

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MARCH 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 and Ron Calkins.

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 FEBRUARY 20TH, 2019
 - B. FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2019

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

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)** – Ron Calkins commented that the Financial statements don't clearly show how revenues coming in over budget are being used. Peggy Wiles responded that the District would review how the Financial data is presented.
5. **AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS HYDRANT VALVE REPLACEMENT PROJECT** – Water valves and fire hydrants are scheduled to be replaced by 2035 and then are on a 50 year replacement cycle. The current project bid package includes 9 hydrants and 10 valves. Construction would take place from mid-May through June 2019. Bert Rapp recommended approving plans and specifications and authorization to advertise for bids for the Valve and Hydrant replacement project. Jack Curtis moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded Marvin Hanson and carried 5-0.
6. **WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE VENDOR SELECTION** – The District's insurance broker, Doug Smith with Coastal States Insurance, obtained a quote for Worker's Compensation (WC) Insurance coverage from Joint Powers Risk and Insurance Management Authority (JPRIMA). The District's current WC Insurance carrier, SDRMA, raised the premium by \$13,133 compared to the prior year in response to two small claims that occurred in 2018. Changing WC insurance carriers would save the District about \$7,000 per year. JPRIMA currently carries the District's liability insurance and therefore can offer a multi-policy discount. Bert Rapp recommended adopting resolution 2019-318 providing Notice of Intent to Withdraw from SDRMA and to direct the General Manager to formalize an application for WC Insurance from JPRIMA. Jack Curtis and Bruce Kuebler asked Bert Rapp to talk to SDRMA and determine why the premium increased so significantly when the claims were small. Bert Rapp stated that Notice of Intent could be rescinded before June 1, 2019 should SDRMA make a more competitive offer. Ed Lee moved for approval of the recommended actions including adopting resolution 2019-318, seconded Marvin Hanson and carried 5-0 (Roll Call Vote, AYES-5).
7. **NORTH BALDWIN TANK REPAIRS**– The costs for work to repair the North Baldwin tank came in higher than expected after the inspection by Superior Tank. Staff is investigating alternatives for the tank. Some alternatives include patch/seal temporary bolts and leaks, replace floor panels, recoat the interior of the tank or purchase a new tank. Bert Rapp also discussed the plan to relocate the tanks to higher ground beginning in 2030. The Board consensus was to look into replacing the tank as the other options would involve spending money for a temporary fix and soon after having to replace the tank for the relocation anyway. The Board asked Bert Rapp to review the capital improvement schedule for tank relocation and report back to the board next month with that information so a more informed decision can be made. No action was taken on this item.

8. AWARD OF CONTRACT ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION SANTA ANA- The water main serving homes on Santa Ana Blvd is failing and undersized for adequate fire flows. The District is scheduled to replace this pipe in the summer of 2020. Three alternatives for replacing the water main have been identified. Phoenix Civil Engineering prepared a cost proposal to review the three alternatives. After reviewing the details of the three alternatives, it was the Board consensus that the feasibility study was not necessary. Bert Rapp will wait to hear back from Casitas Municipal Water District regarding the District's ability to use their main for fire flow. This will be brought back to the board at a later date. No action was taken on this item.

9. SUPPORT OF REGIONAL WATER SUMMIT IN OJAI- The Watershed Progressive is organizing a two day Regional Water Summit to be held at the Ojai Valley Inn on April 29 & 30. The summit will be invitation only for water and community leaders to share innovating strategies that address water, land and resource management. The District has been asked to either "Support" (lend their name) or "Sponsor" (contribute \$2,500). The general consensus of the Board was to support the water summit without contributing financially. Peggy Wiles disagreed stating that the Ventura River Water District Board is an innovative board and should financially support this summit to encourage the spirit of innovation and bringing industry professionals together to work towards common goals. Bruce Kuebler moved for approval to support the Regional Water Summit as Supporters, seconded Ed Lee and carried 4-1 (Roll Call Vote, AYES: Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Jack Curtis and Marvin Hanson. NOES: Peggy Wiles. ABSTAIN: None).

10. BOARD REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED & UPDATE ON THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY – BRUCE KUEBLER- Bruce Kuebler stated it was a productive meeting for the UVRGA. The Board hired Summer Ward who is the Clerk of the Board for Meiners Oaks Water District (MOWD). She will take over the administrative work for UVRGA. The new Executive Director, Brian Bondy will be working out the contract with MOWD. A bookkeeper will also be hired and a treasurer. The Board approved hiring a company to write the GSP itself. They will work on a work order basis. Dr. Brown was selected to serve on the technical review group. A special meeting will be held on March 28 to discuss the budget which is being used to form the extraction fee. There is one committee for the budget and one for extraction fee. The special meeting will bring together the whole board in order to go through the current budget and its effect on the potential extraction fee. As currently set, the extraction fee comes out to \$130/AF which is considered too high. The Board looked at total amount of extractions, but this information wasn't approved. The basis for the extraction fee is 4,467 AF with 874 AF of that being Agriculture. Bruce Kuebler also attended the MOWD Board meeting and made a presentation and had a discussion regarding the adjudication alternative. The MOWD Board then went into executive session. VRWD is waiting for a letter response on MOWD's decision about supporting the adjudication alternative. Bruce will also attend a meeting at the College on March 27 to discuss the adjudication alternative with another civic group.

Peggy Wiles and Bruce Kuebler attended two meetings seeking support for the adjudication alternative. The first meeting on March 4th was the City of Ventura City Council meeting where she asked for the city council members to adopt a policy of collaboration instead of adjudication to give an opportunity to discuss what's going on in the area before moving straight forward with the lawsuit. The second meeting on March 6th was Westside City Council where she was invited to present on the alternative to adjudication. Bruce Kuebler also presented to the group and Bert Rapp attended for additional support. The Mayor of Ventura and Mayor Pro Tem were in attendance. The Mayor of Ventura agreed to personally meet with Peggy. Though a meeting hasn't yet occurred, Peggy continues to reach out to the Mayor in hopes of scheduling it soon. Peggy thanked Bert for stepping up his efforts with contacting people and getting email addresses.

11. GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT ON WATER & DISTRICT STATUS - The aquifer is currently 8.7 feet below the 30 year average for March 1st at an elevation of 522.7 feet. Well #1 is pumping 950 GPM, up 75 GPM from last month. Well #3 & 4 will be turned on in March so wells #1 & 7 can have a rest. Well #7 is pumping 730 GPM, up 115 GPM from last month. No supplemental water was purchased from Casitas

in February. Sales dollars billed on February 28, 2019 amounted to \$123,729, under budget by (\$2,082) for February. Water sold in February 2019 amounted to 22,629 HCF, a decrease of 39% below the 29,667 HCF sold in February 2013. On March 12, 2019, Lake Casitas level was at 42.7% of full capacity at elevation of 502.7 feet. The lake has increased 12.3% or 21.7 feet for the year (about 1.8 years' worth of water).

12. OLD & NEW BUSINESS— none

Peggy Wiles moved the meeting into executive session at 4:35 pm.


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

Peggy Wiles moved the meeting out of executive session at 4:54 pm. No actions were taken on issues discussed in executive session. Peggy Wiles adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm.

Attested:



Peggy Wiles, President



Ed Lee, Vice President