

VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING HELD MAY 14, 2014

1462

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 May 14, 2014.

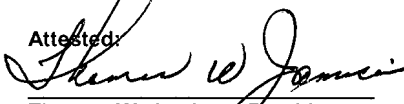
Directors present were M. Hanson, T. Jamison, B. Kuebler, and E. Lee. J. Curtis was absent. Also present were General Manager/Board Secretary B. Rapp, and Counsel L. Nielson. Public present were Mr. Buz Bonsall and Mr. George Galgas.


1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – President T. Jamison called the meeting to order at 3:00 o'clock p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by T. Jamison.
3. CONSENT AGENDA – A. FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES FOR APRIL 2014.
M. Hanson moved for approval of the consent agenda, seconded by B. Kuebler and carried 4 – 0.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. George Galgas raised a concern that Director Ed Lee should have abstained from the vote regarding providing work boots for the Operators because Mr. Lee's son is one of the Operators and Mr. Galgas was concerned about the appearance of nepotism. District Counsel Lindsay Neilson indicated it was not necessary for Mr. Lee to have abstained and Mr. Jamison thanked Mr. Galgas for his comment.
5. APPEAL OF WATER LEAK RANCHO CANADA LARGA – Mr. Buz Bonsall appealed leak cost of \$275.60 for 80 units/60,000 gallons of water that leaked. Mr. Bosall said the water leaked out of a hose spigot on the property that was likely turned on by a cow rubbing against the spigot. He asserted it was only on for a few hours and the water has to run across a neighbor's driveway and down along Hwy 33 so it is not possible that it could have run for four days and waste the 60,000 gallons. Mr. Rapp indicated that the 80-units of water had been read on the meter three times by staff and they were confident the number was correct. Mr. Jamison said that he did not see how the District was at fault with regard to the use of the water. B. Kuebler moved that the District deny the request to reduce the water bill. Seconded by M. Hanson and carried 4-0.
6. REVIEW OF ANNUAL NEWSLETTER – B. Rapp presented the current draft of the newsletter and indicated the final draft will be on the June 11th agenda for approval prior to publication. B. Kuebler made the following suggestions: Add the \$1.37 Purchased Water Drought Surcharge to the \$4.17 tier 4 rate for \$5.54 per unit to alert customers to potential drought cost of water, edit the Casitas Backup Supply section to indicate VRWD will implement substantial conservation measures when Casitas declares a Phase II drought, work on the "Goal" statement to say the District desires to "assist customers to use as little water as possible" and also provide excellent customer service.
7. REVIEW OF DRAFT BUDGET 2014/15 – B. Rapp indicated that the significant changes to the draft budget since the Board reviewed the budget on April 20th were the reduction of the number of valves being replaced from 15 down to 10, \$11,000 added for potential merit increases, \$4,500 for a potential second newsletter, \$28,500 for adding GPS capability to the GIS system and the draft Salary Range Schedule was updated with revisions to the Office Manager position and General Manager to reflect State wide salaries paid for these positions at water districts with from 5 to 10 employees using 2011 data. B. Rapp indicated that with the work load this year staff may not get to the GPS data upgrade for the GIS system. B. Kuebler commented that it was not appropriate to increase the Office Manager range to the recommended \$105,898 because similar positions at other agencies in the area were not that high.
8. SICK LEAVE ADVANCE FOR OFFICE MANAGER – B. Rapp explained that he recommended the sick leave advance because of the recent death in the family of the Office Manager and that the normal one week of bereavement leave may not be sufficient. B. Rapp explained that the advance may not be needed but asked that the Board approve the authorization just in case. E. Lee stated that this would be a one-time event and the General Manager would need to return to the Board if such an advance were needed for an employee in the future. B. Kuebler moved to authorize the General Manager to provide 5 days of Sick Leave Advance if needed, seconded by M. Hanson and carried 4-0.
9. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT WELLS AND WATER STATUS – B. Rapp reported that the water level in Well # 2 is currently at 57.2 feet below the ground surface; Well 1, Well #2 and Well #3 are pumping and Well #4 should be on line by May 15, 2015. The aquifer has stopped rising and will now begin to drop. Supplemental water has not been purchased from Casitas since March 31st. It is projected that there will be no Purchased Water Surcharge on the May 31th bill.
10. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS - None
11. OLD BUSINESS AND NEW BUSINESS – B. Kuebler discussed agricultural water in conjunction with the Help Of Ojai agg. water request last month and recommended the Rules and Regulations be updated so they are consistent with regard to agricultural usage. B. Rapp indicated that the edits to the Rules and Regulations can be incorporated into the planned update in November. B. Rapp reported that 140 units of extra water were utilized by Help of Ojai last month during the emergency usage for the farming operation. During that time the District was 100% on well water with no supplemental purchases from Casitas.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 o'clock p.m. to executive session regarding pending litigation: Klassen Vrs. VRWD. Mr. Galgas left the meeting. The meeting reconvened at 5:05 o'clock p.m. President T. Jamison stated for the record that pending litigation was discussed and no decisions were made.

12. MEETING ADJOURNMENT - On motion duly seconded at 5:06 o'clock p.m. the meeting was adjourned

Attested:


Thomas W. Jamison, President


Ed Lee, Treasurer