

MINUTES

County of Inyo WATER COMMISSION

January 23, 2024

Commissioner Red Owl called the Water Commission meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. at the Clint Quilter County Office Building, Bishop, Ca. Water Commissioners in attendance were Teri Red Owl, Randy Keller, Dan Berry, and Vikki Glinskii. Commissioner Huette was absent. Present from the Water Department were Holly Alpert, and Laura Piper.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Red Owl led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Introduce new Commissioner Vikki Glinskii

Commissioner Red Owl thanked Nate Gratz for his dedicated service and serving six years on the Water Commission and welcomed the new Water Commissioner, Vikki Glinskii. Dr. Alpert stated Commissioner Berry was reappointed by the Inyo County Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Berry stated he was looking forward to serving on the Commission. Commissioner Glinskii stated she was honored to serve on the Commission.

3. Public Comment

Noah Williams wanted to comment on Fish Springs regarding the 12 percent reduction and installing the variable frequency pump and asked what the Water Department is doing to keep this project on track; what if any active monitoring is taking place in Fish Springs region. Dr. Alpert replied that the water spreading was not being measured by ICWD but that groundwater levels are monitored on a regular basis.

4. Approval of minutes from October 19, 2023

Motion to approve the October 19, 2023, minutes by Dan Berry, seconded by Randy Keller. Motion passed, with one absence, Commissioner Huette.

5. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Moved by Commissioner Berry and seconded by Commissioner Keller to re-elect Teri Red Owl as Chairperson. Motion carried with one absence, Commissioner Huette. Moved by Commissioner Berry and seconded by Vikki Glinskii to elect Commissioner Keller as Vice-Chairperson. Motion carried with one absence, Commissioner Huette.

6. Selection of Feb 8 Standing Committee representatives

Commissioner Red Owl stated it is typically the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson that attends these meetings. All Commissioners present agreed.

7. Commissioners' reports

The Chairperson inquired if any Commissioners wished to report on this item. Commissioner Berry discussed all the road repairs in Death Valley and stated they will wash out again. He mentioned he hoped the State/County through an EIR can change these roads and make improvements to raise them in the low-lying areas to prevent washout.

8. Director's report

Dr. Alpert presented the 2022-23 Inyo County Water Dept. annual report and discussed the new format, returning to the former "Monitor" from earlier years which is a more digestible version. The Commissioners stated they appreciated the condensed version and also knowing more detailed information is on the Water Department website. Commissioner Red Owl stated copies are usually provided to the libraries also. Dr. Alpert stated the draft LORP Annual Report just came out in December. After the report is finalized and approved by the Technical Group, staff will start work on the 2024-25 LORP Work Plan and that would be approved in July 2024. She updated the Commission on the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority's first annual report which is being completed through a contract with Daniel B Stephens & Associates; the template being created for future reports; the well registration program; and current staffing changes in the Water Dept.

Sally Manning stated she doesn't agree with the Commission over the new Annual Report and provided a few points. She stated it communicates data is only being collected and not being used to protect the valley. She suggested retracting it and rewriting it for the public to be educated on the real issues.

9. Future meeting schedule

The next Water Commission was tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 22, 2024. Dr. Alpert stated she believes the Board is dark the two Tuesdays after the 10-day review period for the pumping plan. Commissioner Red Owl and Sally Manning stated the Water Dept. should ask the Board for a special meeting.

10. Public Comment

Nancy Masters wanted to let the Commission know candidates' night is on Jan 29 at 5:30 in Independence at the Legion Hall for the 5th District and on Jan 31 in Lone Pine at Statham Hall.

11. Adjourn

The Vice Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.