

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING August 24, 2017**

Directors present were: Joe McDermott, Bruce Kuebler, Mary Bergen, Larry Rose, and Emily Ayala. Alternate Directors present were: Mike Hollebrands for Mike Krumpschmidt. Also present were: Interim Executive Director Jennifer Tribo and Attorney Dylan Johnson. Public present were Cece Vandermeer, Nancy Broschart, Jordan Kear, Bryan Bondy, Diana Engle, Lynn Rodriguez, Eugene Peck, Ernie Ford, and Bert Rapp.

1) **CALL TO ORDER**- Chairperson Bruce Kuebler called the meeting to order at 1:02 P.M.

2) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Bruce Kuebler.

3) **DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS** –

Director Bergen announced that the Casistas Municipal Water District approved the Ventura River Watershed Council coordinator position at its last Board meeting.

Chair Kuebler added that he is still talking with SWRCB staff regarding the funding of data gaps. The SWRCB may be able to fund a gage at the Camino Cielo bridge.

4) **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA** – No public comments were received.

5) **CONSENT ITEMS**

a. **Approve Minutes from June 8, 2017 regular meeting**

Alternate Director Hollebrands requested a correction under item 6a.

Director Rose moved to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Director Bergen. Chair Kuebler called a voice vote. All ayes. None opposed.

6) a. **Contract Amendments for Grant Writing Consultants**

Jennifer Tribo summarized the staff report.
No public comments

Director Rose moved to increase the contract with Walter consulting from \$6,400 to \$12,000, to increase the contract with Kear Groundwater from \$3,600 to \$6,000, and authorize Chair Kuebler to sign contract amendments. Seconded by Alternate Director Hollebrands.

Ayes: Bruce Kuebler, Mary Bergen, Mike Hollebrands, Joe McDermott, Larry Rose, Emily Ayala.

6) b. **OBGMA Office Sharing Agreement**

Jennifer Tribo summarized the staff report.
No Public Comment.

Director Bergen moved to authorize the Chair to sign the attached office sharing agreement with OBGMA. Seconded by Director Ayala.

Ayes: Bruce Kuebler, Mary Bergen, Mike Hollebrands, Joe McDermott, Larry Rose, Emily Ayala.

6) c. **Consultant to Advise Executive Committee and Board**

Jennifer Tribo summarized the staff report.

No public comment.

Board Discussion:

Directors Ayala, Bergen, and Hollebrands expressed some concern about the Agency spending so much money before a funding mechanism is in place.

Chair Kuebler added that Mr. Bondy's expertise will be necessary for the development of the GSP and that costs may be offset if the Agency is successful in applying for grant funds from DWR. Director McDermott expressed support for Mr. Bondy and noted his qualifications and the fact that his rate is a good value in comparison to other hydrogeologists.

Chair Kuebler requested changes to his title and phone number on the cover page of the Contract.

Director Bergen moved to authorize Chair Kuebler to sign the attached contract (with noted corrections) with Mr. Bondy. Seconded by Director McDermott.

Ayes: Bruce Kuebler, Mary Bergen, Mike Hollebrands, Joe McDermott, Larry Rose, Emily Ayala.

6) d. Review of Draft Grant Proposal for Upper Ventura River Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Chair Kuebler asked the Board's permission to skip to item 6e in order to accommodate Ms. Vandermeer's schedule.

6) e. Appointment of Executive Director

Jennifer Tribo summarized the staff report.

No Public comment.

Board Discussion:

Chair Kuebler asked Director McDermott if Ms. Tribo could assist Ms. Vandermeer in preparing the September meeting agenda. Director McDermott agreed.

Chair Kuebler asked whether Ms. Vandermeer can employ an assistant at her discretion or if the Board would have to approve the action.

Attorney Dylan Johnson added that the JPA allows the Executive Director to employ additional persons subject to Board approval.

Mike Hollebrands moved to appoint Cece Vandermeer as the Executive Director and authorize Chair Kuebler to send the attached letter. Seconded by Director Ayala.

