

Mono County Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District

Post Office Box 936, Benton, CA. 93512

www.tvgmd.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Carol Ann Mitchell, Chairperson

Phil West, Vice-Chairperson

Geri Bassett, Secretary - Treasurer

Marion Dunn

Richard Moss

Greg Allen

Rhonda Duggan, Mono County District 2 Supervisor

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

Benton Community Center

6:30 p.m.

Social Distancing observed

AGENDA (Final)

1. TVGMD Advisory Board

- A. Letter from Betsy McDonald (Chalfant) requesting appointment to the Advisory Board for a term of one year. (Attachment A)
- B. Letter from Amy Saladin (Chalfant) requesting appointment to the Advisory Board for a term of one year. (Attachment B)
- C. Interview and potentially appoint Betsy McDonald (Chalfant) and Amy Saladin (Chalfant) to the TVGMD Advisory Board for a one year term each.
- D. Advisory Board Report and Comment.
- E. Advisory Board By-Laws or Rules

2. Public Comment (on any matter).

3. Approval of minutes of the February 23, 2022 meeting (Attachment C)

4. Report of Director Activities.

5. Presentation by Holly Alpert of the Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Program on possible funding of a groundwater model for the Tri-Valley area. Discussion and possible action by TVGMD to support Mono County application for grant funding of a groundwater model.

6. Report from Board Representatives and staff on the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority.

7. Discussion and possible action on Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) request by TVGMD. The GSA request no longer exists on Department of Water Resources SGMA portal. TVGMD needs to ascertain if re-application is necessary.
8. Board discussion on meeting schedule for remainder of 2022, zoom meetings, workshop, and meeting places.
9. Discussion and possible adoption of a Resolution (Attachment D) authorizing remote teleconference meeting for the period of March 25 through April 24, 2022. *Note: Regular meeting date is April 27, 2022.*
10. Public Comment (on any matter).
11. Adjournment to Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 6:30 p.m., at the Chalfant Community Center.

"A"

February 17, 2022

Dear TVGMD Chairperson Carol Ann:

First of all, I so appreciate your dedication to TVGMD, Carol Ann, especially having learned at the last Mono County Board of Supervisors Meeting that you basically started this district! Thank you!

I am writing to let you know of my interest in being appointed to the Advisory Board of the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District.

I am a nineteen year resident of Chalfant, residing on Buena Vista Drive. My background includes a Bachelor of Science Degree from UC Berkeley (1977) and then work at Point Reyes National Seashore (temp) and as asst. data manager of the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. When I moved to the Owens Valley in 1985, my priority was being at home with my two children and I did some part time work at the local school as a vocational education teacher (computer applications, record keeping and accounting). I then proceeded, as kids got older, to get my teaching credential (health and business) and later on my administrative credential. I was principal at Bridgeport Elementary for a year (quite the commute), and then an administrative job came open in Bishop. I applied and was hired. I worked in administration with the Bishop District for nine years prior to retiring.

Now that I'm retired, I use some of my time as a Qigong teacher (online due to pandemic) and am an End of Life Doula. I volunteer with the Bishop Sunrise Rotary Club and lead their Community Needs Committee. My husband and I enjoy some traveling but we love our home here in Chalfant, nestled between our gorgeous Sierra and White Mountains. Harold is a Master Gardener and volunteers with numerous organizations as well.

I am interested in being on the TVGMD advisory board because I want to see a win/win/win solution for water in the Tri-Valley area—preserving residential wells, ranching interests and the environment, including Fish Slough. I am a believer that we are obligated to be good ancestors, to consider the next seven generations in our plans and actions. In order to do this with our local water, we need to understand the dynamics of our groundwater and work together to find solutions to the drawdown of wells and aquifers, especially considering California drought conditions.

I hope the board will consider appointing me to the Advisory Board. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have, and I pledge to do my best to get up to speed on the many aspects of Tri-Valley Water. Thank you!!

