

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JUNE 17, 2020**

Directors present via Zoom 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 were: Nathan Rosser and Steve Lehman.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER-** Vice President Bruce Kuebler gave the ground rules for running the virtual meeting. He called the meeting to order at 3:07 P.M.
2. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - A. **MINUTES MAY 12TH AND MAY 20TH, 2020**
 - B. **FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR APRIL AND MAY 2020**

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

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)** – None.

4. **APPROVAL OF 2020-2021 BUDGET, 10-YEAR CIP, SALARY RANGE SCHEDULE AND INVESTMENT POLICY**—Bert Rapp presented the final version of the budget. He discussed the financial impact of the reduction in water use due to the wetter April and May, as well as the increase in the projected Santa Ana pipeline project costs. The combination of these items resulted in an increase of \$870,000 and a projected deficit in funds available for CIP in the coming years. The figures will be reviewed again before moving forward with Santa Ana project. Bert Rapp and Amy Joy Bakken discussed different portions of the presented budget including CIP projects and computer replacements. Bert Rapp presented the results of his salary survey and showed how each position in the District compares to salaries paid in similar positions in other Districts. There was general board discussion regarding specific budget line items. Peggy Wiles stated that the vehicle replacement and board room chair items may not be important to replace in the near future due to the COVID-19 social distancing guidelines. She also requested that the water conservation line item be reviewed as it appeared to be incorrect. Marvin Hanson moved for approval of the recommended actions (with review and correction of the water conservation line item), seconded Ed Lee and carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis, Marvin Hanson, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)

5. **TICO CONSOLIDATION AGREEMENT UPDATE**— Bert Rapp stated the District is hoping that the finalized agreement will be ready for the Board to approve at the July 15th meeting. The LAFCO approval and zero interest loan would be approved simultaneously. Bert Rapp discussed the specific changes Tico has requested be made to the agreement including a waiver of the capacity charge as compensation for the value for the 8 AF Casitas allocation. There was Board discussion regarding Tico's request to delete the "due on sale" provision. The Board consensus was that it was important to have this provision so that monies would be paid sooner rather than later. Jack Curtis stated he would like to see the monies collected on the property tax rather than the water bill to save District staff time. Lindsey Nielson responded that setting up that type of arrangement would require establishment of an assessment district and is expensive and time consuming. The Board consensus was to keep the reimbursement on the water bills. Peggy Wiles asked for clarification on a couple items in the agreement including any involvement by Tico in the Ventura Adjudication or any other lawsuits. **Public Comment:** Steve Lehman commented he was interested to read the minutes regarding this item as he missed a portion of the agenda discussion. There was extensive discussion regarding all the intricacies of the agreement. Peggy Wiles moved to approve the waiving of the capacity charge in exchange for the 8 AF Casitas allocation value, seconded Jack Curtis and carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis, Marvin Hanson, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)


6. **CSDA ELECTION SEAT B COASTAL NETWORK-** Bruce Kuebler moved for approval to appoint Vincent Ferrante, seconded Ed Lee and carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis, Marvin Hanson, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
7. **BOARD REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED & UPDATE ON THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY-BRUCE KUEBLER** –Peggy Wiles said she listened to the Channel keeper presentation a few days ago. She went on to say the presentation was really well done and helped her to understand their perspective. The presentation did not focus on everything being about the steelhead but on the big picture and the whole ecosystem. Bruce Kuebler also attended the same meeting and said it was very convincing. Bruce Kuebler discussed the UVRGA. A special meeting will be held next week on the 23rd, primarily an executive session. Also they will have their first public workshop on July 20 on a zoom meeting. They want to give an update to the public on what UVRGA Executive Director, Bryan Bondy, presented to the Ventura River Watershed Council (some of the hydrology of the basin, etc). Part of that will be to discuss the goals of the basin management plan. As a result of the discussion, it was decided the Executive Director will draft something up with input from the different agencies. Bruce Kuebler asked for input from the Board for what components should be added to the goal to expand it. Bruce Kuebler presented some possible sustainability goals. Each board member gave comments on the listed sustainability goals. **Public Comment:** Steve Lehman has a background in grant writing. He shared that goals are broad and inclusive and that other items would have more specificity to be activities toward achieving the goal.
8. **GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT ON WATER & DISTRICT STATUS-** The aquifer is currently 1.1 feet above the 30 year average for June 1 at an elevation of 533.3 feet. Well #1 is pumping 983 GPM, up 9 GPM from last month. Well #2, #3, #4 were not online in April. Well #7 is pumping 791 GPM, up 23 GPM from last month. Sales dollars billed on May 31, 2020 amounted to \$200,803, under budget by \$11,481 over budget for May. Water sold in May 2020 amounted to 30,559 HCF, a decrease of 44% below the 54,446 HCF sold in May 2013. On June 1, Lake Casitas level was at 44.4% of full capacity at elevation of 505.15 feet. The lake has decreased .5% or 0.65 feet since last month and decreased 1,136 AF since last month. No action was taken on this item.
9. **OLD & NEW BUSINESS** - None.
10. **RESOLUTION 2020-323 RECOGNIZING MARVIN HANSON IN HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE BOARD-**Each board member gave a brief comment on what Marvin's service has meant to the District over the many years. Bruce Kuebler stated he would like to have a celebration when gatherings are permitted to celebrate his years of service. Jack Curtis moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded Ed Lee and carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis, Marvin Hanson, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
11. **SWEARING IN NEW DIRECTOR NATHAN ROSSER-**Bert Rapp introduced Nathan Rosser, a resident of Casitas Springs. He graduated from UCSB with a degree in Geography. He is the captain of a 65 foot oil spill response vessel. He raised his right hand and was sworn in by Bert Rapp. Nathan Rosser gave a brief statement of the phone call he had with Marvin Hanson and how much he appreciated the time he took to pass on some knowledge.
12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION-**Bruce Kuebler moved the meeting into executive session at 5:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:36 pm

Attested:



 Ed Lee, President



 Bruce Kuebler, Vice President