

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY STATE WATER CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, AUGUST 8, 2024.

A regular meeting of the Commissioners of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association was held Thursday, August 8, 2024, at 6450 West Avenue N, Palmdale, CA 93551, at 2856 Owens Way, Rosamond, CA 93560, and via teleconference. Chair Mac Laren-Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1) Pledge of Allegiance.

At the request of Chair Mac Laren-Gomez, Commissioner Parris led the pledge of allegiance.

2) Roll Call.

Attendance:

Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, Chair
Rob Parris, Vice Chair
Leo Thibault, Treasurer
Don Wilson, Secretary
Keith Dyas, Commissioner
Barbara Hogan, Commissioner

Others Present:

Matthew Knudson, AVEK General Manager
Tom Barnes, AVEK
Pam Clark, AVEK
Pamela Lee, Legal Counsel
Scott Kellerman, PWD Board Director
Audrey Miller, AVEK Board Director
Peter Thompson II, General Manager
Dennis Hoffmeyer, Controller
Angel Fitzpatrick, Administrative Technician
0 members of the public

EXCUSED ABSENCE~

None

3) Adoption of Agenda.

It was moved by Commissioner Hogan, seconded by Commissioner Parris, 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 Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Commissioner Parris – aye
Commissioner Thibault – aye

Commissioner Wilson – 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 June 13, 2024.

It was moved by Commissioner Thibault, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, 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 June 13, 2024, as written:

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

6) Payment of Bills.

It was moved by Commissioner Thibault, seconded by Commissioner Parris, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to approve payment and ratification of payment of the bills received from AVEK in the amount of \$2,558.35 for staff services of Tom Barnes, Pam Clark and Angel Fitzpatrick for the periods of June 1, 2024, through July 31, 2024, and from ACWA/JPIA in the amount of \$100.00 for the 2024-2025 Cyber Liability Coverage.

Controller Hoffmeyer stated that the Woodard and Curran invoice for \$4,252.50 shown in the payment of bills memo, which is pass-through funds received from the Department of Water Resources on behalf of the AV IRwmp Group for Prop. 1, Round 1 Grant funding project, is not recommended for payment as it has already been paid.

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

7) Consideration and Possible Action on Accepting and Filing the Audit for the Year Ending June 30, 2023 (Controller Hoffmeyer)

Controller Hoffmeyer provided a detailed overview of the Association's audit for the year ending June 30, 2023, after which it was moved by Commissioner Parris, seconded by Commissioner Thibault, 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 the year ending June 30, 2023:

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

8) Consideration and possible Action to accept the Restricted Funds Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 as presented. (Controller Hoffmeyer)

Controller Hoffmeyer provided a detailed overview of the proposed Restricted Funds Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025, including the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Ground Water Monitoring/CASGEM Program and the expenditure for the Littlerock Creek Joint Groundwater Recharge Program. A brief discussion followed this, and the items were voted on separately.

It was then moved by Commissioner Hogan, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to approve the USGS Restricted Funds Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Ground Water Monitoring/CASGEM Program.

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

It was then moved by Commissioner Hogan, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting following a roll call vote to approve the expenditure for the Littlerock Creek Joint Groundwater Recharge Program.

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

9) Update on the Littlerock Creek Recharge Project. (Tom Barnes, AVEK)

Tom Barnes with AVEK updated the Association on the Littlerock Creek Recharge Project. The update included a brief description of the project and an update on the progress of CEQA environmental work, including the current status of the project such as HELIX is reviewing provided project information, CEQA Initial Study is being prepared to determine the Project's potential environmental impacts that will result information as to what level of compliance is required and that a draft Initial Study should be ready for review by early September.

10) Report on Water Resources and Activities. (Pam Clark, AVEK)

1) Potential grant programs for the culvert projects

Pam Clark with AVEK provided the following updates on the potential grant programs to fund the construction of the culverts for the Upper Amargosa Creek, Littlerock Creek, and Big Rock Creek Recharge Projects:

Staff is collaborating with Los Angeles County Waterworks staff and their consultants to identify potential grant opportunities for culvert installations; two potential grant opportunities have been identified for culver installations that will enable improved recharge at Big Rock Creek Recharge Site, Littlerock Creek Recharge Project; the two grants identified were the WaterSMART Drought Response Program as a Drought Resiliency Project and the WaterSMART Small Storage Program.