With best regards,

Betsy McDonald
760-784-0745
PO Box 165
Bishop, CA 93515

"B"

March 6 2022

To Carol Ann Mitchell, Chair TVGMD

Hello Carol Ann,

I am interested in being on the TVGMD advisory board. I have lived in Chalfant Valley for 10 years and have a stake in the sustainability of our water supply as a home owner and as my job depends on a healthy groundwater situation. I would like to reach out to other people that live and work in the Tri-Valley area to hear their concerns and ideas about the groundwater, and to help them understand how the TVGMD board is working to keep this most precious of resources available to everyone and the surrounding environment.

I would be available to attend monthly board meetings, and any advisory board meetings too.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy SheltonSaladin
103 Mary Lane
Chalfant Valley CA
sheltonsaladin@msn.com
760.873.4649

" B "

C

MINUTES

MONO COUNTY TRI-VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT Regular Meeting of February 23, 2022 6:30 P.M. Community Centers closed (COVID) – Zoom only

Chairperson Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. on February 23, 2022. Meeting was held via zoom.

Roll Call:

Directors Present: Mitchell, West, Dunn, Allen, and Bassett.

Directors Absent: Moss (excused due to health issues) and Duggan (family health).

Advisory board present: M. Cook and G. Barsi

Mono County Personnel in attendance: Asst. County Counsel Emily Fox; Community Development Dept. Michael Draper

1. TVGMD Advisory Board (A.B.)

A. Appoint Dennis Murphy to the TVGMD Advisory Board (Hammil) for a term of 1 Year (tabled in January).

Dennis has lived at First Light Ranch on Cinnamon Ranch Road in Hammil Valley for 3 years. He is curious about the water situation; wants to help in any way he can to understand the water issues.

Director Dunn asked Mr. Murphy if he would be able to meet and work with other Hammil Valley residents and communicate their concerns. Mr. Murphy said that he would be able to do that.

Motion to appoint Dennis Murphy to the TVGMD A.B. was made by Director Bassett and seconded by Director Dunn.

Vote – all directors in attendance – “yes”.

B. Advisory Board Composition according to District Legislation.

Director Mitchell reported that, per Legislation, the A.B. has to have an equal number of members from each of the three valleys – Chalfant, Hammil, and Benton. There is no specific total number of how many people the A.B. needs to have.

C. Letter from Andy Puhvel requesting appointment to the A.B. to represent Hammil Valley for a term of 1 year (attachment A).

Andy's interest is to find a solution to slowdown/halt the approx. 2-foot per year drop in water level and still have people be able to use water for their needs.

Director Dunn asked Mr. Puhvel if he would be able to meet and work with other Hammil Valley residents and communicate their concerns. Mr. Puhvel said that he doesn't always talk to all of his neighbors, but, that yes, he would be able to do that.

Motion to appoint Andy Puhvel to the TVGMD A.B. was made by Director West and seconded by Director Dunn.

Vote – all directors in attendance – “yes”.

This appointment will start the second round of appointments; representatives from Benton and Chalfant needed next.

D. A.B. Report and Comment.

Mike Cook reported:

1. A second A.B. meeting was held 2/21/22. Mike Cook, Carol Ann Mitchell, and Dennis Murphy attended.
2. the meeting was announced and 2 other public people attended.
3. there is a sense that the A.B. is “picking up steam”.
4. they all want to ensure that there will be plenty of water for everyone.
5. the A.B. objectives are to:
 - a. develop a baseline of water data – by collecting existing and historical data. This objective is being worked on.
 - b. develop a groundwater monitoring plan in specific wells in all 3 regions of the Tri-Valley; record data and make it available to the public.
 - c. The A.B. wants to develop a newsletter of the TVGMD board to inform residents of who the board members are and about the plan to monitor groundwater levels.

2. Public Comment (on any matter):

None at this time.

