

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY STATE WATER CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, OCTOBER 14, 2021.

A regular meeting of the Commissioners of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association was held Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 2029 East Avenue Q, Palmdale, CA 93550 and via teleconference. Chair Parris called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1) Pledge of Allegiance.

No pledge of allegiance was held.

2) Roll Call.

Attendance:

Robert Parris, Chair
Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, V. Chr.
Leo Thibault, Treasurer-Auditor
Keith Dyas, Commissioner
Barbara Hogan, Commissioner
Amberrose Merino, Alt. Cmsnr.

Others Present:

Peter Thompson II, General Manager
Tom Barnes, Resources Manager
Dennis Hoffmeyer, Controller
James Markman, AVEK Attorney
Matthew Knudson, AVEK Asst. Gen. Manager
James Chaisson, LCID General Manager
Shelley Sorsabal, AVEK Alt. Commissioner
Danielle Henry, Management Analyst
2 members of the public

EXCUSED ABSENCE --

Gloria Dizmang, Secretary

3) Adoption of Agenda.

It was moved by Commissioner Dyas, seconded by Commissioner Mac Laren-Gomez, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to adopt the agenda, as written:

Chair Parris – aye
Commissioner Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Commissioner Thibault - aye
Commissioner Merino – aye
Commissioner Dyas – aye
Commissioner Hogan – aye

4) Public Comments for Non-Agenda Items.

There were no public comments.

5) Consideration and Possible Action on Minutes of Regular Meeting Held August 12, 2021.

It was moved by Commissioner Thibault, seconded by Commissioner Mac Laren-Gomez, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 12, 2021, as written:

Chair Parris – aye
Commissioner Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Commissioner Thibault - aye
Commissioner Merino – aye
Commissioner Dyas – aye
Commissioner Hogan – aye

6) Payment of Bills.

It was moved by Commissioner Thibault, seconded by Commissioner Hogan, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to approve payment of the bills received from PWD in the amount of \$1,412.23 for staff services, from AVEK in the amount of \$523.94 for staff services, from the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) in the amount of \$4,265.00 for the 2022 Annual Agency Dues, from the Antelope Valley Watermaster in the amounts of \$34,171.00 and \$17,085.50 for the Association's and for the Antelope Valley Water Management Group's cost share of the 2020/2021 USGS Joint Funding Agreement, from Kennedy/Jenks Consultants in the amount of \$537.50 for professional services associated with the Big Rock Creek Joint Groundwater Recharge Project, and from ACWA/JPIA in the amount of \$2,183.00 for the 2021/2022 Liability Program Policy:

Chair Parris – aye
Commissioner Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Commissioner Thibault – aye
Commissioner Merino – aye

Commissioner Dyas – aye
Commissioner Hogan – aye

7) Consideration and Possible Action on Resolution No. 2021-1 Being a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association Authorizing Public Meetings to be held Via Teleconferencing Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) and Making Findings and Determinations Regarding the Same. (Attorney Markman/General Manager Thompson II)

Attorney Markman provided an overview of Resolution No. 2021-1 and AB 361 to continue teleconference meetings under special Brown Act provisions after which it was moved by Commissioner Dyas, seconded by Commissioner Hogan, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting on the following roll call to approve Resolution No. 2021-1 being a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association Authorizing Public Meetings to be held Via Teleconferencing Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) and Making Findings and Determinations Regarding the Same:

Chair Parris – aye
Commissioner Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Commissioner Thibault - aye
Commissioner Merino – aye
Commissioner Dyas – aye
Commissioner Hogan – aye

Resolution No. 2021-1 is hereby made a portion of the minutes of this meeting.

8) Presentation and Possible Action on Sponsorship of the Antelope Valley Rural Museum. (Mr. Bill Rawlings, AV Rural Museum Chairman/Resources Manager Barnes)

In the absence of Mr. Bill Rawlings, AV Rural Museum Chairman, Controller Barnes provided an overview of the new Antelope Valley Rural Museum, including the donation of historical water equipment and plans to incorporate water conservation education, and after a brief discussion of the cancellation of the 2021 Antelope Valley Fair and of funds previously paid by the Association for the Conservation Garden, it was

determined to table this item for a future meeting when Mr. Rawlings is available to attend.

9) Presentation and Discussion on Finalization of the Big Rock Creek Joint Groundwater Recharge Project Feasibility Study. (Mr. Paul Chau, Kennedy Jenks Consultants/General Manager Thompson II)

General Manager Thompson II stated that Mr. Paul Chau, of Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, provided the Big Rock Creek Joint Groundwater Recharge Alternatives presentation to each member agency Board and met with staff to develop a plan to finalize this Project based on the consensus of two favorable alternatives.