The Drought Resiliency Program focuses on projects related to storing water or recharging groundwater supplies/storage of additional water supplies that can be made available during drought:

- Maximum cost of \$10M with up to 50% cost share
- Projects need to be identified in a drought contingency plan
- Notice of funding opportunity was published on July 24, 2024
- Applications are due by October 7, 2024

The Small Storage Program focuses on water storage capacity that increases surface water or groundwater storage:

- Maximum project size of \$30M with a cost share of 25%
- The project must have a completed feasibility study to determine the eligibility
- Applications are due for the second round of funding April 30, 2025

The SWRCB Storm Water Grant Program has offered grant programs that fit this project in the past, but no grants are currently available.

The following steps are to continue project development discussions with LA County staff to participate in an informational webinar on August 15 for the WaterSMART Drought Response Program, determine if the project qualifies for a disadvantaged community cost-share waiver, and monitor future grant funding opportunities for consideration.

2) Update on conservation garden sponsorship

Pam Clark with AVEK provided the following updates on the conservation garden sponsorship:

Pam Clark provided an overview of the background of the sponsorship, which included the sponsorship of the Antelope Valley Fair Conservation Garden, which began in 2018 for a total sponsorship of \$75,000 over three (3) years (time extended through 2024 due to COVID-19), an additional \$5,000 per year for maintenance, years 2021 and 2022 (extended to include years 2023 through 2026). To date, town community areas have been developed with drought-tolerant landscaping. The project includes the Back Yard, which is across from the H.W. Hunter Pavilion, and the La Plaza area, which is at the rear of the Primrose stage area. These areas include educational signage for plant locations and names identifying the AVSWCA's sponsorship.

It was also reported that staff recently visited the AV Fairgrounds to observe the conservation garden areas. They noted that the areas continue to be well-maintained with appropriate signage, but some minor weeding improvements were needed.

11) 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 June 30, 2024.

12) Report of General Manager.

a) Status Updates:

1) Antelope Valley Watermaster Meetings.

General Manager Thompson II stated that the Watermaster interviewed Provost & Pritchard and Regional Government Services for the administrative services of the Watermaster; that following the interviews, both were selected to receive a Request for proposals; that Todd Groundwater's contract was renewed for 2025-2027 which included the development of a production reporting application; that the 2023 Annual Report was approved; and that the Watermaster will review the proposals from Provost & Pritchard and Regional Government Services at the August meeting.

2) Future Agenda Items.

He then stated that future agenda items would include an update on CEQA for the Littlerock Creek Recharge Project, an update on development on the Culvert Projects, a presentation from DWR on the 2024 Water Year, and the potential Edmonston Pumping Plant Tour.

In addition, he expressed his gratitude to Tom Barnes and Pam Clark from AVEK for filling in and taking on additional responsibilities in his absence at the June meeting. He mentioned that the Association will focus on distributing its duties more evenly among the member agencies to balance the workload among the staff. The plan is to have a formal plan will be completed by the end of the year.

13) Reports of Commissioners.

Commissioner Parris reported that individuals with AVEK met with Dan Jacobs at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds (Fair) and later met with the AVEK planning committee. The meetings aimed to discuss how AVEK can assist the Fair and the City of Lancaster with the development of the Resilience Center and contribute to the emergency preparedness for the Antelope Valley. He mentioned that the Fair has already planned a resilient power supply using a hydrogen plant to supply an off-grid electrical system. However, the Fair currently does not have an off-grid water supply system and is working on a plan. Additionally, there is a possibility that the member agencies and other water agencies can contribute to a machine shop that can be used by the high schools regularly and be used by the water agencies in an emergency to fix water systems and store generators and equipment.

Chair Mac Laren-Gomez reported that Palmdale Water District has an MOU with the United Water Conservation District, and she toured all of its facilities, including the Frances Dam.

14) Report of Attorney.

General Counsel Lee reported and provided detailed information on the State Water Resources Control Board's adoption of a new rule requiring water agencies to reduce their water use over the next 15 years.

15) Commission Members' Requests for Future Agenda Items.

Commissioner Parris requested that the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds and the City of Lancaster present to the Association for a possible discussion on how the member agencies can contribute to the Resilience Center's development.

16) Consideration and Possible Action on Scheduling the Next Association Meeting on a special date of October 3, 2024.

After a discussion among the Commissioners, it was agreed that the next meeting would be held on its regular date and time of October 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

17) Adjournment.

With no further business to come before the Commissioners, the regular meeting of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association Commissioners was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.



Secretary, Don Wilson