

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 14, 2020**

The Board meeting was held via teleconference, in accordance with California Executive Order N-25-20. Directors present were Bruce Kuebler, Larry Rose, Susan Rungren, Angelo Spandrio, Glenn Shephard and Chair Diana Engle. Also present: Executive Director Bryan Bondy, Agency Counsel Keith Lemieux and Administrative Assistant Maureen Tucker.

JOIN BY COMPUTER, TABLET OR SMARTPHONE:

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Meeting ID: 977 5493 1308

Passcode: 068626

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Engle called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Engle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3) ROLL CALL**

Executive Director Bondy called the roll.

Directors present: Bruce Kuebler, Larry Rose, Susan Rungren, Angelo Spandrio, Glenn Shephard, and Diana Engle

Directors absent: Emily Ayala

Public present: Burt Handy, Steve Slack, Kelley Dyer, and Bert Rapp

**4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Engle asked for any proposed changes to the agenda. No changes were requested.

Director Rungren moved to approve the agenda. Director Rose seconded the motion.

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

Noes: None

**5) PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA**

Chair Engle opened the meeting to public comments for items not appearing on the agenda. No public comments were offered.

**6) CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a. Approve Minutes from December 10, 2020 Regular Board Meeting**
- b. Approve Financial Report for December 2020**

Director Kuebler asked if the pumping data issues discussed during the December 10, 2020 meeting were addressed. Executive Director Bondy said yes and noted that the draft minutes describe the issues.

Director Rose moved to approve the consent calendar. Director Shepherd seconded the motion.

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

Absent: E. Ayala

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-sharing eligible activities for the 2017 Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Management Planning (SGWP) Grant.**

Director Kuebler reported that he has been working with the Ojai School District to obtain access for a monitoring well.

Director Rungren reported that the City’s Water Commission will consider water and wastewater rates at its January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. No time.

Director Rose reported that he spent four hours seeking access for monitoring wells.

Director Shephard: No report and no time.

Director Engle: No report and no time.

Director Spandrio reported that he was reappointed to serve on the UVRGA Board by Casitas Municipal Water District and Richard Hajas will be the alternate. No time.

## 8) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the written staff report with the Board.

Executive Director Bondy reported on a coordination call held on January 13 with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff. SWRCB expects to present calibration results from their watershed-wide hydrologic model and unimpaired flow scenario results in spring 2021. CDFW is planning a webinar for February 26 to present results of the San Antonio and Intermittent Reach studies and their draft flow recommendations. A 30-day comment period will follow. The Board briefly discussed whether a comment letter would be needed. Executive Director suggested waiting and seeing what CDFW presents first and that he would note this as a potential agenda item for the March meeting.

Chair Engle mentioned that the SGMA Watershed Coordinator grant application submitted by the Ventura County Resource Conservation District was not successful.

Chair Engle asked for Director comments or questions. None were offered.

Chair Engle asked for public comments. None were offered.

## 9) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

### a. Reappoint Agricultural Stakeholder Director

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the staff report. Chair Engle asked for Agency Counsel confirmation that the Board could make the reappointment despite Director Ayala's absence. Agency Counsel Lemieux confirmed.

Chair Engle asked for public comments. None were offered.

Director Rungren moved to reappoint Emily Ayala as Agricultural Stakeholder Director. Seconded by Director Kuebler.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: E. Ayala

**b. Reappoint Environmental Stakeholder Director**

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the staff report.

Chair Engle asked for public comments. None were offered.

Director Rungren moved to reappoint Larry Rose as Environmental Stakeholder Director, seconded by Director Kuebler.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: E. Ayala

Directors Kuebler, Engle, Rungren, and Shephard thanked Director Rose for his willingness to continue serving on the UVRGA Board of Directors.

**10) GSP ITEMS**

**a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update (Grant Category (d); Task 11: GSP Development and Preparation)**

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the staff report.

Chair Engle asked for Directors comments or questions. None were offered.

Chair Engle asked for public comments. None were offered.

**b. GSP Workshop No. 2 (Grant Category) (c ); Task 10: Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement)**

Executive Director Bondy explained that he recommends scheduling the second GSP Public Workshop for late February or early March. Anticipated workshop topics include an overview of sustainable management criteria (SMC), draft SMC for degraded water quality, and a summary of the numerical model construction and calibration.

The Board discussed the possible workshop dates listed in the staff report.

Chair Engle asked for public comments. None were offered.

Director Kuebler moved to schedule GSP Workshop No. 2 for March 2, 2021, at 4 pm. Seconded by Director Shepherd.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: E. Ayala

**c. GSP Newsletter Volume 2, Issue 1 (Grant Category (c) ; Task 10; Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement)**

Executive Director Bondy explained that he recommends issuing the Agency’s 3<sup>rd</sup> newsletter to update stakeholders concerning GSP development status. He stated that the newsletter was reviewed by the Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee. He added that the newsletter will be updated with details concerning GSP Workshop No. 2 now that it has been scheduled. He asked if the Board had any changes to the newsletter.

Chair Engle asked for Director comments or questions.

Director Shepherd stated that it looks great and he likes the graphics.

Director Rungren stated the newsletter looks great and thanked Executive Director Bondy.

Chair Engle asked for public comments. Bert Rapp pointed out a typo on page 2.

Director Rose moved to approve GSP Newsletter Volume 2, Issue 1. Seconded by Director Rungren.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: E. Ayala

**d. Degraded Water Quality Sustainability Indicator Discussion (Grant Category (d); Task 11: GSP Development and Preparation)**

Executive Director Bondy introduced the item and explained that he is looking for Board feedback on draft sustainable management criteria (SMC) for the degraded water quality sustainability indicator. He explained that he plans to present the draft SMC at the upcoming GSP Public Workshop as a means of seeking stakeholder feedback. He then proceeded to walk the Board through the written staff report.

Board Discussion:

- There was general consensus that it would be helpful to add more explanation of the rationale for using 2/3 of the monitoring locations to indicate undesirable results.
- Director Kuebler expressed concerns about using the term “undesirable results.” He said it is too open for interpretation. Another Director pointed out that the term ”undesirable results” is an official SGMA term and that it is appropriate to use in the discussion of SMCs. Executive Director Bondy said he could include more background on the SGMA definition of the term.

- Director Kuebler expressed concerns about the criteria used to define minimum thresholds. He is not sure whether some of the proposed minimum threshold concentrations would necessarily be indicative of significant and unreasonable effects.
- Director Rose expressed concerns about the boron and chloride minimum threshold concentrations. He felt that using the toxicity thresholds is problematic because impacts to crop quality and yields begin occurring at lower concentrations.

Chair Engle asked for public comments. Bert Rapp commented on Ventura River Water District well operational considerations with respect to water quality.

Chair Engle asked the Directors whether the staff report contents should be used as a basis for soliciting stakeholder input. All Directors except for Director Kuebler supported using the staff report contents to solicit public input. Director Kuebler reiterated his concerns about the use of the term “undesirable results.” Executive Director Bondy suggested turning the staff report into a “white paper” and adding clarifications and more background concerning the term “undesirable results.” The white paper would be posted on the website and emailed to the interested parties. The Board agreed with the Executive Director’s proposal.

No motion.

## **11) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **a. Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee**

Director Rose stated there is nothing to report at this time.

## **12) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Engle asked the Directors for future agenda items. None were offered.

The Executive Director noted that he would include an item on the March agenda for a comment letter on forthcoming CDWF reports, if warranted.

## **13) ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.**