3. Approval of minutes of the January 26, 2022 meeting (attachment B).

Motion made by Director Dunn and seconded by Director West to approve minutes as presented, with the note that there was no second to the motion to appoint Director Bassett to the Secretary/Treasurer position. Director West added the second at this meeting.

Vote on both the minutes and appointment of Director Bassett – all directors in attendance – “yes”.

4. Clarification of the County boundary in regard to Fish Slough and the Northeast Spring.

At Director Mitchells’ request, Director Bassett stated that we had received a map from Aaron Steinwand of the Inyo County Water Department and Owens Valley Groundwater Association (OVGA). The map shows the Inyo-Mono County line, Fish Slough, the areas covered by the TVGMD and the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin, Los Angeles land in Inyo County, and the Owens Lake. The northeast spring in Fish Slough is either in the TVGMD area or Mono County. Director West will add the map to the www.tvgmd.org Website.

5. Mono County may assume IRWMP project for groundwater modeling in the Tri-Valley.

Mono County (M.C.) is planning to withdraw from the OVGA on 6/30/2022. M.C. is a member of the Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP). OVGA had submitted a project request for the Tri-Valley groundwater model. With M.C. areas no longer under OVGA jurisdiction as of 6/30/2022, OVGA would most likely not fund the project. M.C. is considering assuming responsibility of the project, pending TVGMD’s OK.

Holly Alpert, IRWM Program Director, commented that the final version of the draft

request proposals would be out soon and that funding applications would be this Fall. This is the last round of Prop. 1 money.

Lynn Bolton, Range of Light Toiyabe Chapter, asked about the 50% match that was required for the project, was there any "wobble room" on that. Holly Alpert replied that the 50% match can be partially or completely waived for disadvantaged communities, which Tri-Valley is considered to be.

Director West commented that this should be discussed and voted on in an in-person meeting. Director's Dunn and Allen agreed with that. Director Mitchell asked Holly Alpert to send her any available information and said that this issue will be on the March agenda of the TVGMD.

6. Board of Directors Items:

A. Oath of Office of Director Allen

Director Mitchell delivered the Oath of Office to Director Allen. Director Allen accepted and will deliver the signed Oath to Director Bassett for further signatures.

B. Board Member Reports

Director Mitchell reported that Director Bassett and she accessed the well at the Chalfant transfer station and took a reading. They will be doing the Benton transfer station well, probably next week, and are looking for help with well monitoring from the A.B.

Director West said that he would like to help with the well monitoring and is available on weekends. He commented that we need to get back to in-person meetings as soon as possible. He feels that there is a lot of misinformation out there and misunderstanding of how groundwater works. If we have in-person meetings, we can have demonstrations, etc. to educate people.

Directors Dunn and Allen agreed with that; things change due to drought, etc. Alfalfa growers aren't the only cause of water tables lowering.

Director Mitchell also reported that Director Bassett and she have been going through files given to them by Director Dunn. Director Mitchell will be speaking to Supervisor Duggan about putting a TVGMD office at the Chalfant Community Center. This would be for storing files, equipment, etc.

C. Reimbursement for web page cost to Director West for up to \$150 and direct Treasurer to request warrant.

Reimbursement to Director West would be approx. \$15.99 for the web name and approx. \$109.99 for the webpage.

Motion made by Director Dunn and seconded by Director Allen to direct the Treasurer to prepare a warrant request for reimbursement to Director West for up to \$150 as described.

Vote on reimbursement – all directors in attendance – "yes".

Director West commented that we're at a minimum cost for a starter webpage. If we start adding information to the website, we might need to go to a server with more capacity, which would cost more. This is just for information at this time.

