discussion of an interconnect project with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). This protentional project has never been formally talked about up to this point but could definitely benefit the basin. Mr. Sinnott feels that it would be logical and advantageous to tie in to the aqueduct in the Coso/Rose Valley area which could benefit both the Geothermal plant and this basin. However, the logistics and politics behind it would be a little more challenging being that the pipeline would have to run across Navy land located in Inyo County. Don Zdeba added that there has been talks with LADWP in years past and they are willing to listen/consider any plans, but has made it clear that any potential project would have to be beneficial to all 3 entities involved (LAWDP, Inyo County, and the Indian Wells Valley).

4. Brackish Water Study

The Brackish Water Group last met January 27th to review results of the aquifer test conducted during late March/early April of 2021 and sampling of NR-1-D and NR-2-D in November. As previously reported, testing and sampling in the northern Brown Road agricultural area showed groundwater at a depth of 2,000’ to be poor quality, particularly high in TDS (10,000 to 34,000 ppm) and boron content (200 to 260 ppm). Treating that groundwater in order to produce potable water is likely not feasible, however there is more work being done to more fully evaluate the data and examine alternatives to extraction from this location and depth. The Group did receive a check in the amount of \$42,304.11 from the Department of Water Resources on May 10th for the fourth invoice package that was submitted March 11th. This invoice covered work completed between June 1st and December 31st. Target date for completion of the study is March 30, 2023.

5. Alternate Water Sources

a. Exploration of sub-basins within the valley

At the January 19th workshop, the Board approved up to \$200,000 to obtain and reprocess additional remote sensing/seismic data collected during the 1980’s within the El Paso sub-basin area and update the Hydrological Conceptual Framework. Total projected cost, including the cost to update the HCF, is \$173,223.30, below the budgetary figure.

Columbia has completed reprocessing of 59 miles of the 1982 seismic data as well as 40 miles of 1988 seismic data and loaded them onto an FTP (File Transfer Protocol) site for John’s review. John loaded all data into OpendTect and prepared a PowerPoint comparing the original data to the reprocessed data to see the improvement. He is working on interpretation of the data.

Completion of this work dictates the schedule for completing the groundwater storage study.

At the April 11th Board meeting, following discussion of seeking grant funding for a pumping optimization project, Board directed staff to draft a project scope that would not only consider drilling wells in the El Paso sub-basin area, but also consider opportunities for a recharge component in that area. There was agreement it would be more beneficial to look at it as a multi-benefit project instead of focusing exclusively on optimizing pumping. A draft project scope should be available for review at the June 30th Water Management Committee meeting.

6. Future Agenda Items

None.

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm