

VENTURA RIVER COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING HELD DECEMBER 11, 2013

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 December 11, 2013.

Directors present were J. Curtis, M. Hanson, T. Jamison, B. Kuebler, and E. Lee. Also present were General Manager/Board Secretary Bert Rapp, recording secretary/Office Manager Janet Schaefer, and Counsel Lindsay Nielson. Public present was Mr. George Galgas.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – President M. Hanson called the meeting to order at 5:30 o'clock p m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by L. Nielson.
3. OATH OF OFFICE – E. LEE, J. CURTIS & B. KUEBLER, BOARD POSITION ELECTIONS – E. Lee moved to nominate T. T. Jamison for President, seconded by B. Kuebler, and carried by unanimous ballot. T. Jamison was immediately seated and presided as President over the rest of the meeting. B. Kuebler nominated J. Curtis for Vice President, seconded by E. Lee and carried by unanimous ballot. J. Curtis moved to nominate E. Lee for Treasurer, seconded by B. Kuebler and carried by unanimous ballot.
4. CONSENT AGENDA – A. MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2013, AND SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 25, 2013.
B. FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES FOR NOVEMBER 2013 AND FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2013.
J. Curtis moved for approval of the consent agenda, seconded by E. Lee and carried 5-0.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. George Galgas congratulated the new administration and wished them the best in the coming year.
6. ELECTRONIC BILL PAY OPTIONS – Staff was instructed at the November meeting to obtain references from agencies using the CUSI electronic bill pay system. B. Rapp also surveyed other agencies in the County to see if electronic bill pay is offered. B. Rapp reported that of the 13 agencies surveyed only VRCWD and Meiner's Oaks CWD do not offer electronic services. The CUSI references who were contacted are pleased with the CUSI program. Director E. Lee voiced concern about the security of the customer information and who would be liable if the system had a security breach. This item was tabled to the January meeting to allow Staff to research the questions about security and potential insurance coverage protection.
7. REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAINING EXPENSES – B. KUEBLER – B. Kuebler attended the CSDA Leadership Conference from November 17 to 20, 2013. B. Kuebler requests that the District reimburse his travel cost of \$1,200.19. Director J. Curtis and President T. Jamison stated that training for a new Director is important and was valuable to them when they were new Directors. Director E. Lee stated that the November meeting Minutes reflected that Director B. Kuebler had offered to pay for the training so there would be no cost to the District. Director M. Hanson stated that he thinks the training is of value, but there is a principal involved being that it was to be of no cost to the District. J. Curtis moved for approval of the reimbursement, seconded by M. Hanson and carried. Yes votes - Curtis, Hanson, Jamison. No vote – E. Lee, Abstained – B. Kuebler.
8. REGULATORY OVERVIEW – B. Kuebler made a presentation on the research he has been doing regarding surface water & ground water regulations.
9. APPROVAL OF RATE INCREASE JANUARY 2014 AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE – RESOLUTION 2013-284 – B. Kuebler moved for approval of the updated Capital Improvement Plan as presented, seconded by M. Hanson and carried, 5 – 0. J. Curtis moved for approval of the January 2014 rate increase and update to the Rules and Regulations establishing rules for using District equipment for private use, seconded by E. Lee and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 2013 – 284

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE VENTURA RIVER COUNTY WATER DISTRICT APPROVING A WATER RATE INCREASE AND REVISIONS TO RULES AND REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, The VRCWD Board of Directors have identified over \$9 million in improvements and upgrades for the next 10 years; and,

WHEREAS, water rates must be adjusted to provide the funding for operations, maintenance, and system improvements; and

WHEREAS; The Ventura River County Water District has approximately 33 miles of water mainline. Over twenty miles of the water mains were built 50 & 60 years ago. The cost of these water mains when they were installed was approximately \$25 per foot totaling approximately \$2.8 million. Today those same water mains would cost an average of \$370 per foot to replace totaling \$55 million; and

WHEREAS; The VRCWD Board of Directors held a public hearing on December 12, 2012 forty-five (45) days after properly noticing each water customer/property owner within the boundaries of the district as proscribed in the California Constitution Article XIII D, § 6, Subdivision (a)(also known as Proposition 218) to present justification for a proposed water rate increase and receive public testimony or written protests; and,

WHEREAS, in the Proposition 218 Notice and at the Public Hearing on December 12, 2012 rate increase were approved for implementation December 15, 2012, December 15, 2013 and December 15, 2014.