7. Report from Board Representatives and staff on the Owens Valley Groundwater

Authority

A. Report on the OVGA Meeting 2/10/2022.

Director Bassett reported that at the 2/10/2022 OVGA meeting:

1. Aaron Steinwand commented that the contract with DBS&A expired on 1/31/22. The funds remaining on the contract will go towards hours for December 2021 that have not yet been billed.
2. Director Steinwand also reported that the GSP and monitoring data had all been uploaded to the SIGMA portal on the DWR website by January 26, 2022. This starts the 75-day public comment period. Approval for a low priority basin, which the Owens Valley Water Basin is, might not be reached for up to 2 years. John Vallejo, Inyo County Counsel, commented that the Indian Wells GSP was just approved and it took 2 years; lawsuits about fees are on-going.
3. There was discussion about the possible change in the OVGA GSA boundary once Mono County withdraws from the OVGA on June 30, 2022. After some discussion, OVGA staff was directed to proceed with the boundary change process. The change would coordinate with M.C.'s withdrawal from OVGA, M.C.'s request to be the GSA for M.C. areas not covered by the TVGMD, and TVGMD's request to become the GSA for the M.C. area under their jurisdiction.
4. Management actions regarding the well registration and reporting ordinance, the well permit review ordinance, and the increase of groundwater level monitoring network were discussed and decided to be included in the draft budget that would be presented in March 2022. Implementation of the actions would depend on funding sources.
5. The management action of developing a groundwater model for Tri-Valley was discussed and staff was directed not to include it in the draft budget, pending discussion with M.C./TVGMD about becoming the applicant for the IRWMP project.

B. Discussion on GSA request and OVGA boundary change.

See item 7.A.3. above.

8. 2022 Strategic Plan (attachment C).

Director Mitchell presented a draft 2022 Strategic Plan (S.P.). The S.P. would be on the TVGMD website, to show what TVGMD really does and is responsible for, and show what our vision and mission are. She would like to have a full S.P., including funding and the whole mission, done next year. The S.P. can be used as part of a GSP if TVGMD does do one in the future and is needed for some grant funding. It could also help with the newsletter that the A.B. wants to do.

A.B. member Cook asked if, this year or next, the goal of adding a hydrologist to the board or getting one on M.C. staff could be added to the plan. Follow up with Supervisor Duggan will be needed.

A.B. member Puhvel commented that the plan looks good; goals are important.

Lynn Bolton asked if the start of discussion in protecting Fish Slough could be added to the list of projects. She noted that the Northeast spring is not doing well and could dry up this Summer.

Michael Draper, Mono County Planning, said that he has had responses from 4 or 5 people about the email that went out to allow TVGMD to receive contact information for people that had initially said that they would allow OVGA to monitor their well. That information could be added to the email list that the A.B. would like to get for the newsletter.

Director West said that the website information is good and that the S.P. can be amended at any time, maybe with a quarterly review. He asked that it be considered a "living document" and that language about the review be added to the plan. Asst. County Counsel (A.C.C.) Fox said that she could add the requested language.

Based on the pending addition of the "living document" and review language being added to the plan, Director West made a motion to accept the S.P. The motion was seconded by Director Allen.

Vote on acceptance of draft S.P. – all directors in attendance – "yes".

9. Adoption of resolution allowing for continued virtual meetings under AB 361 (Attachment D).

This will be monthly resolution needed while meetings are on Zoom.

There was discussion that we should get back to in-person meetings as soon as possible, hopefully, by the March 23, 2022 meeting.

Motion to accept the Resolution 22-02 was made by Director Bassett and seconded by Director Dunn.

Vote – all directors in attendance – "yes".

10. Discussion on Key Wells, CASGEM, and volunteer training.

Director Bassett is the Administrator set up in CASGEM for our monitoring wells at Benton and Chalfant. She should be at the monitoring locations to participate and/or observe the process in case CASGEM has any questions about our procedures.

Director Mitchell asked for volunteers to assist Director Bassett. Betsey McDonald replied that she can assist at the Chalfant location. Director West and A.B. member Puhvel both said that they can assist at either location. Director Bassett will email McDonald and Puhvel to get contact phone numbers.

Training for the sounder includes wiping the tape and probe with a bleach solution or bleach wipes before putting it in the wells.

