

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING APRIL 18, 2018**

Directors present were: Jack Curtis, Peggy Wiles, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee and Marvin Hanson. Also present were: Attorney Lindsey Nielson, General Manager/Board Secretary Bert Rapp and Office Manager Amy Joy Bakken. Public present were: George Galgas and Priscilla Galgas.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER-** President Jack Curtis called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Jack Curtis.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
  - A. **MINUTES MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2018**
  - B. **FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2018**

Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the consent agenda, seconded Peggy Wiles and carried 5-0.

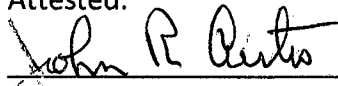
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)** – None.
5. **UPDATE ON DROUGHT ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, VERBAL** – Bert Rapp discussed the status of the drought economic study. A meeting is set for April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. with the interested parties. UCSB may be interested in completing the study or participating in preparing the scope of work. The interested parties currently include Meiners Oaks Water District, Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency, Ojai Valley Inn, Ojai Board of Realtors and the Ventura County Farm Bureau. No action was taken on this item.
6. **APPROVAL OF DRAFT CASITAS ALLOCATION FOR FY 2018/19**– Bert Rapp discussed the new Draft Casitas agreement that provides a flexible allocation meaning VRWD no longer has to live with the fixed allocation from 1991 and instead will request an allocation based on need annually in May. Bert Rapp discussed proposed allocation requests for Casitas Springs, Monte Via and the Well Service area. One challenge for estimating the need for the well service area is the river being plugged with sediment after the Thomas Fire causing lack of percolation to the groundwater. Another possible challenge is the Rancho Matilija Well being used during dry years. Some positive factors for reducing the demand for Casitas water in the well service area include Well #7 coming online, Well #6 projected to come online in September 2018 and slightly higher groundwater levels. Bert Rapp said he plans to share his proposed allocations with Steve Wickstrum of Casitas Municipal Water District and let him know allocations are conservative but he would like to re-evaluate through the year if necessary. Bruce Kuebler asked if a re-evaluation was part of the agreement. Bert Rapp responded that a re-evaluation for emergencies was included. Peggy Wiles suggested a clarification in the agreement to also cover re-evaluation for a water situation caused by an emergency (such as the plugging of the river after the Thomas Fire). **Public Comment:** George Galgas asked if the proposed allocation for Casitas Springs, included the 3 AF calculated to be fire related. Bert Rapp responded that no, the 3 AF were not included in the total allocation requested for Casitas Springs. George Galgas asked if the boulders on the VRWD property hurt the river flow. Bert Rapp responded that the boulders were neutral to river flow as they were well above the water flow. The Board consensus was that Bert Rapp's proposed allocation requests were on target and he should move forward with the agreement.
7. **DRAFT BUDGET FOR FY 2018/19**- Bert Rapp presented a rough draft of the budget for FY 2018/19 which will include some revisions at the next two meetings. Two large capital improvement projects will be budgeted including Well #6 and Valley Meadow Drive Phase I. Stage 3 drought conditions are expected to continue until possibly October 2018. Usage projection is 867 AF. Usage this year will come out to about 890 AF. Consumer Price Index is at 3.8%, coming in high compared to prior years. Bert Rapp indicated it would be up to the Board if they decide to increase employee pay by the entire 3.8% for Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) or a portion of that. Bruce Kuebler asked what the COLA increase was in the prior year. Jack Curtis asked Bert Rapp to bring back details about prior year COLA and some scenarios related to this specific issue at the next meeting. Bruce Kuebler stated

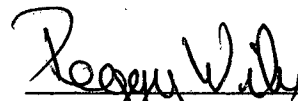
would be a long term benefit. Bruce Kuebler asked for the status on implementing District specific emails for the Board members. Bert Rapp responded that he will have Mitec contact each Board member to coordinate implementation.

- 11. EXECUTIVE SESSION-** Jack Curtis moved the meeting into executive session at 4:24 pm for conference with legal counsel on existing litigation as well as real estate negotiations for construction access on Valley Meadow Drive. Jack Curtis moved the meeting out of executive session at 4:47 pm.
- 12. SANTA BARBARA CHENNELKEEPER V. STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD: CITY OF BUENAVENTURA-** The Board directed District legal counsel Lindsey Nielson to instruct Elizabeth Sarine of Remy, Moose, Manley LLP to file a motion for stay.

