

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 20, 2019**

Directors present were: Peggy Wiles, Jack Curtis, 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: Carl Enson.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**- President Peggy Wiles called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Peggy Wiles.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - A. MINUTES JANUARY 16TH, 2019
 - B. FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR DECEMBER 2018 & JANUARY 2019

Marvin Hanson moved for approval of the consent agenda items, seconded Ed Lee and carried 5-0.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)** – None.
5. **MID YEAR BUDGET UPDATE** – Bert Rapp stated that revenues are currently running about 4% over budget with Operating expenses running 12% under budget for the year as of December 31, 2018. Some expense items are running over budget due to unexpected expenses for Office Maintenance, Professional Services and Ventura River Watershed Issues. The Well #7 project is coming in over budget in this fiscal year due to the added riser and splash pad to dissipate carbon dioxide, it is still about \$293,000 under budget overall. Budget Transfer #3 was presented to show funds that need to be transferred from Capital Improvement reserves to cover the additional cost. No action was taken on this item.
6. **ADJUDICATION ALTERNATIVE** – Bert Rapp discussed the current City of Ventura adjudication lawsuit regarding the Ventura River Watershed and his alternative idea which would reduce the necessity for a legal system adjudication. This alternative would bring together City of Ventura, Casitas Municipal Water District, Ventura River Water District (VRWD) and Meiners Oaks Water District to form a Joint Powers Agency (JPA). This JPA would then work to develop a solution, provide funding, and implement a physical solution. The JPA would work with multiple agencies in developing a solution, including Santa Barbara Channel Keepers, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries, California Department of Water Resources, major pumpers and diverters and other interested parties to find a locally driven physical solution. General Manager Bert Rapp recommended that the VRWD Board establish a two person ad-hoc committee to present the alternative idea to the major pumpers and other agencies for consideration. Peggy Wiles nominated Bruce Kuebler to sit on the ad-hoc committee and volunteered to serve herself. Ed Lee moved for approval of the recommended action to form an ad-hoc committee to explore the adjudication alternative, seconded Bruce Kuebler and carried 5-0.
7. **DRAFT KROTONA STORM WATER CAPTURE PROJECT** – The Krotona property is located over the Upper Ventura River Groundwater basin and is situated in a location where it could capture and percolate about 40 acre feet a year of storm water from the Vons shopping center and neighborhood behind Vons. Grant monies would likely be available for the design and construction of this storm water capture project. Potential partners of the project are the City of Ojai and the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy. The General Manager recommended the Board indicate support of the project in concept, authorize the General Manager to notify other potential sponsors of VRWD support and authorize to submit grant applications for the planning and/or construction of the storm water capture project. Marvin Hanson moved for approval of the recommended actions, seconded Jack Curtis and carried 5-0.

8. AWARD OF CONTRACT VALLEY MEADOW DRIVE PHASE II- Six bids for the Valley Meadow Drive Phase II project were received. The lowest qualified bidder was Sam Hill and Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$928,347. The budgeted estimate for this project was \$845,000 so the budget needs to be increased. The other bids came in very close to the low bidder. This project replaces a 6 inch pipe with a history of frequent failures with a 10 inch pumping line that will add redundancy to the transmission mains for the pumping operation from Parker to Alto. The project also includes fire flow enhancements on La Cumbre and Del Valle streets. Budget transfer #3 would transfer \$84,400 from Capital Improvement Reserves to cover 4 line item increases for Capital Improvement projects that are coming in over budget. The General Manager recommended awarding the contract for Valley Meadow Drive Phase II to Sam Hill and Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$928,347 with General Manager change order authority of \$50,000, approving the budget transfer #3 and directing the General Manager to notify the State of the award of contract. Jack Curtis noted that the Workers Comp insurance for the low bidder is set to expire in April and directed Bert Rapp to ensure we get an updated certificate. Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the recommended actions, seconded Jack Curtis and carried 5-0 (Roll Call Vote, AYES-5).

9. AUTO PAY \$10 SIGNUP BONUS- After two years of offering auto-pay, 28% of District customers use this option for paying their bill. To encourage more customers to sign up, the General Manager recommended a \$10 sign up bonus credit to new sign ups from March 1-August 31, 2019. The hard savings cost per year when a customer signs up for Auto-Pay with E-Bill is \$5.61 per year with a potential savings of \$40 per year per customer once the manpower savings are realized which would equate to \$67,000 in savings per year if the majority of customers were to sign up for auto-pay. Jack Curtis moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded Marvin Hanson and carried 5-0.

10. BOARD REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED & UPDATE ON THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY – BRUCE KUEBLER- Bruce Kuebler stated that the UVRGA Board didn't meet in February as there were not enough items to discuss so the next meeting will be March 14, 2019. Letters went out to twenty or so pumpers informing them of the 2017 pumping based on either their records submitted to the water board or some other information. They have until March 8th to get back to them and say if they agree or disagree. In late March or early April there will be an evening meeting to discuss the fee with the public and they are hoping to adopt the fee at a regular meeting in April. Angelo Spandrio is the chair of the budget committee and will have the most up to date figures by then. Costs for the agency are going up and more has been spent on legal expenses than anticipated. Brian Bondy, the Project Manager, will now be the Executive Director and handle legal issues at the meeting to reduce the per meeting costs of having the attorney present. Some progress has been made in finding an agency administrator. MOWD voted for a pay as you go structure for funding the UVRGA.

Peggy Wiles stated 4 Board Members attended the Special Districts meeting where Bruce Kuebler was nominated for Director of the Year and a presentation was given by the new sheriff.

11. GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT ON WATER & DISTRICT STATUS - The aquifer is currently 21.4 feet below the 30 year average for February 1st at an elevation of 506.7 feet. Well #1 is pumping 875 GPM, up 25 GPM from last month. Well #2, 3 & 4 can be turned on in February due to rising groundwater. Well #7 is pumping 615 GPM, up 45 GPM from last month. The wells are running at about 15% of their capacity to meet demand. No supplemental water was purchased from Casitas in January. Sales dollars billed on January 31, 2019 amounted to \$131,146, under budget by (\$7,980) for January. Water sold in January 2019 amounted to 19,054 HCF, a decrease of 14% below the 22,075 HCF sold in January 2013. On February 1, 2019, Lake Casitas level was at 32.6% of full capacity at elevation of 485.6 feet, 81.5 feet below spill elevation. The lake has increased 2.2% or 4.6 feet since last month and increased 77,695 AF since last month. The SCADA system had two problems in the last month. No action was taken on this item.

12. OLD & NEW BUSINESS-- none

Peggy Wiles moved the meeting into executive session at 4:38 pm.

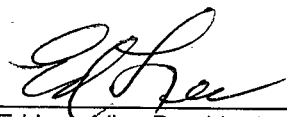
13. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Executive session was held to discuss pending litigation.

Peggy Wiles moved the meeting out of executive session at 4:46 pm. No actions were taken on issues discussed in executive session. Peggy Wiles adjourned the meeting at 4:46 pm.

Attested:



Peggy Wiles, President



Ed Lee, Vice President