

MONO COUNTY TRI-VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
123B Valley Road
Chalfant, California 93514

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Greg Allen, Chairperson
Don Moss, Vice-Chairperson
Geri Bassett, Secretary
Carol Ann Mitchell
Ed Parkinson
Josh Rhodes
Matt Doonan

Rhonda Duggan, Mono County District 2 Supervisor (Ex-Officio Member)

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Benton Community Center
Hwy 120, Benton, CA 93512

Mission: The mission of the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District is to comply with the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014 and other applicable laws (government code, water code etc.) as the law pertains to the District.*

Core Vision: To preserve the groundwater within the boundaries of the District (Chapter 844 of 1989 California Statutes).

- 1. Advisory Board.**
 - A. Report.**
- 2. Public Comment.**
- 3. Discussion and possible approval of minutes from the August 28, 2024 meeting.**
(See attachment # 3)
- 4. Update on the Tri-Valley Groundwater Model project/RFP.**
- 5. Update on:**
 - A. Equipment needed - computer, microphones, etc.**
 - B. Having someone to run the computer needed for video requirements.**
- 6. Discussion and possible action regarding setting up a Zoom account.**
- 7. Board of Directors reports.**
- 8. Adjournment to Wednesday, October 23, 2024, 6:30 p.m. at the Chalfant Community Center.**

**DRAFT
MINUTES**

attachment
item #3

**MONO COUNTY TRI-VALLEY GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of August 28, 2024 6:30 P.M.
Chalfant Community Center**

Chairperson Allen called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, August 28, 2024. The meeting was held in person. C.C. Beck attended via zoom due to a lengthy earlier meeting.

Roll Call:

Directors Present: Allen, Moss, Mitchell, Parkinson, Rhodes, Duggan, and Bassett.

Directors Absent: Doonan.

Advisory Board (A.B.) present: Murphy, McDonald, and Barsi

Mono County (M.C.) Personnel in attendance: County Counsel (C.C.) Chris Beck

1. Advisory Board.

A. Report.

A.B. Murphy reported that they had held a meeting on August 13, 2024. One of the things discussed was progress made on the 23/24 Strategic Plan items. He noted that he would not mention any items that had no progress or A.B. comments.

Comments/suggestions were:

- Develop landowner/parcel database - no progress. A.B. suggests the Board request the database from the County.
- Mailing a newsletter to all residents - no progress. A.B. suggests the Board determine if this is feasible and supported by the County. We don't know what e-mail/ mailing addresses we may have access to for USPS mail and/or email.
- Engaging the community with events - some good progress. We've had several presentations, dates uncertain, from DWR, SGMA, Fish and Wildlife, Brown Act training. Had an offer for a ranch tour from Jarret, date to be determined. Appreciate the offer.
- Continue emailing quarterly TVGMD newsletter – A.B. requests the Board make each Board member responsible for nominating content once a year for the newsletter; need topics/ideas. Could be the state of the GSA or commentary on local issues, for example.
- Continue education for Board and Stakeholders – A.B. requests continued effort on subject matter experts presenting at Board meetings as the example stated before.
- Prepare for groundwater model work - ongoing progress, quarterly data collection at Chalfant and Benton dump (monitoring) wells.
- A.B. asked the Board to agendize the response to the Bishop Paiute Tribe letter. This was already listed on the 8/28/2024 TVGMD Board agenda.
- A.B. suggests the Board invite Louis Molina to an upcoming Board meeting to better understand the process for new well approvals and denials, as well as the existence and status of any permits this year to date.

Also discussed was renewing Gina Barsi's term for one year.

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B. Recommendation and possible action on renewing term of office for one year for Gina Barsi.

A motion to renew Gina Barsi's term for one year was made by Director Mitchell and seconded by Director Parkinson. Term to start 8/28/2024.

Vote – ayes – Directors Allen, Moss, Mitchell, Parkinson, Rhodes, and Bassett.

Nayes – none.

Absent – Director Doonan.

2. Public Comment.

None.

3. Discussion and possible approval of minutes from the July 24, 2024 meeting. (See attachment # 3)

A motion to approve the July 24, 2024 draft minutes as presented was made by Director Parkinson and seconded by Director Mitchell.

Vote – ayes – Directors Allen, Moss, Mitchell, Parkinson, Rhodes, and Bassett.

Nayes – none.

Absent – Director Doonan.

4. Update on candidacy papers submitted for the November 2024 election. (See attachment # 4)

Director Bassett reported that, per Queenie Barnard, the M.C. Clerk/Recorder/Registrar:

- the only candidacy papers received for the 4 open seats were from the 4 incumbents.
- per Elections Code, seats will not go on the ballot.
- per code, M.C. BOS will appoint the candidates in lieu of election, most likely during their November 5, 2024 meeting.

