

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING APRIL 15, 2020**

Directors present via video and teleconference were: Ed Lee, Jack Curtis, Peggy Wiles, Bruce Kuebler and Marvin Hanson. Also present were: Attorney Lindsey Nielson, General Manager/Board Secretary Bert Rapp and Office Manager Amy Joy Bakken. Public present via video conference were: Nathan Rosser, Eric Baldwin and Steven Lehman.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER-** President Ed Lee called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Pledge of allegiance was waived due to online platform.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
  - A. **MINUTES MARCH 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**
  - B. **FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH 2020**

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

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)** – None.
5. **RECOMMENDATION TO POSTPONE 3% RATE INCREASE** – The Board approved a 3% rate increase on March 18, 2020 to take effect on April 13, 2020. On March 19, 2020 Governor Newsom issued stay at home orders for the state to slow the impact of COVID-19. These orders have financially impacted many VRWD customers. Bert Rapp recommended postponing the implementation of the 3% rate increase until the month after the Governor lifts the Stay at Home Orders for COVID-19. Jack Curtis asked whether Casitas Municipal Water District was still implementing their planned 12% rate increase. Bert Rapp stated he did not have information on the status of their planned increase. Jack Curtis moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded Peggy Wiles and carried 5-0 (AYES: Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Peggy Wiles, Jack Curtis and Marvin Hanson. NOES: None.)
6. **RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENT TO FILL SEAT HELD BY DIRECTOR HANSON EFFECTIVE JUNE 17, 2020**– Long-time Director Marvin Hanson has notified the Board of Directors that he would like to step down from the Board on June 17, 2020. The Board advertised for interested candidates and a sub-committee of the Board, Directors Peggy Wiles and Bruce Kuebler, reviewed resumes and interviewed candidates and determined a recommendation for appointment. Peggy Wiles introduced one of the candidates, Nathan Rosser, who was present on the video conference. Nathan Rosser thanked the Board for the opportunity and said he was excited to learn from our Board and the experience of serving. Peggy Wiles and Bruce Kuebler discussed the traits that made Mr. Rosser stand out from the other candidates, including his experience on other local Boards, his passion to become involved, his tech savvy and common-sense approach to problem solving. There was some discussion regarding Mr. Rosser's unique work schedule which would require him to attend many Board meetings via video or teleconference. District Counsel determined that attending meetings this way was legal and the board consensus was that it was acceptable. Bruce Kuebler moved for approval to appoint Nathan Rosser to fill the available Board seat effective June 17, 2020, seconded Ed Lee and carried 5-0 (AYES: Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Peggy Wiles, Jack Curtis and Marvin Hanson. NOES: None.)
7. **DRAFT CONSOLIDATION AGREEMENT WITH TICO MUTUAL-** At the March 18, 2020 Board meeting, letters from each Tico Mutual shareholder requesting annexation into the Ventura River Water District were accepted. A draft agreement formalizing the agreement to consolidate was presented to the Board for review. Bruce Kuebler and Jack Curtis asked about several of the specific items listed on the agreement and Bert Rapp offered clarification. There was Board consensus to

remove the item which offered VRWD staff time to bill and handle payments for Tico Mutual Irrigation. The Board recommended multiple changes and will review the agreement again in May. No action was taken on this item.

