

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 19, 2020**

Directors present via Zoom video and teleconference were: Ed Lee, Jack Curtis, Peggy Wiles, Bruce Kuebler and Nathan Rosser. Also present were: Attorney Lindsey Nielson, General Manager/Board Secretary Bert Rapp and Office Manager Amy Joy Bakken. Public present were: Carl Enson, Jeanne Zolezzi and Perry Van Houten a reporter with the Ojai Valley News.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER-** President Ed Lee gave the ground rules for running the virtual meeting called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.
2. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
  - A. **MINUTES JULY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**
  - B. **FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR ONLINE PAYMENTS JULY 2020**

Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the consent agenda, seconded Peggy Wiles and carried 5-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)** – None.
4. **APPROVAL OF UVRGA AUDITOR SERVICES AGREEMENT**–Bert Rapp stated that the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (UVRGA) has changed it's Treasurer from an employee-bookkeeper to contractor-CPA. Therefore, they are now required by the Government Code to have one of the member agencies contract for the annual fiscal audit. Peggy Wiles made some recommendations for the agreement and there was general board discussion regarding the contract and some important suggested changes. This item will be postponed until the next month's Board meeting for further edits and approval. No action was taken on this item.
5. **APPROVAL OF UVRGA DATA SHARING AGREEMENT-** UVRGA is requesting VRWD's customer usage data for specific parcels as they are working to analyze extractions of groundwater from the basin. VRWD is required to provide this information per Government Code 6245.16, however confidentiality is of high importance . Bruce Kuebler added that the parcels selected are those that have a well and along with their connection to VRWD. There was additional conversation about how this data is used and why UVRGA needs it. Peggy Wiles asked if there was a way to provide the usage data without an APN which can be easily tied to an individual. Lindsey Nielson recommended providing the State Well Number only if that was a more confidential way to provide the data. General Manager Bert Rapp recommended that the Board authorize him to sign the Confidentiality Agreement with the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency after exploring the option of using the State Well Numbers. Peggy Wiles moved for approval of the recommended action with the caveat of providing the information in the most confidential manner possible, seconded Nathan Rosser and carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
6. **COMMENT ON CASITAS WATER RESOURCES PLAN-** Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD) has published a draft of its Comprehensive Water Resources Plan and comments are due to Casitas by Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. A letter has been prepared by Bruce Kuebler and Bert Rapp with comments to submit. Bert Rapp and Bruce Kuebler reviewed some of the main points and had comments regarding the particulars of the agreement. The District expressed their viewpoints in the letter to CMWD which included the need for more information on the costs of the recommended plan, utilizing local options as much as possible, implementing a stronger conservation rate structure to help with demand, and many other points. General Manager Bert Rapp recommended that the Board review and approve the draft comment letter on the Casitas Comprehensive Water Resource Plan and authorize the Board President to sign the letter. There was some general board discussion regarding the letter. Peggy Wiles moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded Bruce Kuebler and

carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)