Ayes: Bruce Kuebler, Mary Bergen, Mike Hollebrands, Joe McDermott, Larry Rose, Emily Ayala.

6) d. Review of Draft Grant Proposal for Upper Ventura River Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Chair Kuebler reviewed the draft grant proposal and walked the Board through the work plan and budget spreadsheets. Chair Kuebler requested that Directors keep track of the time they spend on UVRGA business to the 1/10 of an hour in order to track cost share. Board members should submit comments to Chair Kuebler by August 30, 2017. The next draft will be discussed at the September 14th meeting.

Public comment:

Lynn Rodriguez, Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, asked if the Board was also looking for public comments on the draft application. She has comments and questions related to the public outreach section of the application and the use of the watershed council for outreach.

Chair Kuebler responded that the public should also send him comments by August 30, 2017 and that the specific role of the watershed council has not yet been determined.

Diana Engle, Meiners Oaks Water District, suggested that language in the application be softened to not presuppose the outcomes of the State's instream flow study.

6) f. Treasurer/Auditor Services Agreement with the County of Ventura

Jennifer Tribo summarized the staff report. Ms. Tribo passed out the latest version of the agreement (attached) to the Board and public present.

Board Discussion:

Chair Kuebler asked for clarification on whether the County Board of Supervisors had to approve this agreement or if the County Auditor-Controller has the authority to sign. The Directors discussed whether or not this agreement precluded the Agency from having its own bank account. Chair Kuebler indicated that he and Ms. Vandermeer should meet with the County to discuss the details of the arrangement.

Public Comments:

Bryan Bondy added that it is important to sort out these financial details before the grant application is submitted to DWR.

Director Rose moved to continue this item to the next meeting. Seconded by Director Ayala. Chair Kuebler called a voice vote. All ayes. None opposed.

6) g. Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Discussion

Jennifer Tribo summarized the staff report, then asked Director Rose to lead the discussion with the Board.

Public comment:

Lynn Rodriguez, Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, asked how the Watershed Council can serve the UVRGA in its stakeholder outreach efforts.

Diana Engle, Meiners Oaks Water District, added that she felt like the UVRGA should have its own stakeholder process/group, but coordinate with the Council.

Bert Rapp, Ventura River Water District, commented that it is good that the stakeholder meeting is scheduled early in the process to give the Agency plenty of time to work out these details.

Board Discussion:

The Directors discussed that while the Watershed Council is a valuable resource that the Agency should have its own stakeholder group/process that coordinates with the Council.

Chair Kuebler asked Mr. Bondy to comment on how the Agency might effectively engage stakeholders.

Mr. Bondy responded that not all of the questions have to be answered now. Let the forum inform the Board. In his experience forming focus groups tasked with exploring/solving a particular problem is an effective way to utilize stakeholders.

Director Bergen added that since the Agency does not have any specific tasks for a stakeholder committee to accomplish right now, that the UVRGA should use the October meeting as a way to inform and update the stakeholders on the process and solicit information from them to guide future outreach efforts.

Director Ayala suggested handing out postcards at the October meeting to solicit information from stakeholders on their concerns and how they wish to be involved.

The ad hoc committee will meet again to finalize the planning for the October meeting.

7) COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Report from Ad Hoc Committee to Draft Bylaws

Director Rose provided an update. The committee is currently reviewing a draft. Following legal review, it will be brought to the Board for consideration.

b) Report from Ad Hoc Committee to Interface with California Water Action Plan Representatives

Chair Kuebler indicated that the Committee has not had any other communications with the State Water Resources Board.

8) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT –

Jennifer Tribo provided the attached financial statement to the Board. The next meeting will be held on September 14, 2017 at the City of Ventura City Hall Community Meeting Room. The

regular October meeting is scheduled for the same day as the stakeholder forum (October 12, 2017), so Directors should consider when and where to hold the regular meeting. Ms. Tribo has received an unofficial update that the Ventura River Watershed was not chosen for a Bureau of Reclamation Basin Study.

9) ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.