



Board of Directors
Bruce E. Dandy, President
Sheldon G. Berger, Vice President
Lynn E. Maulhardt, Secretary/Treasurer
Mohammed A. Hasan
Edwin T. McFadden III
Michael W. Mobley
Daniel C. Naumann

General Manager
Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

Legal Counsel
David D. Boyer

MINUTES
SPECIAL UWCD BOARD MEETING
Monday, June 6, 2022, 2:30 p.m.
United Water Conservation District
Headquarters' Boardroom
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE

Bruce E. Dandy, president
Sheldon G. Berger, vice president
Lynn E. Maulhardt, secretary/treasurer
Mohammed A. Hasan, director
Edwin T. McFadden III, director
Michael W. Mobley, director
Daniel C. Naumann, director

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Mauricio Guardado, general manager
David D. Boyer, legal counsel
Anthony Emmert, assistant general manager
Zachary Plummer, technology systems manager
Kris Sofley, executive assistant/clerk of the Board

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Gordon Kimball

1. FIRST OPEN SESSION 2:30 P.M.

President Dandy called the meeting to order at 2:30p.m.

1.A Pledge of Allegiance

President Dandy asked Director McFadden to lead the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

1.B Roll Call

All seven directors were present (Berger, Hasan, Maulhardt, McFadden, Mobley, Naumann and Dandy)

**1.C Public Comment
Information Item**

President Dandy asked if there were any public comments. None were offered

President Dandy and the Clerk of the Board provided an overview of the public notice postings, newspaper notices and other steps taken in accordance with policies and procedures for the Board's appointment of a Director to fill the Division 1 seat being vacated by Director McFadden.

Director Hasan addressed the Board stating that he wanted to voice his objection as he thought there should be at least two or three candidates for this Board seat, implying that something was wrong with the process used in announcing the Board vacancy and noticing the Board was seeking candidates for the Division 1 Board seat.

Director Berger stated that the Board decided to appointment a replacement and that, due to the upcoming general election in November, and the time constraints that election created regarding the timeline for appointments, the Board was asking in a timely manner so the County Board of Supervisors would not have to appoint someone to the vacant seat.

Director Maulhardt stated that he concurred with Director Berger and that the process for the Board appointing a replacement is consistent with the policies and procedures adhered to in the past.

Gordon Kimball, the candidate for the Division 1 seat, said that he too was disappointed that he was the only candidate as it is an indication of how few people are interested in water governance in Ventura County. He added that he would have preferred to see six or seven candidates at today's meeting.

President Dandy then began the interview process of Mr. Kimball.

2. CANDIDATE REVIEW FOR DIVISION 1 BOARD SEAT

- 2.A Review Application and Resume for Division 1 Candidate and**
- 2.B Candidate A will be interviewed by the Board**

President Dandy asked Mr. Kimball to tell the Board a bit about himself and his background, for those that may not know of him.

Mr. Kimball said that he literally grew up with United Water as it was a common topic around his grandfather's table, as his grandfather served on the Board at the formation of United Water Conservation District. He said that his uncle also served as a United Water Board member and added that his wife's father was the assistant chief engineer during the construction of the Santa Felicia Dam in the 1950s.

Mr. Kimball told the Board that he remembered when United Water was a very big deal, constructing the Santa Felicia Dam for water storage, building the Freeman Diversion to recharge the basins and then people just stated taking it for granted. When environmental disputes began and rates went up as a result, people noticed United Water again.

Mr. Kimball spoke of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 and fostered concerns about the formation of the Board for the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency, he started the Pumpers associations in Fillmore and Piru and secured stakeholder director seats for both organizations on the Agency's board. He added that it has been great having Director McFadden representing United Water as a member director on the Board and that since the Fillmore and Piru basins are sustainable, it has been a fairly easy task developing groundwater sustainability plans for the basins. He added that the Board is comprised of hardworking individuals of many different perspectives, but so far, everything is going well.

Director McFadden stated that he has worked with Mr. Kimball since the start of the GSA and that Mr. Kimball has a better understanding of the issues faced by United and that he is also committed to creating balance. He also stated the Mr. Kimball, being an engineer, is a logical, cool-headed individual. Director McFadden then asked Mr. Kimball to explain his motivation for wanting to serve on the UWCD Board.

Mr. Kimball replied that it would be a chance to do more and that United Water's responsibilities and capabilities are much greater than the GSA and that by serving on the United Water board, he is also creating an opportunity for the Pumpers' associations to grow, too. He said he is interested in being involved with the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement project issues, diversion issues and drought issues, too, and that he really wants to be involved in finding the solutions to these issues.

Director Berger stated that he had spoken to Limoneira's President, CEO and Board Director Harold Edwards about Mr. Kimball, who serves as the Chairman of the Limoneira Board of Directors, and that Mr. Edwards thinks very highly of Mr. Kimball. He also stated that he has seen Mr. Kimball at a lot of United's meetings and knows that Mr. Kimball is very much involved in water.

Mr. Kimball replied that joining the United Board is a chance to serve a bigger community and help efforts in sustainability.

