

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 17, 2022**

Directors present via Zoom video were: Nathan Rosser, and Jack Curtis. Directors present in person: Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee and Peggy Wiles. Also present were: Attorney Lindsay Nielsen, General Manager/Board Secretary Bert Rapp, Assistant General Manager Alma Quezada, Office Manager Emily Arnbrister. Public Present: Carl Enson.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER-** President Peggy Wiles called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)** – Carl Enson spoke regarding the solar panels and available financial assistance programs, as well as the expected changes to the net metering program. Bert Rapp responded with an update to the District's panel progress, and stated that the District is anticipating being able to meet the deadline before changes to the net metering program are adopted by the California Public Utilities Commission.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - A. **MINUTES OCTOBER 19, 2022**
 - B. **PAYMENTS & CHECKS FOR OCTOBER 2022; FINANCIALS FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2022**
 - C. **CONFIRMATION OF RESOLUTION 2021-335 REMOTE MEETINGS**

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

4. **RESOLUTION 2022-345- RECOGNIZING CRAIG LEE FOR 15 YEARS OF SERVICE:** Craig Lee has completed 15 years of service with the District. Resolution 2022-345 recognizes that achievement. The District Personnel Policy has a longevity pay of \$1,000 for 15 years of service. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** Approve Resolution 2022-345 and authorize a onetime longevity payment of \$1,000. Jack Curtis moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Bruce Kuebler and carried 5-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
5. **APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2022-346 APPOINTING UVRGA DIRECTOR AND ALTERNATE:** The District is required to designate a representative and alternate to serve on the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (UVRGA). Resolution 2022-346 designates Bruce Kuebler as primary representative and Assistant General Manager Alma Quezada as alternate. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** Approve Resolution 2022-346. Peggy Wiles moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Ed Lee and carried 5-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
6. **LAFCO ELECTION OF SPECIAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE:** Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) is holding elections for a Special District seat and one alternate. There are four candidates running for the regular member position and three for the alternate position. There is one regular member with water experience, and one alternate with water experience. There was General Board discussion surrounding candidates. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** The Board select Doug Nickles for the regular member position. Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Jack Curtis and carried 5-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.) **Recommended Action:** The Board select Mohammed Hasan as the alternate and authorize the Board President to cast the VRWD vote for both the primary and alternate position and sign the ballot. Jack Curtis moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Bruce Kuebler and carried 5-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
7. **UPDATE AERIAL IMAGE FOR GIS- BUDGET TRANSFER #2:** Aerial imagery is used with the District's Geographic Information System (GIS) software, and frequently used to update customer water

budgets. The District's current imagery is about 4 years old, and many customers have updated their landscape since then. The cost of the imagery is \$3,800, there are funds available from the "Conservation Penalty Fee" account to pay for this water conservation activity. Budget transfer #2 moves funds from account #40009 to account #60018 for aerial photo purposes. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** Approve budget transfer #2 for updated aerial imagery. Ed Lee moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Bruce Kuebler and carried 5-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)

8. **AWARD OF BID FOR SERVICE TRUCK:** A bid for a 2022/23 Ford F-250 was sent out October 19th to 16 dealerships. South Bay Ford of Hawthorne produced the lowest bid of \$51,731.50 but was disqualified for not meeting the bid specifications. The next lowest bidder was Envision Ford Lincoln of Oxnard for \$56,442.70. Carl Enson asked about the District's consideration for an Electric Vehicle, the current wait time for an EV is a few years out. **Public Comment:** None.
Recommended Action: Authorize the purchase of the Ford F-250 work truck from Envision Ford Lincoln of Oxnard for \$56,442.70 Jack Curtis moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Bruce Kuebler and carried 5-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
9. **DROUGHT COLLABORATIVE PROCESS:** Meiners Oaks Water District (MOWD) is proposing a Drought Collaborative Process for water agencies in the area to provide a consistent, coordinated response to the drought. The collaboration would be between MOWD, Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD), and VRWD. Due to the seriousness of the drought, it would help the Ojai Valley if the three water agencies provided uniform implementation of water use regulations and restrictions. Ed Lee asked if there has been any preliminary discussion with CMWD. Mike Flood, General Manager of CMWD, was in favor of the collaborative process. There was general discussion regarding drought status.
Public Comment: None. **Recommended Action:** Support the proposed Drought Collaborative Process and direct staff to work with CMWD, MOWD and others to develop the process. Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Ed Lee and carried 5-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
10. **BOARD REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED & UPDATE ON THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY (UVRGA) - BRUCE KUEBLER:**
UVRGA: Bruce reported on the UVRGA and stated the engagement plan is being implemented. UVRGA is waiting for a response from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the adequacy of the plan. It is noted that there are no tribal lands overlying the Basin, but the UVRGA will still reach out to the new Tribal Leader to inform them of the process going on.
LAFCO: Bert attended the LAFCO meeting, where they approved VRWD's Municipal Service Review without comment.
11. **WATER & DISTRICT UPDATE:** The static aquifer level at Well #2 on November 1, 2022, was at elevation 500.5, dropping 3.8 feet since the first of last month. The aquifer is currently 7.5 feet below the 30-year average for November 1st. Well #1 is pumping 873 GPM, down 22 GPM from last month. Well #7 is pumping 634 GPM, down 33 GPM from last month. Well #2, #3, #4 & #6 were not online in October. No supplemental water was purchased from Casitas. Sales dollars billed on October 31, 2022, amounted to \$214,942, under budget by \$44,249 for October. Water sold in October 2022 amounted to 30,341 HCF, a decrease of 47% below the 53,064 HCF sold in October 2013. On November 1, 2022, Lake Casitas level was at 30.1% of full capacity at an elevation of 480.6 feet. The lake has decreased 0.6% since last month. Conservation banners were taken down for the winter and have been stored. Staff is working on crafting winter banners that recommend cutting back on watering. There was an update on the revised Lead and Copper Rule from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and staff will be tasked with determining the material of all customer service lines to their home and creating an inventory of those lines for submittal to the DWR.

12. **OLD & NEW BUSINESS:** The Office Manager reported more details on the Flexible Spending Accounts.
13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Peggy Wiles moved the meeting into executive session at 4:16 pm to discuss pending litigation. Peggy Wiles brought the Board out of executive session at 4:51 pm. No action was taken in the Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm.

Attested:



Bert J. Rapp, Secretary