

REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

2370 Webb Ranch Road
P. O. Box 399
Redwood Valley CA 95470
(707) 485-0679

MINUTES

Special Meeting
Board of Directors
Saturday, January 10, 2009

Directors Present: Donald E. Butow, Hal Voege, Janette Hallman, Granville Pool
Staff Present: General Manager Bill Koehler

Assistant Office Manager Paula Berezay

Several members of the Public - Also present: Supervisor Carre Brown, Richard Shoemaker, John Dickerson, Charlie Barra, Will Carson, Roy Beck, and the Frey family

Facilitator: Carol Mordhorst

Public Meeting to discuss storage, land acquisition, SRF Funding, status of well and other funding possibilities.

The meeting started at 9:08 a.m.

Director Butow welcomed the public and gave them a brief history of the district. He mentioned how his father (Ernie Butow), Charlie Barra and other dedicated people brought the district into existence. He discussed the current problems and the changes that have come into play, the lawsuits, the moratorium, fish issues, and hardships. He stated if the lake level gets below 30,000 A.F. it affects our ability to draw water.

General Manager Koehler explained when the lake reaches 30,000 A.F. we have to reduce usage by 50% of historical diversion. We can physically pump to about 28,000 A.F. Director Butow stated we found out in 2002 we would have only 20 to 40 days of water left to deliver at 100 gallons per day per residence. We also have more restrictions on flows with the fish issue. He explained the purchase agreement with Sonoma County.

Director Butow introduced the facilitator, Carol Mordhorst.

Carol asked everyone to introduce themselves and to communicate what their concerns are, and to prioritize their goals. Director Butow and General Manager Koehler gave a summary of the water rights. General Manager Koehler explained the annexations, the loan situation, how the loan payback is postponed and how we now have the ability to get a loan.

Charlie Barra mentioned the original loan and conversations with Congressman Thompson. Charlie stated problems in the past of not being able to show beneficial use. He stated every issue in Lake Sonoma (when it was built) was decided by a Judge, and he thinks it will be the same in Mendocino County.

General Manager Koehler mentioned several issues, the County of Origin, Lake Mendocino, water rights, stream flow, conservation, the BMP's, etc. and asked, "What does the community want us to do?"

Katrina Frey asked if the goal was to create enough storage to lift the moratorium or to supply existing customers. Director Butow stated the original goal was to lift the moratorium, the immediate goal is to protect ourselves as we exist today. He explained the Potter Valley Project, and the issues of raising the dam.

Charlie Barra mentioned the area of Origin Rights and that the greatest obstacle is politics. He stated that we need a third party to decide who owns what. General Manager Koehler commented, "regardless of situations, we need additional storage."

Break 10:18 a.m.

Return from break 10:40 a.m.

Richard Shoemaker mentioned the county budget and its financial situation. There needs to be a unified system along the Russian River but he questions the value of the County Water Agency given the financial situation of the county. Charlie Barra commented water is one area where you can get a return on investment. Will Carson stated we need someone with political power to go to Sacramento. If consolidation of water districts occurs, each water district would be bringing an asset.

LAFCO – John Dickerson stated he is working with Frank McMichael in reviewing of all the Russian River water organizations and agencies in Mendocino County. There have been several changes in LAFCO law and authority. Different County LAFCO'S have initiated mergers of districts and how water rights are structured. There is going to be a region-wide water review published in the next six months. It could be a plan for consolidation of organizations. John Dickerson has spreadsheets of finances of every water district and water agency.

Round Valley Tribe proposal – Richard Shoemaker explained Potter Valley Diversions, recently Round Valley tribe put a proposal restricting the amount of Eel River water coming out of the watershed and making sure it goes through Potter Valley at a maximum flow. They would support raising Coyote Dam at least ten feet. Fish hatcheries for economic development issues, Round Valley.

Carol proceeded to have the public participate. After the public stated their concerns, they broke into two groups and discussed the main topics, district collaborations and storage. In the afternoon the groups came back together to discuss the individual group's outcome.

Collaboration. After discussions Richard Shoemaker stated, ultimately consolidation could be an outcome, but in the short term not feasible. The goal is, we protect our water resources and our citizens. MCWA can create a zone of benefit within the agency that can make decisions separately from the agency but still direct agency staff.

Will Carson mentioned MCWA is not viable now because it has no water. MCWA could work on collaboration by drawing us together. Director Hallman mentioned annexation into RRFCD and we would be able to use their water rights. Will Carson mentioned Roland can take a major step toward working together and also being able to represent us as citizens of Mendocino County with the state.

Richard Shoemaker stated we need to express a regional goal, effective and equitable, secure provisions of appropriated water for the region. It's a good goal for the entire area; no need to create any new agencies.

Storage: Director Voegel reported that basically the discussion was the Frey's concern of protecting their Road I property. The District needs to find storage between here and Lake Mendocino. Director Pool mentioned the environmental process and regulatory issues. He stated we need 80 to 100 acres or more for storage. Several subjects were mentioned, AB2121, costs per year per acre foot, grant money, area of origin and possibly looking for foreclosure property.

Discussion of a plan for the public meeting.
It was mentioned to have a public meeting after the wine growers seminar.

Meeting closed 2:30 p.m.

See attached Facilitator Notes as part of these Minutes.
[See attached Fact Sheet as part of these Minutes.](#)

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 15, 2008 at the Water District Office, 2370 Webb Ranch Road, Redwood Valley, California.

APPROVED: _____ Board of Directors

DATE: _____ March 19, 2009

SIGNED: _____ Linda Groth
Secretary, Board of Directors

Minutes prepared by Paula Berezay due to absence of Board Secretary Groth.