

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING APRIL 21, 2021**

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

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER-** President Bruce Kuebler called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.
2. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - A. MINUTES MARCH 17, 2021
 - B. FINANCIALS FEBRUARY & MARCH 2021

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

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

4. **FIRST REVIEW OF DRAFT 2021/22 BUDGET**–The first draft of the District's budget for fiscal year 2021/2022 (FY21/22) was presented to the Board. Bert Rapp went over the District's objectives for FY21/22 including LAFCo authorization to annex Tico, awarding design contracts for infrastructure projects, reactivating Wells #2/#3 and performing major maintenance on Well #4. Projected revenues in the draft budget were based on 875 Acre Feet (AF) of usage. One item of more detailed Board discussion was the annexation of a parcel in Casitas Springs through LAFCO. This parcel has been served by the District since 1999 without being properly annexed into the District. There was Board consensus that the District ask the customer to contribute to the LAFCO costs. There was some general board discussion regarding other specific items in the budget. **Recommended Action:** Review and comment on the draft budget. No action was taken on this item.

5. **AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR BALDWIN BOOSTER STATION B3 SOFT START**–A soft start is needed for a booster pump at Baldwin to reduce the incoming amperage required to start the pump. The soft start will lower the Demand charge from Edison and enable the pump to be started by the new Tesla batteries. Northern Digital, Inc (the District's new SCADA integrator) completed plans and specifications to install the soft start and will inspect the work when it is installed. **Recommended Actions:** 1) Approve the plans and specifications. 2) Authorize the advertisement for bids for the Baldwin Pump B3 Starter Replacement Project. Jack Curtis moved for approval of the recommended actions, seconded Peggy Wiles and carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis, Ed Lee, Bruce Kuebler, Nathan Rosser, Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)

6. **REVISION TO PERSONNEL POLICY SECTION 3420 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**– The Board reviewed a proposed update to the District's educational assistance policy at the March 2021 Board meeting. Staff re-worked the proposed changes per the Board's comments and re-presented the item for review. There was additional direction from the Board to further polish the policy and bring back to the May board meeting. The main issues were clarity in the language of the policy and retention of the employee seeking educational reimbursement. Staff will rework the policy and place it on the May 19th agenda for Board consideration. No action was taken on this item.

7. **FLOOD PROOFING BALDWIN PUMP STATION-** The General Manager previously recommended relocating the Baldwin Pump Station to high ground at a cost of about \$2.8 million dollars. After reconsideration, the General Manager has determined that the pump station could be flood proofed for a cost of about \$1.1 million. This option would leave the deteriorated north tank that will need to be replaced in 7-8 years but would upgrade the three booster pumps to premium efficiency pumps with

soft stars or Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs). By floodproofing the pump station instead of moving it to high ground, additional projects can be added to the list for the State Revolving Fund Zero Interest Loan. **Recommended Actions:** 1) Revise the flood proofing method for the Baldwin Booster Station to retrofitting in place. 2) Approve the concept of reduced, but substantial bank protection, 3) Approve the updated list of projects for the Zero Interest Loan. Ed Lee moved for approval of the recommended actions, seconded Jack Curtis and carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis, Ed Lee, Bruce Kuebler, Nathan Rosser, Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)

8. **APPROVAL OF DROUGHT BANNERS-** The District has had a 6-inch rain year and the lake is heading for less than 30% capacity creating urgency to reduce. The proposed banners would be installed in July and August and would be rotated around the District to ensure visibility to customers. Bert Rapp presented the banner ideas to the Board for their review and approval. Peggy Wiles requested that all the old banners be disposed of and that the District create a banner showing grey water reuse as a conservation option, aside from just using less water. The board consensus was to work with a Board subcommittee to design impactful drought banners for the District. Bruce Kuebler appointed Peggy Wiles to the drought banner subcommittee and offered to be available himself for input as well. No action was taken on this item.
9. **APPROVAL OF DRAFT CASITAS ALLOCATION FOR FY 2021/22-** In accordance with the Resale Water Service Agreement with Casitas Municipal Water District the General Manager is to negotiate water allocations in May of each year. This year it is expected that Casitas will maintain the Stage 3 Drought declaration and that no supplemental water will be needed from Casitas. **Recommended Action:** Board review and comment on the proposed allocation request. Jack Curtis moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded Nathan Rosser and carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis, Ed Lee, Bruce Kuebler, Nathan Rosser, Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
10. **BOARD REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED & UPDATE ON THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY (UVRGA)-BRUCE KUEBLER-** The agency has had two meetings since the last board meeting. At one meeting, there was a presentation on two of the management criteria (decline of water levels and decline of storage). Neither of these management criteria was determined to be a problem for UVRGA. The analysis shows if the water level stays within historic ranges there would be no significant long-term problems. The second meeting had to do with groundwater dependent eco systems. A consultant was used to study vegetation along the river using the guidance from the nature conservancy. It was also determined in this matter that if water levels stay within historic levels, no adverse effects are anticipated. There were some nice graphics presented that showed how plants respond as water tables go down in various areas. It was found that the problem would occur if water tables came up and growth did not come up, but there was no evidence of that issue occurring. The final item (depletion of interconnected surface water) will be discussed at the April 22 meeting. This item is considered the most relevant and possibly challenging part for the groundwater sustainability plan as the steelhead may become an issue. The April 22 meeting starts at 1:00 pm and can be found on the UVRGA website. After the April 22 meeting, UVRGA staff will have basic guidance for coming up with chapters for the 6 sustainable management criteria. There will be another workshop possibly on April 29 to share the results of the presentations held in April. No action was taken on this item.
11. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT ON WATER & DISTRICT STATUS-** The aquifer is currently 8.7 feet below the 30-year average for April 1. Well #1 is pumping 977 GPM, up 3 GPM from last month. Well #2, #3, #4 & #6 were not online in March. Well #7 is pumping 758 GPM, up 4 GPM from last month. No supplemental water was purchased from Casitas. Sales dollars billed on March 31, 2021


amounted to \$151,650, over budget by \$28,070 for March. Water sold in March 2021 amounted to 22,570 HCF, a decrease of 24% below the 29,812 HCF sold in March 2013. On April 1, 2021, Lake Casitas level was at 38.6% of full capacity at elevation of 496.3 feet. The lake has decreased 0.4% or 0.5 feet and decreased 790 AF since last month. No action was taken on this item. Bruce Kuebler requested that the customer complaint log include a description of the complaint.

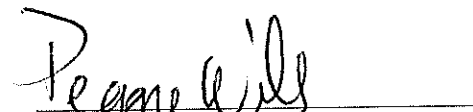
12. OLD & NEW BUSINESS-None.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION- Bruce Kuebler moved the meeting into executive session at 4:45 to discuss pending litigation. Bruce Kuebler moved the meeting out of executive session at 5:00 pm. No action was taken on this item.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Attested:


Bruce Kuebler, President


Peggy Wiles, Vice President