

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING April 20, 2022**

Directors present via Zoom video 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 Emily Arnbrister Public Present: None.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER-** President Peggy Wiles called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.
2. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
  - A. MINUTES MARCH 16, 2022
  - B. FINANCIALS FEBRUARY & MARCH 2022
  - C. CONFIRMATION OF RESOLUTION 2021-335 REMOTE MEETINGS

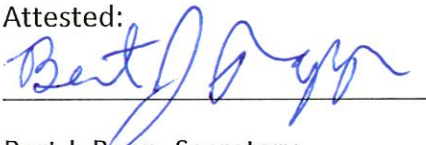
Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the Consent Agenda, seconded Jack Curtis and carried 5-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA) – None.**
4. **2022-2023 CASITAS DRAFT ALLOCATION:** 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 VRWD will not need supplemental water from Casitas. If CMWD moves from Stage 3 to Stage 4 Drought declaration, the allocation request will need to be revised. There was general discussion regarding the procedure of an unplanned emergency. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** Board review and comment on the proposed allocation request. No action was taken on this item.
5. **SECOND REVIEW OF 2022/23 BUDGET:** The second draft of the fiscal year 2022/23 budget was presented to the Board for review. The draft budget is reflective of the recent 2% rate increase, and incorporates comments made by directors at the last meeting. Inflation continues to run high at 8.5%. Salary/personnel budgets were increased to integrate cost of temporary Assistant General Manager Position. General board discussion regarding future need for large rate increases and the impact of inflation. Director Kuebler asked for clarification regarding various line items to ensure accuracy. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** Review and comment on FY 22/23 budget. No action was taken on this item.
6. **DROUGHT BANNERS FOR SUMMER 2022:** This year staff was interested in having local school age kids contribute to the banner ideas. Direct Rosser suggested a \$50 gift card for a student or a pizza party for the classroom. Director Kuebler was interested in reviewing submittals and rewarding students for their work. The Directors were all in favor of supporting the idea of getting children excited about conservation, with a budget maximum of \$500. President Peggy appointed an ad-hoc committee for banner review of herself and Nathan Rosser. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** The Board provide input regarding 1) who will review the banners? 2) What type of acknowledgement award? Ed Lee moved for approval of the recommended action (maximum budget of \$500 and review by Peggy Wiles and Nathan Rosser), seconded Jack Curtis and carried 5-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
7. **APPROVAL OF BILL INSERT NEWSLETTER:** The Districts newsletter is set to be sent out in the April 30<sup>th</sup> bill. The newsletter will include a copy of status of district projects, as well as adjudication update and notification of recent rate increase. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** Review and comment on the April newsletter. Ed Lee moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded Jack Curtis and carried 5-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)

8. **BOARD REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED & UPDATE ON THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY (UVRGA)- BRUCE KUEBLER:** Bruce Kuebler reported on UVRGA, the UVRGA appears to be open to the idea of adding the City of Ojai to the UVRGA with an Ad Hoc committee of Pete Kaiser, Susan Rungren, and James Kentosh of Meiners Oaks Water District appointed to discuss pre-requisites for legalities. An update should be expected in May. There is a concern of having another non-paying member voting and affect the way costs are incurred and paid by the paying members. Review of OBGMA GSP, Bryan Bondy felt that it generally followed the law. UVRGA intends to file Bondy's review and not submit it to the Department of Water Resources. City of Ojai Council members unanimously approved requesting that the City to join the UVRGA in executive session. Bert Rapp attended the Casitas Mutual Shareholder meeting. Casitas Mutual is going to send a letter to all shareholders on the possibility of merging with VRWD. The division of drinking water encourages the merge with either VRWD or CMWD, 100% fully funded. Casitas Mutual is also looking into the possibility of using a \$980,000 grant to fund initial planning and some improvements to their system to move the merging process forward.
9. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT ON WATER & DISTRICT STATUS:** The static aquifer level at Well #2 on April 1, 2022, was at elevation 530, dropping 0.1 feet since the first of last month. The aquifer is currently 4.4 feet below the 30-year average for April 1<sup>st</sup>. Well #1 is pumping 1,031 GPM, up 19 GPM from last month. Well #2, #3, & #4 were not online in March. Well #6 was pumped for three days to test the diluted sodium hypochlorite. Well #7 is pumping 774 GPM, up 14 GPM from last month. No supplemental water was purchased from Casitas. Sales dollars billed on March 31, 2022, amounted to \$169,958, over budget by \$34,273 for March. Water sold in March 2022 amounted to 25,265 HCF, a decrease of 15% below the 29,667 HCF sold in March 2013. On April 1, 2022, Lake Casitas level was at 34.5% of full capacity at elevation of 489.14 feet. The lake decreased 0.3% since last month. Hanson Well Do is scheduled to do a spinner test next week on Well #4. A leak at Burnham Rd required valve turning and a 10" valve broke and needs to be replaced. A SCADA system breaker failure caused a tank to go almost empty, and required manual turn on of boosters. Northern Digital is preparing to set new alarms to prevent future failures. On April 19<sup>th</sup> there was a water main break on Santa Ana that caused flooding to a customer's home, VRWD requested the customer submit damage costs. The pipe is scheduled to be put out into the street in 2024. No action was taken on this item.
10. **OLD & NEW BUSINESS:** It was discussed that Vons has not responded to the letter the General Manager sent regarding the single pass water cooling system.
11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** –No Executive Session was held.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.

Attested:



Bert J. Rapp, Secretary