

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 20, 2021**

Directors present via Zoom video and teleconference were: Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser and Peggy Wiles. Directors Absent: Jack Curtis. Also present were: Attorney Lindsey Nielson, General Manager/Board Secretary Bert Rapp, Office Manager Amy Joy Bakken and Jeanne Zolezzi of Herum/Crabtree/Suntag. Public present: None.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**- President Bruce Kuebler called the meeting to order at 3:02 P.M.
2. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - A. MINUTES DECEMBER 16, 2020
 - B. FINANCIALS NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2020
 - C. APPOINTMENT OF ACWA JPIA REPRESENTATIVES

Ed Lee moved for approval of the consent items, seconded Bruce Kuebler and carried 4-0. (AYES: Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None. ABSENT: Jack Curtis)

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

4. **AUTOMATIC PROCESSING OF CUSTOMER BANK PAYMENTS**—Amy Joy Bakken presented a new payment processing option through the District's billing company, CUSI, called Bank Check Elimination (BCE). BCE would transition the District to receiving about 85% of customer payments electronically. There was some general board discussion regarding impact to customers and specifics of the process. There will be no impact to the customer, only more efficient payment processing by receiving bank check payments electronically instead of in paper form. **Recommended Action:** Approve the purchase of CUSI's Bank Check Elimination for a one-time cost of \$1,000 and ongoing monthly cost of approximately \$90 to be charged to account 70004-Misc Exp/Tax/Bank Charges. Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded Peggy Wiles, and carried 4-0. (AYES: Ed Lee, Bruce Kuebler, Nathan Rosser, Peggy Wiles. NOES: None. ABSENT: Jack Curtis)

5. **VENTURA RIVER INSTREAM FLOW GRANT AGREEMENT**—The District has the opportunity to accept a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to implement two specific tasks: Project 6-developing a pumping plan to calibrate groundwater surface water model and Project 7-develop a program that small agencies can use to utilize grant funding for rainwater capture, greywater reuse, and re-landscaping. After the completion of the design of the pump test, a second grant would be applied for to conduct the pump test. This project involves partnering with the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (UVRGA). There was some general board discussion regarding specifics of the agreements and impact of implementation on the District's small staff. **Recommended Action:** The General Manager recommends that the Board authorize the Board President to sign the Sub Agreement with the Ventura County Resource Conservation District for a \$66,479 Grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board. Peggy Wiles moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded Bruce Kuebler and carried 4-0 (AYES: Ed Lee, Bruce Kuebler, Nathan Rosser, Peggy Wiles. NOES: None. Absent: Jack Curtis.)

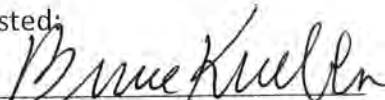
6. **UPDATE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**— Bert Rapp modified the ten year capital improvement plan to include the infill hydrant analysis, Tico Annexation, relocation of Baldwin Booster Station and photo voltaic solar. He went on to present the ten-year financial plan based on using the State's zero interest 20 year loan (incentive for Tico annexation) or "pay as you go" and the effect of each on the District's rate increases over the next ten years. Ed Lee expressed his disagreement with the District taking on debt when they have traditionally operated on a cash basis. There was an extensive discussion regarding the no interest loan. One main point was that completing some of

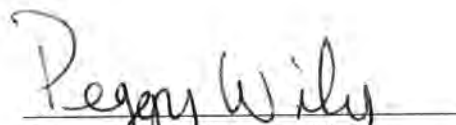
these projects with funds from the no-interest loan essentially freezes the construction costs, which would otherwise increase each year. **Recommended Action:** The General Manager recommended that the Board approve the 10-year Capital Improvement Program utilizing the \$10,000,000 20-year interest free loan offered by the State to assist with the Tico Annexation. Peggy Wiles moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded Bruce Kuebler and carried 3-1. (AYES: Bruce Kuebler, Nathan Rosser, Peggy Wiles. NOES: Ed Lee. Absent: Jack Curtis.)

7. **WATER USAGE ASSUMPTION FOR FY 2021-22-** For the upcoming budget preparation and water rate adjustment analysis, the District must set an estimated quantity of water that will be used. Bert Rapp presented his calculation of his estimated 850 AF of usage for FY21/22. He considered the increased usage in FY 19/20 to be related to the COVID pandemic and increased gardening activities by District customers. After some Board discussion, there was consensus to set the usage at 875 AF. **Motion:** Director Kuebler moved that the Board set the estimated quantity of water that will be used from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 at 875 AF. Seconded by Peggy Wiles and carried 4-0 (AYES: Ed Lee, Bruce Kuebler, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None. Absent: Jack Curtis.)
8. **BOARD REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED & UPDATE ON THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY-BRUCE KUEBLER-** Bruce Kuebler gave an update on the UVRGA meeting. The major event of the meeting was going through another sustainable management criteria: Water Quality. Executive Director, Bryan Bondy, has concluded there were no significant and unreasonable adverse effects on water quality during the last five to ten years. However, this does not mean the water quality parameters do not need to be monitored going forward. The water quality levels of nitrate, TDS, sulfate, chloride, and boron were selected. He developed a draft water quality section that would be part of the GSP to deal with those. A minimum threshold will be set above the current quality levels so that some degradation may occur without exceeding the minimum threshold. He is setting measurable objectives as goals for how we would like to see the basin managed. There is a white paper on the website now with graphs and concentrations that will be the subject of the next public workshop which will be held at 4 pm on March 2nd. They are hoping to get input from the public on water quality, subsidence, and the fifty-year water budget. Work is continuing on the surface water groundwater model and there may be tentative results at the March 2nd meeting. No action was taken on this item.
9. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT ON WATER & DISTRICT STATUS-** The aquifer is currently 10.8 feet above the 30-year average for January 1. Well #1 is pumping 947 GPM, up 5 GPM from last month. Well #2, #3, #4 & #6 were not online in December. Well #7 is pumping 721 GPM, up 4 GPM from last month. No supplemental water was purchased from Casitas. Sales dollars billed on December 31, 2020 amounted to \$221,690, \$35,335 over budget for December. Water sold in December 2020 amounted to 31,932 HCF, a decrease of 0.3% below the 32,019 HCF sold in December 2013. On January 1, Lake Casitas level was at 39.3% of full capacity at elevation of 497.3 feet with storage of 93,405 AF. The lake has decreased 0.4% or 0.7 feet and decreased 1,097 AF since last month. No action was taken on this item.
10. **OLD & NEW BUSINESS- NONE**
11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION-** Bruce Kuebler moved the meeting into executive session at 4:20pm to discuss pending litigation. Bruce Kuebler moved the meeting out of executive session at 4:33pm. No action was taken on this item.

Meeting adjourned at 4:33 pm

Attested:


Bruce Kuebler, President


Peggy Wiles, Vice President