

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

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WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 – 2:00 P.M.

BOARD ROOM  
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

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Attendees: Stan Rajtora, Ron Kicinski, George Croll, Jason Lillion, Justin Thompson, and Ty Staheli

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

**2. Committee/Public Comments**

None.

**3. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA)**

Director Griffin was not present to give an update on the last IWVGA Board meeting

The committee discussed the IWVGA's Shallow Well Mitigation Program and the public perception of using the District's rate payers money to drill new wells for others who have had their private wells fail. Discussion was also had on what should be paid for if and when a private well goes dry.

District staff is scheduled to meet with both Stetson and Provost & Pritchard next week to go over the pipeline project costs.

**a. Discuss feasible alternatives to the pipeline project.**

The District staff has been looking at different options and the true amount of water that the District would require from the pipeline project. To this date the District has conserved so much that it is almost reached the level of sustainability for this basin.

Director Kicinski brought up alternatives such as: the Navy base building a desalinization plant for the Brackish water, is Searles Valley Minerals is looking at to treat their brackish water, is there a way to get water from the District wells that are in Inyo County, does Kern County permit the use of grey water for irrigation.

**4. Change of Committee Meeting Time**

Committee agreed to change the meeting time of future Water Management Committee Meetings from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm on the last working Thursday of each month.

**5. Future LADWP Aqueduct Water Release**

Committee wants to continue working on a long-term project for the capture of future LADWP Aqueduct releases. Mr. Croll has plans to meet with LADWP to talk about the

options that the District has for capturing the released water. Staff has been asked to come up with preliminary rough cost estimates for drilling a simple gravity fed injection well. There could be benefits for both the District and LADWP if we can provide an area for the water to be released and used instead of just dumping water into the desert.

**6. Potential Impact of Recycled Water on District's Need for Imported Water**

The committee discussed what would need to be done to move forward with the recycled water project and the state's requirements for what can be done with the waste water. Mr. Croll has met with the City of Ridgecrest and believes that investing in the recycled water could help with meeting the District's water allocation goals. The IWVGA has expressed a lack of interest in this project and the committee feels that the District should focus on working with the City to find a reasonable use for the water.

**7. Brackish Water Study**

The committee discussed the need to meet with the Navy to discuss the advantages and challenges of moving forward with this study. The majority of the brackish water is believed to be under the Navy Base and to this point the Navy has not permitted drilling or sampling of that water for this study. The committee feels that the basin as a whole could benefit from the treatment and use of this groundwater. The first step of the study is about to come to a conclusion and the District is hopeful that the Navy will work with the Brackish Water Group to continue the study.

**8. Alternate Water Sources**

There is nothing new to report on this subject.

**a. Exploration of sub-basins within the valley**

Tim Parker is working with DWR to find funding for test wells to be drilled in the El Paso region.

**9. Future Agenda Items**

None

**10. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm