

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

*A regular meeting of the Commissioners of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association was held Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 6450 West Avenue N, Palmdale, CA 93551, at 2856 Owens Way, Rosamond, CA 93560, and via teleconference. Vice Chair Mac Laren-Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.*

**1) Pledge of Allegiance.**

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

**1.5) Request to suspend Rules Temporarily to enact AB2449**

Administrative Technician Angel Fitzpatrick made a request for a Point of Order and addressed the Commissioners requesting consideration to suspend the traditional Brown Act rules temporarily for the current meeting to allow for the enactment of AB 2449 – an approved provision allowing a commissioner to meet remotely Just Cause. Angel Fitzpatrick was notified on 2/8/23 that Chair Parris could not attend due to a medical procedure. In accordance with the rules of the provision, Chair Parris was notified that he would need to appear via video and audio and disclose if any others over 18 were present with him and the nature of the relationship. She further advised the Commissioners that the provision is available up to twice per calendar year [ending 1/1/26] for each commissioner, and this was the first request by Chair Parris.

Chair Parris appeared to the Board and others attending the meeting via video camera and stated that there were no others present in the room with him for the meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Thibault, seconded by Commissioner Dyas, and carried on a 4-0-1-1 vote by members of the Board of Commissioners on the following roll call vote for consideration to suspend the traditional Brown Act rules temporarily for the current meeting to allow for the enactment of AB 2449:

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

Commissioner Hogan – absent

**2) Roll Call.**

**Attendance:**

Robert Parris, Chair  
Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, V. Chr.  
Don Wilson, Secretary  
Leo Thibault, Treasurer  
Keith Dyas, Commissioner

**Others Present:**

Peter Thompson II, General Manager  
Dennis Hoffmeyer, Controller  
Tom Barnes, Resources Manager  
Matthew Knudson, AVEK General Manager  
James Chaisson, LCID General Manager  
Scott Kellerman, PWD Board Director  
Audrey Miller, AVEK Board Director  
Drew Mercy, AVEK Board Director  
Angel Fitzpatrick, Administrative Technician  
0 members of the public

**EXCUSED ABSENCE~**

Barbara Hogan, Commissioner

**3) Adoption of Agenda.**

It was moved by Commissioner Wilson, 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 Wilson – aye  
Commissioner Dyas – aye  
Commissioner Hogan – absent

**4) Public Comments for Non-Agenda Items.**

There were no public comments.

**5) Presentation on the Resilience Center at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds. (Dan Jacobs, Chief Executive Officer, Antelope Valley Fair & Events Center)**

Commissioner Mac Laren-Gomez explained that Mr. Dan Jacobs could not provide the presentation at this time. This item was tabled until the April 11, 2024, meeting.

**6) Consideration and Possible Action on Minutes of Regular Meeting Held December 14, 2023.**

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 December 14, 2023, as written:

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

**7) Payment of Bills.**

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 payment and ratification of payment of the bills received from AVEK in the amount of \$1,250.63 for staff services, from Woodard and Curran in the amount of \$5,280.00 for professional services through December 29, 2023 related to the IRWM Plan Update and Funding, from Antelope Valley Fair Association in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the sponsorship of the Antelope Valley Fair Conservation Garden, from Antelope Valley Watermaster in the amount of \$35,710.00 and \$17,855.00 for the Association's and the Antelope Valley Regional Water Management Group's (AVIRWMG) share of the 2023/2024 USGS Groundwater Monitoring Program, and payment to PWD in the amount of \$23.17 for reimbursement of a payment made to GoDaddy.com, LLC for the annual renewal of the domain for the Association website:

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

**8) Consideration and possible action on Election of Officers. (General Manager Thompson II)**

After a brief discussion of the Association Bylaws and the elections of Officers, It was moved by Chair Parris to nominate Commissioner Mac Laren-Gomez as Chair, seconded by Commissioner Thibault, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissions present at the meeting on the following roll call vote:

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

It was moved by Commissioner Wilson to nominate Commissioner Parris as Vice Chair, 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:

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

It was moved by Chair Mac Laren-Gomez to nominate Commissioner Thibault to remain the Treasurer-Auditor, 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:

ANTELOPE VALLEY STATE WATER CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION  
FEBRUARY 8, 2024  
REGULAR MEETING

