

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, 2018**

Directors present were: Jack Curtis, Peggy Wiles, 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, Jon McConnel, Leah Taylor and Alisa Taylor.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER-** President Jack Curtis called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Bert Rapp.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - A. **MINUTES AUGUST 15TH, 2018**
 - B. **FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JULY & AUGUST 2018**

Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the consent agenda items: Minutes 8-15-2018 and Financials for July/August, seconded Peggy Wiles and carried 5-0.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)** – None.
5. **UPDATE TO 10 YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM** – Bert Rapp discussed changes to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that were made after learning the District's AC pipe had more longevity than previously thought and did not need to be replaced as soon as scheduled. The rolling average for CIP came in under \$900,000 per year and goes down significantly after about 10 years when all the major improvement projects have been completed. Bert Rapp went on to discuss three options for improving the Santa Ana Blvd thin pipe and fire flow. The District would also like to relocate the Villanova vault to Carrillo Road but Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD) denied the request. Bert Rapp will try to counter argue the denial and see if CMWD will approve moving forward. The board consensus was that the updated Capital Improvement Program was good. Marvin Hanson moved for approval of the recommended action to approve the 10 year Capital Improvement Program, seconded Peggy Wiles and carried 5-0.
6. **ADOPTION OF 2018-19 GOALS** – Bert Rapp presented the goals added per the Board's request at the last Board meeting. These included increased educational outreach to customers through drought banners, bill inserts and newsletters, meeting regularly with other local Water District General Managers, etc. Jack Curtis suggested designing a bill insert with drought tolerant plants including photos and descriptions to help District customers choose low water plants for their landscapes. Peggy Wiles requested that research on the three different Santa Ana Blvd pipe and fire flow improvement options be added as a goal. Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the 18/19 goals with stated addition, seconded Ed Lee and carried 5-0.
7. **UPDATE ON DROUGHT ECONOMIC STUDY** – Bert Rapp discussed the letter the group prepared to encourage CMWD to take the lead on the drought economic study. Peggy Wiles said that some sponsors of the study feel that if CMWD doesn't want to participate, people may question the validity of the study. Peggy Wiles went on to say that she felt it was still important to educate people on what will happen at different stages of drought and how it will impact the area. The Ojai Valley is the only area in Southern California with no backup water supply and customer outreach is important so that our residents are informed. Bruce Kuebler said the sponsors might offer CMWD to handle some of the administrative tasks if they want to participate but don't have the resources to handle the administration. The Board consensus was to continue with the study even if CMWD decides not to participate.
8. **UPDATE ON THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY-KUEBLER-** At the last meeting, it was decided that the tech advisory committee would be tailored to specific topics and not

be set up and running all the time. They want to move ahead as groundwater experts are getting busy and tied up. At the next meeting the board will try to come up with guidelines to see what kind of experts they want to have on the advisory group. The four person advisory group will include Brian Bondy, Jordan Kear and two other people with similar backgrounds. Once the data collection is completed and analysis starts the tech advisory committee will be more important. UVRGA received some good news and bad news regarding the grant from state. DWR originally stated that the formation costs and grant costs were eligible at a cost share of 50% but now they are saying that isn't true and the agency is looking at losing \$250,000. DWR may change the cost share from 50% to 25% if UVRGA can get letters of support from severely disadvantaged communities. UVRGA is re-evaluating monitoring wells for a long term monitoring program. There are no monitoring wells between Santa Ana Blvd and the wet reach at San Antonio creek. They might be adding 4-8 new long-term monitoring wells. A six year budget was discussed to help the funding options committee develop a fee structure for groundwater extraction. A fee consultant needs to be able to get a look at the budget to see what the overall revenue needs would be for the agency. Jordan Kear presented results of first 1.5 years of monitoring from data loggers, presented for six wells down the basin. There was no real analysis yet, but there needs to be some. A wildlife conservation board grant of 1.8 million dollars is to be discussed at the next meeting. The bottom line for the whole water conservation board grant is that they want to establish a right for instream flow uses. The third district court of appeals came out with a new decision that public trust applies to groundwater extractions if it adversely affects a navigable river and that Counties had a responsibility to enforce the public trust. No action was taken on this item.

9. REQUEST TO ANNEX 650 BURNHAM RD– VRWD customer Leah Taylor wants to re-open the horse facility at 650 Burnham Rd (property belonging to Forest Home) which currently relies on only well water for a water source. Bert Rapp discussed the property being inside of VRWD's sphere of influence but outside of the District and the process for Leah Taylor to request annexation into the District. VRWD would have to adopt a resolution initiating annexation proceedings to be forwarded to LAFCO, a letter of support from CMWD would be requested, the applicant would pay LAFCO and District costs then LAFCO would hold a hearing for the annexation. Leah Taylor discussed the work she has done to move the facility opening forward and how she would use the property to work with kids and non-profits. Ed Lee thanked Leah for working on the project as it would be an asset to the community and asked if she was planning to water the arenas. Leah responded that the horse community was very water conscious and she would include watering restrictions in all boarding agreements. She also stated she would not water the arena unless the area came out of drought and in that case she would use well water. Bruce Kuebler asked about the accumulation of manure and how that might affect the groundwater and suggested that Leah look into the Regional Water Quality Control Board might impose some conditions as part of any permitting process. Leah responded that manure would be cleaned up and not left to sit and she would check on Regional Board. Lindsay Nielson also commented that the issue of manure would be addressed in the businesses' conditional use permit. The Board consensus was that the facility opening was a great idea and they would consider a formal resolution at the next Board meeting in October.

10. GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT ON WATER & DISTRICT STATUS– The aquifer is currently 15.7 feet below the 30 year average for September 1 at an elevation of 499.9 feet. Well #1 is pumping 931 GPM, down 29 GPM from last month. Well #3 is pumping 259 GPM down 37 GPM from last month. Well #4 is off due to low water levels. Well #7 is pumping 685 GPM, up 12 GPM from last month. The wells are running at about 76% of their capacity to meet demand. No supplemental water was purchased from Casitas in August. Sales dollars billed on Aug 31, 2018 amounted to \$280,040, over budget by \$26,292 for August. Water sold in August 2018 amounted to 41,052 HCF, a decrease of 34% below the 62,509 HCF sold in August 2013. On September 3, 2018, Lake Casitas level was at 32.0% of full capacity at elevation of 484.5 feet. The lake has decreased 1.0% or 1.8 feet since last month and decreased 2,214 AF since last month. No action was taken on this item.

11. **OLD & NEW BUSINESS-** Director Peggy Wiles will miss the October board meeting but will attempt to call in. LAFCO is accepting nominations for regular and alternate members of Special Districts.

Public Comment: Jon McConnel asked the status on the plugged river issue discussed at the last board meeting. Bert Rapp responded that he was applying for a grant. If the grant funds of about \$70,000 came through, a geo-technical firm could be hired to look at what had to be done and apply for permits. This would likely happen next summer. If there are good rains from the predicted El Nino rain year, it may wash out the sediment and remove the need for further study.

12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION-** Jack Curtis moved the meeting in to executive session to discuss pending litigation at 5:00 pm. Jack Curtis moved the meeting out of executive session at 5:47 p.m. No action was taken on this item.

Jack Curtis adjourned the meeting at 5:48 pm.

Attested:

John R Curtis
Jack Curtis, President

Peggy Wiles
Peggy Wiles, Vice President