

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JULY 9, 2020**

The Board meeting was held via teleconference, in accordance with California Executive Order N-25-20. Directors present were: Bruce Kuebler, Emily Ayala, Diana Engle, Larry Rose, Susan Rungren, Glenn Shephard and Angelo Spandrio. Also present were: Executive Director and GSP Project Manager Bryan Bondy. Agency Administrator Summer Ward. The following members of the public were present: Burt Handy, Jordan Kear, and Eddie Pech.

DIAL-IN:1-877-309-2073 ACCESS CODE: 809-171-341 <http://www.gotomeeting.com/join/809171341>

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** – Chairperson Diana Engle called the meeting order at 1:01 pm.
- 2) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Not recited.
- 3) **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA** – None.

CLOSED SESSION

The Chair adjourned the meeting to Closed Session at 1:06 pm. Director Spandrio did not participate in the Closed Session.

4) **CLOSED SESSION ITEM**

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation: Consideration of initiation of litigation pursuant to Paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code §54956.9: one case.

The Chair adjourned Closed Session and resumed Regular Session at 2:00 pm.

The Agency Administrator performed a second roll call and confirmed all directors had returned to Regular Session. Attorney Lemieux reported on Closed session: The Board held a discussion regarding potential litigation. No reportable actions were taken.

Attorney Lemieux left the meeting at 2:01 pm.

- 5) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Executive Director Bondy noted that the Financial Report was emailed out separately from the agenda packet. No changes were recommended.
- 6) **CONSENT CALENDAR**
 - a. **Approve Minutes from June 11, 2020, Regular Board Meeting**
 - b. **Approve Minutes from June 23, 2020, Special Board Meeting**
 - c. **Approve Financial Report for June 2020**

Director Shephard made the motion to approve the consent calendar items (6a-c) with no changes. Director Rungren seconded the motion.

No public comments.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y L. Rose -Y E. Ayala – Y G. Shephard – Y
S. Rungren – Y D. Engle – Y A. Spandrio – Y

Absent: None.

Noes: None.

7) DIRECTORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. **Directors may provide oral reports on items not appearing on the agenda.**
- b. **Directors shall report time spent on cost-share eligibility activities for the 2017 Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Management Planning (SGWP) Grant.**

Director Kuebler: No report and no time.

Director Spandrio: No report and no time.

Director Rungren: The Ventura Litigation Website has been updated. There is a status conference scheduled for 6/24/2020, with a consumptive user group requesting another status conference on 8/17/2020. The City of Ventura has yet to finish noticing landowners due to COVID-19. Postcards will be sent out this week with letters to follow.

Director Shephard: No report and no time.

Director Ayala: There has been a change in the water quality in the upper portion of the river due to the draining of Lake Matilija late last week. This is a small indication of the sediment coming out from behind the dam.

Director Rose: No report and no time.

Director Engle: No report and no time.

8) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the written staff report with the Board. He added that verbal approval of the GSP grant agreement amendment was received subsequent to writing the staff report. He expects that amendment will be signed within a week or so. He also described a new potential grant opportunity with the Wildlife Conservation Board. He will follow-up with more information at a special Board meeting.

Public Comments: Jordan Kear, Kear Groundwater commented on the work stoppage related to insurance that is noted in the staff report, providing an update on the insurance status.

No motion.

9) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

a. Agency Officer Appointment

The Board expressed gratitude to Directors Engle (Chair), Kuebler (Vice-Chair), and Spandrio (Secretary) for serving as officers during FY 19/20.

Director Ayala provided feedback on the layout and graphics for the newsletter. Director Rose recommended adding information regarding the Agency's efforts to seek grant funding to help offset costs.

Director Spandrio expressed support for retaining biology assistance.

Director Engle recommended changing the font from white to dark on the newsletter flowchart to make it easier to read.

Director Kuebler recommended moving the Public Workshop No. 1 star symbol on the schedule over from May to July.

The Board held discussed timing for adopting the sustainability goal, but did not make a decision and instead proceeded based on comments received.

Recommended Action:

Receive an update from the Executive Director concerning groundwater sustainability plan development and consider providing feedback.

Public Comment:

Jordan Kear, Kear Groundwater stated that the fieldwork stoppage is partly related to the evaluation of opportunities to leverage monitoring by agencies. Executive Director responded that while he is assessing opportunities to leverage other monitoring programs, the fieldwork stoppage is exclusively due to the insurance issue.

There was a brief discussion regarding whether Casitas MWD's river monitoring data is available to reduce duplicative efforts. The Executive Director explained that he made a request in April that has not yet been addressed.

No motion.

b. Stakeholder Engagement Plan Annual Review (Grant Category (c): Task 10: Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement)

The Executive Director explained that the UVRGA Stakeholder Engagement Plan requires an annual review, which would have been due in May 2020. The previous review was delayed and not adopted until November 2019. He recommended completing the update in August.

Director Rose stated that the plan should be updated in light of COVID-19 and that there may be insights gained during the July 20 workshop that helps inform other plan changes

Recommended Action:

Direct the Agency's Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee to complete the Stakeholder Engagement Plan annual review and present any recommended changes for Board consideration at the August 2020 Regular Board meeting.