WHEREAS, VRCWD did not receive written protests against the rate increase from a majority of the property owners as prescribed by Proposition 218 in order to reject the increases; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Ventura River County Water District hereby adopts the revised pages to the Rules and Regulations Appendix I dated December 15, 2013 and declares that the new water rates will be effective with the January 31, 2014 billing period, i.e.: water meter readings from December 15, 2013 to January 15, 2014, the water rates are as indicated in the Rules and Regulations Appendix I.

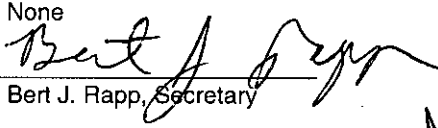
PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of December 2013.

AYES: Curtis, Hanson, Jamison, Kuebler, Lee

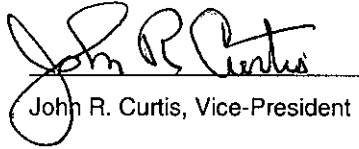
NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ATTEST:


Bert J. Rapp, Secretary


Thomas W. Jamison, President


John R. Curtis, Vice-President

10. BY-LAWS UPDATE – The Board reviewed proposed changes to the By-laws including changing the time of the regular monthly Board meeting to 3:00 o'clock p.m., establishing Rosenberg's Rules of Order for conducting Board meetings and clean-up of typographical errors. E. Lee moved for approval of the updated By-laws as presented, seconded by B. Kuebler and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.
11. SHIFT ELECTIONS TO EVEN YEARS – RESOLUTION 2013-285 – The elections for VRCWD are held in odd years. Periodically this causes VRCWD to be the only agency on the ballot which decreases voter turnout and increases election costs. Changing elections to even years should increase voter turnout and decrease election costs due to more agencies splitting the election costs. J. Curtis moved for approval of Resolution 2013-285, seconded by M. Hanson and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 2013 – 285

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE VENTURA RIVER COUNTY WATER DISTRICT REQUESTING AN ELECTION CHANGE FROM ODD-YEARS TO EVEN-YEARS

WHEREAS, The Ventura River County Water District Board of Directors are elected for four year terms with election held in November of odd-years; and,

WHEREAS, Frequently Ventura River County Water District is the only agency on the odd-year November ballot making the election cost for the District up to 350% more than it would be in an even-year, sharing the cost with other agencies; and

WHEREAS; In order to transition to an even-year election cycle it is necessary to extend the terms of office of the current elected Directors by one year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Ventura River County Water District hereby requests that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors approve changing the election date for the Ventura River County Water District from odd-year Novembers to even-year Novembers and that they approve extending the terms of office for the current Directors by one year.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of December 2013.

AYES: Curtis, Hanson, Jamison, Kuebler, Lee

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ATTEST:

Bert J. Rapp, Secretary

John R. Curtis, Vice-President

Thomas W. Jamison, President

- 12. WELLS, WATER PRODUCTION & USAGE UPDATE – B. Rapp reported on wells, production, and usage. The static aquifer level at Well #2 on December 1, 2013 was 83.5 feet below the surface. The level has dropped 1 foot since the first of last month, and is 31.1 feet below the 25 year average for December. District wells cannot meet customer demand requiring the purchase of supplemental water since October 4, 2012. The Purchased Water Surcharge on the November 30, 2013 billing was 30 cents per unit. Wells #2 and #4 have been shut down due to lack of production from low groundwater levels. Well #1 is producing 771 GPM (Gallons Per Minute) down 19 GPM from last month. Well #3 is pumping 134 GPM, down 18 GPM from last month. Total well production is 905 GPM down about 37 GPM from last month. Nitrate levels in Well #3 are 49.2 mg/L and the blended water leaving the Baldwin site has a level of 26.9 mg/L. Monthly testing of nitrates is being performed on Well #1, #3 and the Baldwin tanks for the mixed water.
- 13. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS – None.
- 14. OLD BUSINESS & NEW BUSINESS – None.
- 15. MEETING ADJOURNMENT - On motion duly seconded at 7:52 o'clock p.m. the meeting was adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting January 8, 2014 at 3:00 P.M.

Attested:

Thomas W. Jamison, President

John R. Curtis, Vice President