

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

Directors were present via Zoom video or in person were: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Nathan Rosser, Peggy Wiles and Ed Lee. Also present were: Attorney Lindsey Nielson, General Manager/Board Secretary Bert Rapp, Office Manager Amy Joy Marshall and Account Administrator Emily Arnbrister. 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 JUNE 16, 2021
 - B. FINANCIALS MAY & JUNE 2021
 - C. REIMBURSEMENT DISCLOSURE FYE 2021

Peggy Wiles moved for approval of the consent agenda, seconded Nathan Rosser and carried 4-1. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None. Abstain: Ed Lee)

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

4. **SELECTION OF THE SIZE OF THE 2ND PARKER WATER TANK**–The District is preparing to construct the second water tank on the Parker Booster Station Facility in 2024. The Board has some discretion in setting the size of the tank. The recommended size of the new tank is 1,250,000 gallons; however, the Board could select a smaller size down to 600,000 gallons. There was extended Board discussion regarding how the project would be financed (intended to be through the Zero Interest Loan), how long the current parker tank has left in its life (15 years) and other details regarding tank types, sizes, and costs. Nathan Rosser asked about the option of building the larger tank capacity when the existing tank ages out and needs to be replaced. He also asked about building the new tank out of concrete. Bert Rapp responded that the Board would be discussing the tank construction when design efforts began and would select the materials at that time. The budget for the tank is based on a welded steel tank. **Recommended Actions:** Select 1,250,000 gallons as the size of the 2nd Parker Tank. Jack Curtis moved for approval of the recommended actions, seconded Ed Lee and carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None).

5. **APPROVAL OF TUITION REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT**– The Board adopted an updated educational reimbursement policy at the May 2021 Board Meeting. Part of the new reimbursement program requires board approval for tuition reimbursements greater than \$5,000 in one year. Staff are requesting the Board's approval of a tuition reimbursement agreement for an employee who has expected tuition costs coming in over the threshold in the upcoming year. Bruce Kuebler asked for a small edit to the agreement, giving the full Board decision making authority on section 3, rather than just the Board president. **Recommended Action:** 1) Review and pre-approve the expected tuition reimbursement greater than \$5,000 with actual reimbursement pending completion of courses in compliance with the District's reimbursement policy. 2) Review and approve the attached VRWD Tuition Reimbursement Agreement. Ed Lee moved for approval of the recommended actions with the edit to section 3, seconded by Peggy Wiles, and carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None).

6. **AWARD OF TASK ORDER TO NORTHERN DIGITAL TO DESIGN VFD'S FOR** - The District has cleaned and renovated Wells # 2 & #3 and is preparing to advertise for bids to install new pumps and electrical panels and incorporate them into the SCADA system. There are also some SCADA communication problems that are preventing accurate reporting of the pumping operations. A cost proposal from Northern Digital is included with the Board Packet. **Recommended Action:** Authorize


the award of a Task Order to Northern Digital in the amount of \$58,632. Ed Lee moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Peggy Wiles, and carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None).

7. **BOARD REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED & UPDATE ON THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY (UVRGA)-BRUCE KUEBLER** – Bruce Kuebler discussed the most recent groundwater agency meeting. The main topic of the meeting was reviewing Chapters 1-3 of the management criteria which UVRGA is preparing for release to the public. An additional meeting will be held on July 22, 2021, to go through Chapters 4-7 of the management criteria. Once the UVRGA review of the criteria is complete, a draft plan will be made available to the public for a 60-day comment period beginning in August and ending in October. There will then be a response to all the comments and a final Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) draft will be put together. The timeline for the completed draft is projected to be sometime in December to avoid the heavy website traffic anticipated on the Department of Water Resources (DWR) website. So far, the process with UVRGA has not been as controversial as expected. Currently, there does not seem to be a major issue with Foster Park because there isn't enough data to define a cause and effect related to groundwater pumping. More data needs to be collected in this area regarding the surface flow and groundwater extractions. Since the City of Ventura has agreed to basically eliminate direct depletion during times of low flow, impacts have been significantly reduced. No action was taken on this item.
8. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT ON WATER & DISTRICT STATUS-** The aquifer is currently 13.2 feet below the 30-year average for July 1. Well #1 is pumping 920 GPM, down 24 GPM from last month. Well #2, #3, #4 & #6 were not online in June. Well #7 is pumping 717 GPM, down 11 GPM from last month. No supplemental water was purchased from Casitas. Sales dollars billed on June 30, 2021 amounted to \$283,033, over budget by \$53,034 for June. Water sold in June 2021 amounted to 36,426 HCF, a decrease of 38% below the 58,444 HCF sold in June 2013. On July 1, 2021, Lake Casitas level was at 36.5% of full capacity at elevation of 492.63 feet. The lake has decreased 0.8% or 1.4 feet and decreased 1,829 AF since last month. No action was taken on this item. Bert discussed that replacing the electrical Motor Control Centers (Mcc's) should be reviewed for adding to the Ten-year Capital Improvement plan as components are failing more frequently and we currently don't have it on our plan to improve the electrical components. Peggy Wiles mentioned permitting could be challenging for this issue. Ed Lee asked if we had any backup breakers for emergencies. Bert said he will talk with Oilfield Electric about this and emergency backup procedures for breaker or major breakers that blow. Construction inflation (8.5%) and consumer price index 5.4% are both running very high.
9. **OLD & NEW BUSINESS** – Lindsay gave a brief comment on the adjudication lawsuit. No action was taken on this item.
10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION-** No executive session was held.

Meeting adjourned at 4:17 pm.

Attested:


Bruce Kuebler, President


Peggy Wiles, Vice President