8. **DRAFT 2020-2021 BUDGET REVIEW**-Amy Joy Bakken and Bert Rapp gave an overview of the draft budget including projected revenue and Capital Improvement projects. The 10-year financial model shows the cash flow remaining positive during the period. The Board adopted 3% rate increase was delayed until July/August due to the economic impact of COVID-19 on District customers. Usage is projected to stay steady at around 763 AF. Marvin Hanson asked about the risk or insurance requirements with the chlorine dilution tank project. Bert Rapp responded that it is safer as it reduces the chlorine concentration level. He went on to discuss the other advantages of the dilution tank including getting larger chlorine deliveries at a better cost. There was some general discussion regarding the budget item for the instream flow grants and other budget items. No action was taken on this item.
9. **WELL #2 & #3 INSPECTION – SPINNER & WATER QUALITY TESTING**–Bert Rapp reviewed the status of the Well #2 and #3 inspection that was conducted by General Pump. The well screen on Well #2 is in satisfactory condition, however the well screen in Well #3 may need a repair. General Pump is recommending a spinner log test be conducted in each well to determine the quantity and quality of water that may be entering the wells from the bedrock formation. There was some general Board discussion regarding the timing of the test and other details. Bert Rapp recommended the following actions: 1) Approve budget transfer #6 in the amount of \$45,000 2) Approve a change order to add spinner log testing of Well #2 & #3 in the amount of \$53,087. Marvin Hanson moved for approval of the recommended actions, seconded Peggy Wiles and carried 5-0. (AYES: Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Peggy Wiles, Jack Curtis and Marvin Hanson. NOES: None.)
10. **RESOLUTION 2020-320 CONSOLIDATION OF ELECTION & APPROVAL OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE 2020**– Three Director seats are up for election on November 3, 2020. Director's Bruce Kuebler, Peggy Wiles and Marvin Hanson. Director Hanson intends to resign effective June 17<sup>th</sup>. The District normally requests that the election be consolidated with other elections occurring at the same time and be conducted by the County Election division as described in Resolution 2020-320. Bert Rapp recommended the following actions: 1) Adopt Resolution 2020-320. 2) Authorize the Board President to sign the 2020 Conflict of Interest Code. Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the recommended actions, seconded Peggy Wiles and carried 4-0(AYES: Marvin Hanson, Peggy Wiles, Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler. NOES: Jack Curtis.)
11. **BOARD REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED & UPDATE ON THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY (UVRGA)-BRUCE KUEBLER** – Bruce Kuebler gave an update on the UVRGA. He stated that the hydrogeologic part of the study is going to be more expensive than planned. Originally, UVRGA was hoping to use the data from the state, however, it has grid size of 100M which is too coarse to do some of the more important bedrock mapping so they will take it down to a 10M x 10M square where they have questions about the bedrock depth. That will cost a little more money. They are also looking at modifying the agreement. A couple of the studies included in the agreement will be replaced by more sophisticated studies. They were hoping to put an observation well on the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy property but the land isn't available or accessible so they will use some other methodology for the basin at San Antonio creek. The UVRGA is starting to spend a lot more money as the Groundwater Sustainability Plan is being worked on, probably spent \$100,000 in the last two months. Unfortunately, the May workshop will be postponed until the fall because of the COVID-19 orders. A 2-4-page summary will be put together of the

information that would have presented at that workshop, with some nice hydrogeologic cross sections to mail out and perhaps publish in the local newspaper. Peggy Wiles asked if a virtual workshop could work. Bruce Kuebler responded that it had been discussed but the consensus was it wouldn't be effective for the material. No action was taken on this item.


**12. GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT ON WATER & DISTRICT STATUS-** The aquifer is currently 6.2 feet below the 30-year average for April 1 at an elevation of 528.6 feet. Well #1 is pumping 960 GPM, up 14 GPM from last month. Well #7 is pumping 766 GPM, down 2 GPM from last month. Wells #2, #3 & #4 were not online in March. No supplemental water was purchased from Casitas in March. Sales dollars billed on March 31, 2020 amounted to \$131,248 which was \$7,669 over budget for March. Water sold in March amounted to 19,728 HCF, a decrease of 34% below the 29,812 HCF sold in March 2013. On April 1, 2020, Lake Casitas level was 42.3% of full capacity at elevation 502.1, with storage of 100,699 AF. The lake has increased 0.9% or 1.4 foot and increased 2,155 AF feet since last month. Bert Rapp briefly discussed District activities over the last month including District adjustments to the COVID-19 State and County Orders and increases to the computer backup systems for SCADA and the general servers. No action was taken on this item.

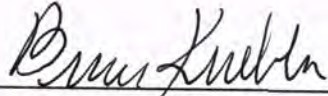
**13. OLD & NEW BUSINESS -** None.

**14. EXECUTIVE SESSION-** Ed Lee moved the meeting into executive session at 4:45. No action was taken on this item.

Ed Lee adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm.

Attested:

  
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Ed Lee, President

  
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Bruce Kuebler, Vice President