Mr. Chau then provided a detailed presentation on the next steps of the Big Rock Creek Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Study, including Alternative 2 – Culverts and Alternative 3 – Offsite Recharge Basins, and after a brief discussion of county and state participation, of the potential challenges involved, and of the funds available for this Project, it was determined that both Alternatives would move forward simultaneously for further investigation.

10) Consideration and Possible Action on Acceptance and Filing of Audit for Year Ended June 30, 2020. (Controller Hoffmeyer)

Controller Hoffmeyer provided a detailed overview of the Association's audit for year ended June 30, 2020 after which it was moved by Commissioner Thibault, seconded by Commissioner Hogan, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to accept and file the Association's audit for year ended June 30, 2020:

Chair Parris – aye
Commissioner Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Commissioner Thibault - aye
Commissioner Merino – aye
Commissioner Dyas – aye
Commissioner Hogan – aye

11) Discussion and Possible Action on Association Bank Accounts. (Controller Hoffmeyer)

Controller Hoffmeyer provided a detailed update on the recent fraudulent activity with one of the Association's bank accounts and the options for preventing future fraud, and after a brief discussion of these options and the recommendation to utilize Automatic Clearing House (ACH) transfer services for larger consultant payments, it was moved by Commissioner Thibault, seconded by Commissioner Dyas, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to table this item to a future meeting when all associated ACH service fees are available for consideration:

Chair Parris – aye
Commissioner Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Commissioner Thibault - aye
Commissioner Merino – aye
Commissioner Dyas – aye
Commissioner Hogan – aye

12) Report of General Manager.

a) Status Updates:

1) Antelope Valley Watermaster Meetings.

General Manager Thompson II reported that staff is providing a presentation on long term State Water Project reliability at the next Watermaster Board and Watermaster Advisory Committee meetings; that water theft related to illegal marijuana grow operations continues to be a concern; that the Association anticipates a replacement water request from the Watermaster in December; that staff continues to work on the Scope of Work and Budget for continuing engineering services with Todd Groundwater; and that the Watermaster Administrative Committee is focusing on the development of a plan to enforce actions against parties that are non-compliant with the judgment and/or delinquent in payments.

2) Antelope Valley and Fremont Basin IRWMP Stakeholder Meetings.

He then reported that staff worked with Woodard and Curran and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to assist the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District with an advance payment of their Prop. 1 grant award; that the

IRWMP Stakeholders met on September 29, 2021; that Woodard and Curran will be presenting upcoming grant opportunities in relation to the State's water resilience bills; and that LA County is seeking feedback on their Water Plan.

There was no report on the Fremont Basin IRWMP.

3) Mutual Response Agreement for Antelope Valley Agencies.

He then reported that staff met with mutual water companies and solicited feedback to help develop an amendment to the Mutual Response Agreement for Antelope Valley Agencies; that the feedback has been minimal but consistent with relief needed on the required liability insurance; that staff is working on a tiered liability insurance system for the smaller mutual agencies; that staff anticipates a draft amendment by the end of November; that the Agreement participants will be meeting on October 25, 2021 to select an administrator; and that California City has expressed interest in becoming a participant to the Agreement.

4) Aqueduct Water Theft and Security Enforcement.

He then reported that AVEK staff toured the aqueduct in the Antelope Valley area; that no grow operations were found adjacent to the aqueduct; that DWR has indicated that water theft is not a significant problem within the Antelope Valley portion of the SWP; and that staff will continue to monitor the situation if the problem escalates.

5) Antelope Valley Home Show and SMART Water Expo.

He then reported that there will be no Antelope Valley Fair events held in 2021 and that staff will remain engaged with the AV Fair Association for potential events in 2022.

12) Report of Controller.

a) Update on Revenue, Expenses and Change in Net Position.

Controller Hoffmeyer provided an overview of the Association's revenue, expenses and change in net position for the month ending September 30, 2021.

13) Reports of Commissioners.

There were no reports of Commissioners.

14) Report of Attorney.

There was no report of Attorney.

15) Commission Members' Requests for Future Agenda Items.

It was determined that "Consideration and Possible Action on a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association Authorizing Public Meetings to be held Via Teleconferencing Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) and Making Findings and Determinations Regarding the Same," "Presentation and Possible Action on Sponsorship of the Antelope Valley Rural Museum" and "Discussion and Possible Action on Association Bank Accounts" remain on the next meeting agenda.

There were no further requests for future agenda items.

16) Consideration and Possible Action on Scheduling the Next Association Meeting December 9, 2021.

It was determined that the next meeting of the Association will be held December 9, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

17) Adjournment.

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners, the regular meeting of the Commissioners of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.


Secretary