- 7. SUBMITTAL OF BALDWIN PUMP STATION RELOCATION CONCEPT FOR VCWPD MATILIJA DAM REMOVAL ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT CONSIDERATION-** The removal of the Matilija Dam will raise the river bottom elevation and hence the 100-year flood water elevation. Due to the increased flooding hazards, the Matilija Dam removal project is supporting other local projects to reduce flood impacts caused by the dam removal. The VRWD Baldwin Pump Station will be at increased risk of flood damage because of the dam removal. Bert Rapp discussed the aging out of the system and gave details of the proposed relocation plan. There was some general Board discussion regarding permitting, location, and funding. General Manager Bert Rapp recommended that the Board authorize the General Manager to submit the concept plan for elevating the Baldwin Pump Station out of the flood plain to the Ventura County Watershed Protection District for consideration of mitigation by the Matilija Dam project. Nathan Rosser moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded Jack Curtis and carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
- 8. APPROVAL OF 2 YEAR EXTENSION OF AUDITOR AGREEMENT-** In May of 2017, the District entered into a two-year agreement for audit services with Bartlett, Pringle and Wolf (BPW) with a possible two-year extension. Staff recommends implementing the two-year extension per the Engagement Letter. There was limited discussion regarding the acceptable performance of the BPW thus far. Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded Jack Curtis, carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None).
- 9. GOALS UPDATE FOR AUGUST 2020-** Bert Rapp reviewed the status of the District's goals set in January 2020. Peggy Wiles recommended that Bert Rapp could consider meeting with other General Manager's virtually as in-person meetings have been halted by COVID. Peggy Wiles also volunteered to review the monthly newsletter prior to it being sent out to customers. No action was taken on this item.
- 10. NOMINATION CSDA LAFCo REPRESENTATIVE-**Bert Rapp discussed the LAFCo representative nomination due by September 25, 2020. Jack Curtis recommended nominating Mary Anne Rooney for this position. Jack Curtis gave a summary of why he recommended her, including her knowledge and skill set. Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the nomination of Mary Anne Rooney, seconded Jack Curtis, and carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None).
- 11. BOARD REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED & UPDATE ON THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY (UVRGA)-BRUCE KUEBLER –** Bruce Kuebler discussed the most recent meeting with UVRGA. They discussed a grant for getting funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board, which is a two-part grant. Part of it would help monitoring while developing the GSP and the second part would help to implement the GSP depending on the management actions we come up with. The grant doesn't require matching funds. Brian Bondy estimated \$2.7 million dollars in grant funding. There was some discussion in coming up with a matching grant, recommended at 5%. That cost would be in the out years, such as 2022/23/24 as they start to implement the GSP. In the past, The Wildlife Conservation Board has been very supportive. In terms of the GSP they adopted the goal and had their workshop with very little input from the public. They basically went ahead with adopted it as is except for one change. There was a good discussion about what it means with

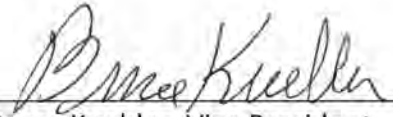
depletion of interconnected service water. Basically, it has to show that groundwater pumping is causing a depletion of interconnected surface water. It is a detailed hydrogeological determination that applies to different parts of the river. They approved a contract with Rincon consultants, who work with Stillwater consultants, to do both studies at the same time which is much more efficient. No action was taken on this item.

- 12. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT ON WATER & DISTRICT STATUS-** The aquifer is currently 4.5 feet above the 30-year average for August 1 at an elevation of 526.7 feet. Well #1 is pumping 962 GPM, down 18 GPM from last month. Well #2, #3, #4 were not online in July. Well #7 is pumping 766 GPM, down 16 GPM from last month. No supplemental water was purchased from Casitas. Sales dollars billed on July 31, 2020 amounted to \$263,705, over budget by \$16,899 for July. Water sold in July 2020 amounted to 38,765 HCF, a decrease of 38% below the 62,374 HCF sold in July 2013. On August 1, Lake Casitas level was at 42.6% of full capacity at elevation of 502.5 feet. The lake has decreased 1% or 1.4 feet and decreased 2,280 AF since last month. No action was taken on this item.
- 13. OLD & NEW BUSINESS** – Peggy Wiles asked for an update on the Tico agreement. Bert Rapp indicated that Tico is making good progress at collecting signatures from their 38 shareholders.
- 14. EXECUTIVE SESSION-** Ed Lee moved the meeting into executive session at 3:45 pm. Zoom attendees were moved to the waiting room. Ed Lee brought the meeting out of executive session at 4:26 pm. No action was taken. Ed Lee again moved the meeting into executive session at 5:15 pm. Ed Lee brought the meeting out of executive session at 5:31 pm. No action was taken.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm**

Attested:

  
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Ed Lee, President

  
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Bruce Kuebler, Vice President