Oaths of office to be taken on November 20, 2024 before the regular TVGMD meeting.

Supervisor Duggan to present oath for Chairperson Allen and then Chairperson Allen to present oath to vice-Chair Moss and Directors Bassett and Doonan.

5. Update on the Directors insurance.

Chairperson Allen reported that he had received, completed and returned to Golden State Risk Management Authority (GSRMA) additional forms needed to start the insurance. He anticipates that the insurance could be in place before the September meeting. The cost is \$3018 annually, as previously discussed and approved.

6. Update on response to Bishop Tribal Council regarding letter received from them (item # 5 of April 24, 2024 TVGMD meeting).

Chairperson Allen reported that he has again contacted Brian Adkins, the representative for the Bishop Paiute Tribal Council that TVGMD was requested to contact. Chair Allen had previously contacted him shortly after the April letter was received and discussed by the Board. TVGMD is planning to have Chairperson Allen, vice-Chairperson Moss, and Secretary/Treasurer Director Bassett attend the meeting once scheduled. Due to the Summer/field season, all parties involved have busy schedules. The invitation to Tribal representatives to attend any of our regular meetings was also made. Chair Allen hopes to hear from Brian Adkins soon.

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7. Update from the Strategic Plan committee.

A.B. McDonald reported that Director Mitchell, A.B. Murphy, and she are working on the draft of a new Strategic Plan. It is not ready for distribution and is probably too much to accomplish in one year. The Board needs to have a plan to help achieve the goal of preserving groundwater within the boundaries of the District. Having a Director with water experience on the committee would be helpful.

Director Mitchell commented that she would like to see an additional Board member on the Strategic Plan committee, hopefully one of the newer Directors. She also believes that the plan should only be a one-year plan, starting shortly after it is approved; hopefully for the 2025 year.

8. Board of Directors reports.

Director Mitchell commented that she sent out information regarding the possible statute changes and related discussion from 2022 and 2023. She is not sure that these changes still need to be pursued.

Chairperson Allen commented that he was never sure the changes were needed and that we seem to have now moved on from that. He said that in his conversations with C.C. Beck, it was discussed that it would be difficult to get a legislative representative to sponsor the minor changes that have been proposed.

C.C. Beck replied that, yes, that is the case.

Vice-Chair Moss said that he did not see a big need for a change.

Director Bassett added that she still thought it would be good to clarify what we for years have been considering the domestic well position. But if there's a good possibility that we couldn't get anyone to look at it because that's not a major change, then we're wasting everyone's time and may not get any response out of it.

Directors Parkinson and Rhodes replied that they agreed with Director Bassett.

Chairperson Allen suggested that the idea of a possible statute change to clarify the membership categories be tabled for the time being.

A.B. McDonald suggested that the A.B. hold a public hearing, which they have the authority to do, to determine how the residents feel about it. She also said that an additional change could be to allow the A.B. to get subject matter experts from outside the Tri-Valley to advise the A.B. Director Mitchell replied that the Board already has this in their rules.

After some discussion on the timeframe to revisit the item, it was decided to see what the A.B. was able to come up with for the public hearing.

Director Bassett reported that the TVGMD request for \$5000 for the 24/25 fiscal year was in the final budget going to the M.C. BOS for adoption in September. Director Duggan added that it looks like that will be on the Sept. 10th meeting.

Director Rhodes reported that the TVGMD website currently has a glitch in the navigation bar across every page. He is working with the hosting company to fix that problem.

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C.C. Beck added that he has reviewed the website and that it looks great.

A.B. McDonald asked if a spot could be added to our website for people to join the M.C. Tri-Valley list and/or the TVGMD newsletter list. Director Rhodes said that he would work on that possibility.

Olga Glidewell (Chalfant) asked for clarification on the response to the Bishop Tribe. She said she had reread the letter and that it sounded serious. Chairperson Allen reiterated that he had been directed to contact Brian Adkins and that he did not sense any urgency from Brian. His more recent phone calls have not as yet been returned.

9. Adjournment to Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 6:30 p.m. at the Benton Community Center.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Director Parkinson and seconded by vice-Chair Moss.

Vote – ayes – Directors Allen, Moss, Mitchell, Parkinson, Rhodes, and Bassett.

Nayes – none.

Absent – Director Doonan.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.

**The next regular meeting is Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
at the Benton Community Center.**

Geri Bassett, Secretary, TVGMD