

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 10, 2022

The Regular Board meeting was held via teleconference, in accordance with Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency Board Resolution No. 2021-05. Directors present were Mike Etchart, Bruce Kuebler, Emily Ayala, Arne Anselm, Mary Bergen, and Vivon Crawford. The City of Ventura director and alternate were absent. Staff present: Executive Director Bryan Bondy, Agency Counsel Keith Lemieux, and Administrative Assistant Maureen Tucker. Identified public members present: Mike Flood and Meredith Clement.

1) CALL TO ORDER

Chair Etchart called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Executive Director Bondy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) ROLL CALL

Executive Director Bondy called the roll.

Directors Present: Bruce Kuebler, Emily Ayala, Arne Anselm, Mary Bergen, Mike Etchart, Vivon Crawford.

Directors Absent: Jenny Tribo.

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND RENEWAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2021-05

Chair Etchart asked for any proposed agenda changes.

Director Anselm moved agenda approval and the renewal of Resolution 2021-05.
Director Ayala seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y E. Ayala – Y M. Etchart - Y

A. Anselm - Y M. Bergen – Y V. Crawford - Y

Director Absent: J. Tribo

5) PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

Chair Etchart asked for public comments on items not appearing on the agenda.

No comments were offered.

6) CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Approve Minutes from October 13, 2022 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Approve Financial Report for October 2022
- c. Fiscal Year 2022/2023 First Quarter Financial Report

Director Kuebler moved approval of the consent calendar items. Director Bergen seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y E. Ayala – Y M. Etchart - Y

 A. Anselm - Y M. Bergen – Y V. Crawford - Y

Directors Absent: J. Tribo

7) DIRECTORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Directors may provide oral report on items not appearing on the agenda.

Director Kuebler: No report.

Director Ayala: No report. She expressed her gratitude for the recent rain.

Director Crawford: No report.

Director Kaiser: No report.

Director Anselm No report

Director Etchart No report.

Absent: Jenny Tribo

8) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Bondy briefly reported on Agency matters since the last Board meeting.

Public comments: none

9) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

a. Regular Board Meeting Schedule and Venue for 2023

Executive Director Bondy explained that the Governor plans to end the COVID-19 state of emergency on February 28, 2023. This will necessitate meeting in person beginning in March 2023. He reported that Casitas Municipal Water District can accommodate UVRGA board meetings on the first Thursday of each month. Ventura River Water District can accommodate UVRGA board meetings on the second Thursday of each month.

Chair Etchart said he will be teaching on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3 p.m. until June and is hoping the Board could consider avoiding those days of the week.

Director Kuebler said he prefers keeping the meetings on Thursday and proposed to move up the meeting time to 12:30 p.m.

Director Anslem said he is fine with any Thursday but would like to keep the meetings under two hours.

Director Ayala said she is fine with starting the meetings at 12:30 p.m.

Director Crawford said she is fine with the proposal.

Director Kuebler moved scheduling the 2023 regular Board meetings on the second Thursday of each month, starting at 12:30 p.m., and to utilize Ventura River Water District facilities for in-person meetings. Seconded by Director Anslem.

Director Bergen said she does not know if a 12:30 p.m. start time will work for Director Kaiser.

Public Comments: none

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y E. Ayala – Y M. Etchart - Y

 A. Anselm - Y M. Bergen – Y V. Crawford - Y

Directors Absent: J. Tribo

10) GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

a. Sustainable Groundwater Management Round 2 Implementation Grant Application

Executive Director Bondy summarized the \$3.1 million Sustainable Groundwater Management Round 2 Implementation grant application. He said the grant application includes most of the non-administrative activities UVRGA is planning to do through early 2026 plus the feasibility study to address indirect depletion of interconnected surface water. He noted that the monitoring wells and feasibility study were included in the grant application even though these elements would need to be completed sooner than stated in the groundwater sustainability plan. This was done to maximize the funding potential. He introduced Meredith Clement from Kennedy/Jenks and said she is available to answer any questions about the application materials.

Director Bergen said the application was well put together.

Director Anslem thanked staff and Kennedy/Jenks for the effort and noted that this ground round is going to be very competitive.

Director Ayala thanked staff and Kennedy/Jenks for their hard work and asked why existing wells cannot be used for monitoring.

Executive Director Bondy said that existing water wells can be used in cases where there is a well available in a data gap area, but, from a fiscal perspective, it is better to assume a dedicated monitoring will be needed because UVRGA cannot ask for more money after the grant application is submitted. However, he prefers dedicated monitoring wells because access to water wells can be revoked by the owner at any time, which has already happened twice to UVRGA.

Director Anslem moved approval of Resolution 2022-08 authorizing a Sustainable Groundwater Management Round 2 Implementation Grant Application. Seconded by Director Crawford.

No public comments.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y E. Ayala – Y M. Etchart - Y

 A. Anselm - Y M. Bergen – Y V. Crawford - Y

Directors Absent: J. Tribo

Director Etchart asked about the available grant funds. Executive Director Bondy stated it is very competitive. There is approximately \$200M for grant awards. The minimum grant award is \$1M and the maximum \$20M, with approximately 120 eligible basins statewide.

b. Stakeholder Engagement Plan Annual Review and Update

Executive Director Bondy explained that the Stakeholder Engagement Committee reviewed the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and has prepared the proposed updates included in the meeting packet. Most of the changes are to reflect the fact that UVRGA has moved from developing a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) to implementing one.

Director Ayala said the Chumash people did not engage during GSP development and that the committee recommends sending an outreach letter.

After brief discussion, it was decided that Executive Director Bondy would prepare and send the outreach letter.

Director Kuebler said the “to do” language in section 4.9 needs to be removed before finalizing plan.

Director Kuebler moved approval of the updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan with removal of the “to do” language under section 4.9. Seconded by Director Crawford.

No public comments.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y E. Ayala – Y M. Etchart - Y

 A. Anselm - Y M. Bergen – Y V. Crawford - Y

Directors Absent: Jenny Tribo

c. GSP Summary Presentation – Part 2 of 2

Chair Etchart requested the Board defer this presentation until next month’s meeting. No directors objected.

11) COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee

Director Ayala stated that the Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee worked on the engagement plan and did not have any communication outside of that.

No public comments.

12) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No items were requested by any directors.

No public comments.

13) ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Action: _____

Motion: _____

B.Kuebler_ A.Anslem __ E.Ayala__ V.Crawford__ M.Bergen___M.Etchart___ J. Tribo___