Jack Curtis adjourned the meeting at 4:48 pm.

Attested:

  
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Jack Curtis, President

  
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Peggy Wiles Vice President

that the salary increases on the budget looked too high and asked for more detail on that item at the next meeting. Bert Rapp went on to discuss additional projects including the well house for Well #7, Parker VFD and re-plumbing Encino & Thomas. There is a possibility of investing in a GIS cloud system that would function on tablets in the field which could record and document the water system, as-builts, photographs, customer account info, etc. This would include a couple of years of higher expense and then the maintenance costs going forward. Initial cost would be \$35,000/year for two years and then \$20,000/year in perpetuity. One of the reasons to invest in GIS cloud capability is you can upload photos while things are being built. The pressure reducing station on Valley Meadow Drive is an example of part of a project that was not recorded anywhere (is not found in any plans or as-builts). Texting meters are not manually read on site each month by Utility Workers so over their lifetime of 20 years without a GIS system or other coordinate mapping, the location of the meters may be lost over time or they may become harder to find. No action was taken on this item.

8. **UPDATE ON THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY – KUEBLER-** Bruce Kuebler discussed the most recent UVRGA meeting which addressed administrative issues such as the conflict of interest policy, obtaining insurance, etc. The agency is now waiting for approval to move ahead with data collection because their consultant hasn't given Quality Assurance protocol. That will happen at the next meeting to be held on May 10. The draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year will also be presented at the next meeting. Two budget proposals will be presented, one for the upcoming fiscal year and another for the next 4 years to help develop an extraction fee. With a small operating budget and given that pumping is down significantly compared to three or four years ago, there is a chance that a \$50/acre foot pumping fee may be established which could cause some upset. A consultant may be hired to look at the fee structure and make sure it is solid and less likely to be challenged going forward. Another possibility would be having some of the agencies contribute something to reduce the cost to the pumpers. Marvin Hanson asked what the procedure is for monitoring the wells. Bruce Kuebler responded that eventually meters would be installed but for now an estimate would be used as a basis for the fee. He went on to say that there was a small number of big pumpers and is interested in going door to door to discuss the proposed fees with the pumpers. No action was taken on this item.
9. **GENERAL MANAGER REPORT ON WATER & DISTRICT STATUS –** Revenues and usage are 7% above budget. The aquifer is currently 31.3 feet below the 30 year average for April 1 at an elevation of 503.9 feet. Well #1 is pumping 1,000 GPM, up 200 GPM from last month because the impellers on the pump were adjusted. Well #3 is pumping 250 GPM up 25 GPM from last month. Well #4 is pumping 275 GPM down 260 GPM from last month because it was pumping air so the pumping rate was reduced to prevent cavitation of the pump. Well #7 is now online and pumping 650 GPM. No water was purchased from Casitas in March. Sales dollars billed on March 31, 2018 amounted to \$121,518. Water sold in March 2018 amounted to 18,467 HCF, a decrease of 38% below the 29,812 HCF sold in March 2013. On April 1, 2018 Lake Casitas level was at 35.7% of full capacity at elevation of 491.24 feet. The lake has increased 1.1% or 2 feet since last month. The lake had risen to 36.1% by April 9<sup>th</sup>.
10. **OLD & NEW BUSINESS–** Bert Rapp discussed Sprint wanting to put a cell tower on one of the District's abandoned sites. Jack Curtis asked what the height would be. Ed Lee stated the District needs to consider the neighbors and be careful. Bert Rapp responded that the details aren't established and it would depend on how high and whose view it would impede. Bert Rapp asked for direction on how to deliver Board Resolution 2018-312. The Board Consensus was to hand deliver the resolution at a Casitas Board Meeting and then submit it to the newspaper. Lindsey Nielson commented that Meiners Oaks Water District passed a similar resolution at their meeting but was not able to approve a joint letter to the newspaper and would contact VRWD to discuss further. Bert Rapp stated that Casitas Mutual is looking to be absorbed and taken on by another District and said that CMWD should absorb them. The Board agreed. VRWD is still looking at a solar power option for pricing and long term benefit. Peggy Wiles stated that the benefit as a residential solar customer reduces every year and to make sure that if VRWD committed commercially with Edison that there