Director Maulhardt said that he too remembered hearing talk of United Water at the dinner table and heard his dad talk about the formation of United Water. He stated that he also recalls Kimball workers pruning trees, especially the deep root pruning, which was his first introduction to the Kimball name. He said the work and work ethic was impressive. Director Maulhardt said that he too remembers seeing Mr. Kimball at meetings when United was in Santa Paula and recalls that Mr. Kimball is a quite man who possesses a wealth of knowledge about the County and the upper river east of the Freeman. He added that Director Mobley and Director McFadden know the history of the upper river and how the work of United has brought everyone to the conclusion that all the basins – Piru, Fillmore, Santa Paula, are one giant interactive connection, which is significant in groundwater management. He

addressed Mr. Kimball stating that while the Board tends to focus on the southern region of the District, he is very pleased that Mr. Kimball has placed his hat in the ring. He added that with Mr. Kimball's education, experience and history in this valley, Director Maulhardt is honored to have him throw his hat in ring and asked Mr. Kimball what does UWCD, encompassing Fillmore, Piru, Santa Paula, and the Oxnard Plain, need to do?

Mr. Kimball said that he does not know enough about all that United is dealing with, but he knows the Board and Mr. Guardado have worked closed with elected officials in Washington, D.C., and Sacramento and with the Naval Base in Ventura County. He stated that United's work is critical to all because everybody needs water. When storage was an issue, United built the Santa Felicia Dam, and brought water from Fillmore and Piru to the cities. The Water Sustainability Summit demonstrated the projects that are now being developed and was a fantastic way to educate people both in the cities and the County, and make them partners on these projects rather than the opposition. We need to find a way for all of us to have enough water.

Director Hasan stated that there are 60,000 constituents and only one person to select from. The Board is not doing its job, he said, in telling people to get involved. He then asked Mr. Kimball what he would like to see the Board do to get that information out to the people.

Mr. Kimball replied that when everyone becomes angry about rates, or limiting water use without being asked for input, that's when people will show up to meetings. He added that it is really hard to get people involved and as long as the water is coming out of the spout, the public has other ways to spend its time. He continued, stating that People have so many choices and demands on their time these days, they are "glad to know you're taking care of it." If you are doing a good job, they will leave you to it.

Director Hasan stated that Mr. Kimball has been involved in water for quite some time and asked him what the District should do about the drought in Ventura County and California.

Mr. Kimball replied that first, you look at the hydrographs. Then he suggested a need for more storage so that when it does rain, more of it can be captured and stored for future use. He added that everybody needs to think more carefully about conservation, think about what trees and plants are needed, if grass really needs to be planted at every house, and, he concluded, we need to address efficiencies in irrigation.

Director Mobley spoke, saying he knew of Mr. Kimball's leadership, his formation of the pumpers' associations, and understood why no one would want to run against Mr. Kimball with that kind of reputation and accomplishments to his credit. He also said that Mr. Kimball has been coming to the United Board and Committee meetings and has a long history of involvement. He added that Mr. Kimball was

also always concerned about water rates, advocating for consistency or very small increases. Director Mobley asked Mr. Kimball that, since the water rates have been going up, have people complained to him about water rates. Director Mobley added, not just due to the cost of the projects but regulatory agencies, permitting, does United need to do a better job of explaining that to rate payers?

Mr. Kimball replied that it certainly would not hurt. He said that he initially heard grumblings when rates first went up, and there were the United rates, and the Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA rates, and the Fox Canyon GMA rates and the Pumpers Association fees, but people realize that we need to spend money on water. Water has a real value and that people are willing to pay to make sure there is balance and that water will be there when it is needed. It is only when people are angry, he added, that they show up to meetings. Mr. Kimball then suggested that it may be better to not talk about rates, but instead talk about all that United is doing with that money. In the 1950s, it was 10 years from concept to completion to build the Santa Felicia Dam. You could not do that today because of permitting and environmental complaints. United needs to take every opportunity to keep trying to reach out to the constituents. Focus on projects, talk about the challenges that lay ahead and promote the goal of fewer lawsuits and more projects. Our fathers and grandfathers had the foresight to successfully manage the water and it is our responsibility to carry that forward.

Director McFadden stated that the reason Mr. Kimball was unopposed in seeking this appointment reflects his reputation. People know he has it handled. United Water rate payers understand that Mr. Kimball is a good steward for the District.

Director Naumann added that the District is blessed to have the percolation rates of the upper basins and added that his uncle had served on the United board, which his how he became interested and why he wants to make United better and stronger. He recalled how once the Board described what we were doing and why, the public relaxed and let us do it. He stated that he agrees with Mr. Kimball that the District needs to focus on storage and projects. He added that he enjoyed watching the video from the UWCD 90th Anniversary celebration that included Mr. Kimball with his wife and mom.

Director Hasan thanked Mr. Kimball for thinking of serving and for his willingness to service.

Mr. Kimball replied that having a seat on the Board is a special responsibility, and if he is the only candidate, that just makes his responsibility more important and he is committed to doing a better job.

President Dandy asked if Mr. Kimball had any questions for the Board. Mr. Kimball said he did not have any questions.

2.C Board discussion of next steps

District's Legal Counsel David Boyer explained that now that Mr. Kimball has been interviewed by the Board, the next steps will be taken at the Board meeting on Wednesday, at which time the Board will vote on whether to appoint Mr. Kimball to the Division 1 Board vacancy and will be able to make further comments at that time. If the vote is in favor of appointing Mr. Kimball to the Board vacancy, then the clerk will administer the Oath of Office to Mr. Kimball and he will assume the vacancy at that time.

President Dandy said no further action will be taken at this time.

AJOURMENT

President Dandy adjourned the Special Board meeting at 3:15p.m. to the **Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 8, 2022** or call of the President.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the UWCD Board of Directors Special Board meeting of June 6, 2022.

ATTEST:



Lynn E. Maulhardt, Board Secretary

ATTEST:



Kris Sofley, Clerk of the Board