A. Possible funding opportunity from Department of Water Resources/United States Geological Survey.

A.C.C. Fox commented that there is potential funding from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and Department of Water Resources (DWR) to monitor private wells. We would need to contact CDFW.

Aaron Steinwand said that OVGA reached out to DWR and that DWR might be able to make monitoring equipment available. This would use private domestic wells to fill in data gaps in the Tri-Valley.

Director West asked, if the agreement is thru DWR, would the data be available to

TVGMD? Steinwand replied that, yes, it goes into CASGEM, the state well database, each well has a state ID number. An access agreement would be needed between the property owner and the monitoring entity.

A.B. member Puhvel commented that the A.B. has been working on a plan for long-term monitoring and Strategic Plan; this would be a good opportunity to get more information.

Director Bassett made a motion to have Deputy County Counsel Fox and Michael Draper contact Aaron Steinwand to get information needed to proceed. Director West seconded the motion based on it being an information request only.

Vote – all directors in attendance – “yes”.

11. Public Comment (on any matter).

A.B. member Cook said that the Advisory Board will invite Director West to come to a meeting in the near future to pursue information on water flow. Director Mitchell reminded him that, to comply with the Brown Act, they can have no more than 2 Directors at one of the Advisory Board meetings.

Director Bassett said that she would not be available on May 25, 2022 for the regularly scheduled meeting. Do we want to change the meeting date to help ensure a quorum? Director Allen mentioned that he is not available that day either. It was decided that the May meeting will be held on May 18, 2022.

12. Adjournment to Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 6:30 p.m., in Benton (pending Covid-19 status)

The meeting will be in-person if possible.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Director Allen and seconded by Director West.

Vote – all directors in attendance – “yes”.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Next meeting will be held on the fourth Wednesday of March 2022:

March 23, 2022

At 6:30 P.M. at the Benton Community Center (pending COVID status)

**Geri Bassett
Secretary, TVGMD**

" B "

Resolution 22-03

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS
FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 25, 2022 THROUGH APRIL 24, 2022 PURSUANT TO
AB 361**

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which Proclamation remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20, modifying the teleconferencing rules set forth in the California Open Meeting law, Government Code section 54950 et seq. (the "Brown Act"), subject to compliance with certain requirements; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, providing that the modifications would remain in place through September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 361, providing that a legislative body subject to the Brown Act may continue to meet under modified teleconferencing rules if the meeting occurs during a proclaimed state of emergency and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, the Local Health Officer and the Director of Mono County Public Health have recommended that measures be implemented to promote social distancing, including the holding of virtual meetings of legislative bodies within the County of Mono, a copy of that recommendation is attached as an exhibit and incorporated herein; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health and safety, and in response to the local recommendation for measures to promote social distancing, the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District Board of Directors (the "Legislative Body") deems it necessary to invoke the provisions of AB 361 related to teleconferencing;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE LEGISLATIVE BODY FINDS AND RESOLVES that:

SECTION ONE: The recitals set forth above are true and correct and are adopted as findings of the Legislative Body.

SECTION TWO: The Legislative Body has reconsidered the circumstances of the State of Emergency.

SECTION THREE: State or local officials have recommended measures to promote social distancing, including the holding of virtual meetings for legislative bodies within the County of Mono that are subject to the Brown Act.

SECTION FOUR: Meetings of the Legislative Body may be held 100% virtually through April 24, 2022.

1 **SECTION FIVE:** Staff is directed to return to the Legislative Body no later than thirty
2 (30) days after the adoption of this resolution for the Legislative Body to consider whether to
3 again make the findings required to continue meeting under the modified teleconference
4 procedures of AB 361.

5 **PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED** this 23 day of March 2022, by the following
6 vote, to wit:

7 **AYES:**

8 **NOES:**

9 **ABSENT:**

10 **ABSTAIN:**

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12 _____
13 Carol Ann Mitchell, Chair
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