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

It was moved by Commissioner Thibault to nominate Commissioner Wilson to remain the Secretary, seconded by Chair Mac Laren-Gomez, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting on the following roll call vote:

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

The approved 2024 Slate of Officers for the Association is as follows:

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

**9) Consideration and Possible Action on closing out the Big Rock Creek Groundwater Recharge Project (Big Rock Project) restricted funds budget and authorizing the conditional repurposing of Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency's (AVEK) and Palmdale Water District (PWD) remaining funds for use in development of the Littlerock Creek Recharge Project (Littlerock Project). (General Manager Thompson II)**

General Manager Thompson II explained that the purpose of this agenda item is to conditionally approve the repurposing of AVEK's and PWD's remaining funds should both agency boards approve the MOU, and both agency boards approve the repurposing of the funds. The remaining funds for the Big Rock Project are as follows: AVEK's remaining funds are \$18,858.73 to be repurposed, PWD's remaining funds are \$18,858.73 to be repurposed, and LCID's remaining funds are \$812.99 to be refunded.

It was moved by Commissioner Parris, 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 authorize Staff to close out the Big Rock Project restricted funds budget and authorize the conditional repurposing of AVEK's and PWD's remaining funds for use in the development of the Littlerock Project:

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

**10) Consideration and Possible Action on the authorization of Staff to release received Replacement Water Assessment (RWA) funds upon receipt in accordance with the Replacement Water Plan approved by the Antelope Valley Watermaster. (General Manager Thompson II)**

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 authorize Staff to release received Replacement Water Assessment funds upon receipt per the Replacement Water Plan approved by the Antelope Valley Watermaster:

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

**11) Report of Resources Manager.**

Nothing to Report

**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 January 31, 2024. He also provided an overview of the FY 2023/2024 Budget vs. Actual.

**13) Report of General Manager.**

**a) Status Updates:**

**1) Antelope Valley Watermaster Meetings.**

General Manager Thompson II reported that the Watermaster Board approved the 2024 Application Fee Schedule; that the Board approved the MOU for Administrative services between AVEK and the AV Watermaster; that the Board approved the Replacement Water Plan for 2023; that Todd Groundwater provided an update on the upcoming need for storage agreements for 10-year-old carryover water; and that Staff is updating the Replacement Water Assessment Rate for 2024 for consideration at the February Watermaster meeting.

**2) Antelope Valley and Fremont Basin IRWMP Stakeholder Meetings.**

He then reported that the IRWMP Group did not receive the Round 1-9<sup>th</sup> quarterly invoice in January, so we anticipate receiving the Prop 1 Round 1 - 9<sup>th</sup> quarterly invoice in February 2024; and that Staff is working on the AVIRWM cost share MOU for 2024-2026.

**3) Grant Opportunities.**

He then reported that Staff is looking to coordinate with LA County and additional IRWM partners to develop a Regional Stormwater Management Plan; and that Staff will explore coordination with other adjudicated basins for funding requests.

**4) Future Agenda Items.**

He then stated that the future agenda items will include grant opportunity updates, Voluntary Agreements updates, Delta Conveyance Project updates, and SWP Subsidence presentations.

**14) Reports of Commissioners.**

Commissioner Parris explained that it has been a great honor as the Chairman for the last several years, and he has enjoyed the comradery and collaboration of the three agencies working together. He then explained that he felt the need to step down as Chairman since General Manager Thompson II is now the Assistant General Manager of AVEK. Kathy has always been a supportive Vice Chair over the years.

Commissioner Thibault requested an update on the transition of AVEK staff taking over administrative services for the Watermaster. Commissioner Parris, explained that since he is the Chairman of the Watermaster Board, he could provide an update; all reports and appearances of the transition with AVEK staff have been flawless and positive reports from the public. Chair Mac Laren-Gomez, added that the farmers and landowners are happy to have AVEK assisting the Watermaster.

Commissioner Parris expressed his gratitude to Commissioner Thibault for all of his teachings and guidance over the years.

**15) Report of Attorney.**

No attorney was present at the meeting.

**16) Commission Members' Requests for Future Agenda Items.**

There were no requests for future agenda items.



**17) Consideration and Possible Action on Scheduling the Next Association Meeting April 11, 2024.**

The Association's next regular meeting will be held on April 11, 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 6:48 p.m.

  
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Secretary