MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY STATE WATER CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, OCTOBER 20, 2016.

A regular meeting of the Commissioners of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association was held Thursday, October 20, 2016, at the Palmdale Water District at 2029 East Avenue Q, Palmdale. Chair Alvarado called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

At the request of Chair Alvarado, a member of the audience led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our fallen heroes and Sergeant Steve Owen.

2) Roll Call.

Attendance:

Robert Alvarado, Chair Keith Dyas, Vice Chair Neal Weisenberger, Secretary Barbara Hogan, Commissioner Marco Henriquez, Alt. Cmsnr.

Others Present:

Matt Knudson, AVSWCA General Mngr.
William Brunick, AVEK Attorney
Tom Barnes, Controller
Dennis LaMoreaux, PWD General Mngr.
Travis Berglund, LCID General Mngr.
Peter Thompson Jr., PWD Deputy Water & Energy Resources Director
Danielle Henry, Administrative Assistant
2 members of the public

EXCUSED ABSENCE --

Kathy Mac Laren, Commissioner Leo Thibault, Treasurer-Auditor

3) Public Comments for Non-Agenda Items.

There were no public comments.

4) Consideration and Possible Action on Minutes of Regular Meeting Held September 8, 2016.

It was moved by Commissioner Hogan, seconded by Alt. Commissioner Henriquez, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 8, 2016, as written.

5) Payment of Bills.

General Manager Knudson reviewed the bills received for payment from PWD in the amount of \$1,587.32 for staff services, from AVEK in the amount of \$657.25 for staff services, from AV Web Designs in the amount of \$199.95 for recurring monthly AVSavesWater.com website charge, and from Interactive Educational Services, Inc. (IES) in the amount of \$294.00 for the recurring monthly AVSWCA.org website charges for July through December 2016 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 to approve the bills received for payment as presented.

6) Discussion and Possible Action on MOU Between the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association and the Antelope Valley Watermaster to Provide Interim Administrative Services to Support the Watermaster. (General Manager Knudson)

General Manager Knudson stated that the proposed MOU between the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association and the Antelope Valley Watermaster to provide interim administrative services to support the Watermaster was presented to the Antelope Valley Watermaster Board for consideration at their last meeting, but it was determined to keep practices as they currently are with AVEK providing a majority of the administrative services.

7) Discussion and Possible Action on Annual SMART Landscaping Expo. (Controller Barnes)

Controller Barnes provided a brief update on the vendor application and set up time for the SMART Landscaping Expo and stated that AVEK's Water Conservation Committee will be meeting on October 21 to further discuss the assigned tasks.

Commissioner Weisenberger then expressed the need to acquire more vendors for the Expo and stated that students are available to man booths for businesses that are not able to have a representative present during the Expo after which Chair Alvarado suggested asking PWD Public Affairs and Sustainability Director McNutt for help with seeking vendors for the Expo.

8) Discussion and Possible Action on Direction of U.S.G.S. Groundwater Monitoring for the Antelope Valley. (Controller Barnes)

General Manager Knudson stated that the cooperative agreements with U.S.G.S. for both Groundwater Level Monitoring and Groundwater Quality Monitoring were presented to the Antelope Valley Watermaster Board of Directors for consideration to take over responsibility from the Association, but it was determined that it is too premature to make that commitment before a Watermaster Engineer is in place.

9) Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of U.S.G.S./CASGEM Program. (General Manager Knudson)

After a brief discussion of the importance of continuing the cooperative agreements with U.S.G.S. for both Groundwater Level Monitoring and Groundwater Quality Monitoring to avoid any time gaps in data and of the required data for grant funding through the CASGEM Program, it was determined that each member agency's Board approve participation in the 2016/17 agreements prior to being considered at the next Association meeting.

General Manager Knudson stated that he and Controller Barnes will work on the draft agreement to provide to each member agency.

10) Report of General Manager.

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

General Manager Knudson provided a brief update of the Association's Revenue, Expenditures and Change in Net Position through the end of September, 2016 and then stated that invoices were sent to the member agencies for costs associated with the 2015/16 U.S.G.S. Groundwater Monitoring Program Agreement and the 2016 SMART Landscaping Expo.

b) Update on Antelope Valley Watermaster Meetings.

General Manager Knudson reported that the Antelope Valley Watermaster Board met on October 17; that the focus of the meeting was to interview recruiting firms for the Watermaster Engineer; that he and AVEK General Manager Chisam were directed to negotiate a contract with Alliance Resource Consulting; that the contract will be presented to the Watermaster Board for final approval; and that the next meeting will be held November 7 at PWD.

c) Update on Ad-Hoc Committee to Discuss Regional Banking and State Water Project Exchange Opportunities.

General Manager Knudson stated that the Ad Hoc Committee has directed staff to review the water systems of the three member agencies for improvement opportunities to strengthen interconnections and suggested that this item remain on the agenda as a standing item.

11) Report of Controller.

a) Update on Status of Agreement Related to Regional Exchange of Water from the State Water Project.

Controller Barnes stated that staff is continuing to develop storage and exchange scenarios for the proposed Department of Water Resources Agreement for the three state water contractors to move water more freely through the State Water Project and that DWR is in the process of seeking final approval of the draft Agreement through their legal department.

12) Reports of Commissioners.

There were no reports.

13) Report of Attorney.

Attorney Brunick stated that the bulk of administrative costs of the future Watermaster and studies, such as the U.S.G.S./CASGEM Groundwater Monitoring Program, will be primarily borne by the landowners group based on pumping rights and that this is a concern for the landowner representatives of the AV Watermaster Board followed by a brief discussion of the current cap on groundwater pumping assessments.

General Manager Knudson then stated that he and AVEK General Manager Chisam have been directed by the AV Watermaster Board to draft a preliminary budget to justify the pumping assessments followed by a brief discussion of the assessment collection time frame and potential Brown Act training for the Watermaster group.

14) Commission Members' Requests for Future Agenda Items.

There were no requests for future agenda items.

15) Consideration and Possible Action on Scheduling the Next Association Meeting. (November 10, 2016)

It was determined that the next regular meeting of the Association will be held November 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at PWD.

16) 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 4:06 p.m.

Roll alush