

Draft

**VENTURA RIVER COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 8, 2010**

Pursuant to due and official notice, a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ventura River County Water District was held at 409 Old Baldwin Road, Ojai, California on September 8, 2010.

President T. Jamison called the meeting to order at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

There were present Directors M. Hanson, T. Jamison, E. Lee, and E. Ramseyer. Jack Curtis was absent. Also present were General Manager Matthew Bryant, Office Manager/recording secretary Janet Schaefer, and Counsel Lindsay Nielson. Public present was Mr. George Galgas of 523 E. Katherine Avenue.

The consent agenda items were approved as presented.

M. Hanson moved for approval of the 2010 Biennial review of the District's Conflict of Interest Code as amended, seconded by E. Ramseyer and carried. Staff will file the amended Conflict of Interest Code with the Clerk of the County Board of Supervisors as required.

M. Hanson moved for approval of Budget Transfer #1, seconded by E. Lee and carried. From: 93700000 Committed for Capital Improvements -\$3,350. To: 91500001 SCADA Upgrade Engineering \$3,000 and 93200000 Office Equipment \$350.

M. Bryant reported that the Ojai Valley Sanitary District will have a small participation in the Valley Meadow Engineering project in the area of Valley Meadow Court and will work with staff to formulate a joint RFP.

M. Bryant reported that he met with staff from Water Resource Engineering Associates (WREA) to provide information for engineering of the SCADA system upgrade. WREA Staff indicated that the additional information provided by VRCWD Staff may lower the projected cost.

E. Ramseyer moved for approval of establishing an informational District website at an estimated cost of \$2,250 for initial set-up, seconded by M. Hanson and carried. After the site is up and running, Staff will bring back to the Board options to add customer electronic payment ability with the associated costs.

M. Bryant reported that he participated in a conference call interview with the Facilitator for the Matilija Dam Sediment Removal Study Group. Other participants in the conference call were representatives from Meiner's Oaks CWD and the City of Ventura. The conversation was candid in expressing the participants concerns over flooding, and water quality issues with the sediment deposits. Some of these issues were expressed previously in the EIR and the question was asked what ever happened to the response to those EIR issues? The Facilitator's results of the telephone interviews with all interested parties should be available in 3 to 4 weeks.

M. Bryant reported that the Ventura River Watershed Council forwarded an e-mail from the Regional Water Quality Control Board that discussed proposed limits on pumping in the Ventura River Watershed. Staff will closely watch this issue and will report back as more information becomes available. Directors expressed concern about the District's ability to serve its customers if pumping limits were imposed.

M. Bryant reported on wells, production, and usage. The aquifer level at Well #2 on September 1st, 2010 was 42.0 feet below surface. The level is down 7.1 feet since the first of last month. The aquifer is currently 2.8 feet above the 21 - year average and 19.6 feet above the September 1, 2009 level.

Suggestion from Field Supervisor R. Klassen to defer hiring a new field employee and instead consider going to remote radio read on the District's meters to free up the current employees time for other functions. Associated costs of about \$500,000 were discussed and the consensus was that this is something to consider in a future 10 year capital improvement plan. Since the current budget contains provision for a new employee that will go forward. No action was taken.

Suggestion from Field Supervisor R. Klassen to convert the 2003 Think electric vehicle to gas power at an estimated cost of \$3,000 was discussed. E. Ramseyer moved to declare surplus the 2003 Think vehicle and authorize disposal as this item has no book value, seconded by M. Hanson and carried. Additional discussion included other possible options to replace the current meter reading Jeep that would need to be budgeted in a future period.

Suggestion from Field Supervisor R. Klassen to create a mentor training program with local high schools to immerse qualified students in water district work was discussed. Rather than an in house program due to limited staff the Board encouraged participation in local school career days. The Board commended R. Klassen for his ideas and forward thinking on these issues.

Staff provided four sample advertisements for the General Manager recruitment. Staff was instructed to construct a draft advertisement to bring back to the Board for review.

Under New Business reservations were taken for the VCSDA October 5, 2010 dinner meeting, J. Curtis and M. Hanson will attend. Article of interest titled *Watchdog agency recommends changes in water supply oversight* was brought to the Board's attention.

E. Lee recommended a workshop to review staff comments on the proposed revised Personnel Policy. September 28, 2010 at 9:00 O'clock a.m. was set as a date for the workshop.

There being no further action to come before this meeting on motion duly seconded the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 o'clock p.m.

Attested:

Tom Jamison, President

E. Lee, Treasurer