

REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
2370 Webb Ranch Road
P. O. Box 399
Redwood Valley CA 95470
(707) 485-0679

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Board of Directors
Thursday, January 21, 2010

Directors Present: Donald E. Butow, Jeanette Hallman, Hal Voege, Granville Pool
Directors Absent: Merle Reuser
Staff Present: General Manager Bill Koehler
Office Manager/Secretary to Board of Directors, Linda Groth
Others Present: Roy Beck, Donna Sheldon, Will Carson, Mrs. Richardson

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:01 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL.

Granville Pool, Director
Hal Voege, Vice-President
Jeanette Hallman, Director
Donald Butow, President

2. HEARING OF COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FROM THE ATTENDING PUBLIC.

Mr. Beck noted that after almost 3 years of drought, we are experiencing some good rain storms. Director Pool stated that he has been checking the Department of Water Resources website several times a day, and it shows that Lake Mendocino is almost at 47,000 acre-feet.

3. CONSIDER HEARING OF URGENT ITEMS RECEIVED SINCE THE AGENDA WAS POSTED.

None.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR.

- a. Financial Statement.
- b.1. Bills Paid since last Meeting.
- b.2. Bills Paid as Approved at last Meeting.
- c. Bills Payable.
- d. District Activity.

During discussion, Director Voege wondered how the LAIF (Local Agency Investment Fund) interest rate compares to the local Savings Bank of Mendocino County interest rates. Both Director Hallman and GM Koehler remarked that LAIF is running about 1% higher interest than banks are

offering. An added benefit of LAIF is that 100% of the funds in LAIF are insured (rather than being subject to the FDIC Limits of insurance at the banks). Director Voege wondered if there is an advantage to placing some of the District funds into CD's. Director Hallman said the last time she looked, the CD earnings were less than the LAIF interest rate and GM Koehler confirmed the fact that CD interest rates are running extremely low.

MOTION: Approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Voege/Pool Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Voege, Pool, Hallman, Butow

NOES: None

ABSENT: Reuser

ABSTAIN: None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

The Minutes of December 17, 2009 were presented.

Page 5 at FEMA/Cal-EMA project status, the total expenditure amount should be: \$1,075,000. Also Page 5., d. should say, the Water Commons (not, the Board of Commons)

MOTION: Approve the Minutes of December 17, 2009 as corrected.

Voege/Hallman Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Voege, Hallman, Pool, Butow

NOES: None

ABSENT: Reuser

ABSTAIN: None

6. DIRECTORS AND STAFF REPORTS AND DISCUSSION OF NON-ACTION TOPICS.

Director Voege requested that the Using Water Wisely meeting topic be moved to its own agenda item rather than being a part of the General Manager's Report. There were no objections.

Director Voege reported that the purpose of the Using Water Wisely Meeting is to respond to the comments received in the Customer Survey, and that the invitation to participate as a "presenter" of the Meeting is progressing nicely. So far, three presenters are lined up, with more participants expected with conservation information and for topics varying from drip watering systems to gray water harvesting and more. Director Hallman expressed concern about the gray water harvesting presentations and wants to be sure that all 'updated' requirements apply to any presentation. Director Voege will follow up on that issue. It was noted that these presentations will be 'overviews' of what is available out there, and not class sessions. The Using Water Wisely Meeting will be held at the Redwood Valley Grange Hall on Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 2pm to 6pm, primarily for but not limited to customers of this District. The Mendocino County Water Agency Staff will supply a projector and screen, and also a p.a. system if needed. This will be funded by the monies held in the Conservation Fund at the County.

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT, JANUARY, 2010. ACTION ITEMS. (AGENDA ITEM NO. 8)

A. District Operations.

The potential for fire was a whole lot less than what we thought. What was burning was actually the electrical conduit at the solar area. It was dripping molten conduit onto the tire bark, which did not ignite. The report and costs lists have been submitted to our insurance

agency, however the installer/repairer has requested payments of partial costs as they occur. The costs for materials exclusive of the solar panels, is \$17,000. Invoice number 5128 for partial payment of repair costs is presented herewith.

MOTION: Under special circumstances, approve partial payment, invoice number 5128 as submitted.

Voege/Pool Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Voege, Pool, Hallman, Butow

NOES: None

ABSENT: Reuser

ABSTAIN: None

GM Koehler said he would like to bring up another issue under District Operations; it is the discovery of another interesting flaw in the design of the treatment plant. We have a vault located between the two clarifiers which, essentially, became a swimming pool during the recent storm. It took out the Bray Valve, which is an automatic valve that modulates the flow coming into the system; it's an automatic valve which ties into our SCADA computer. The Bray Valve with electrical driven equipment was installed in the ground at the base of the vault which is basically, in a flood plain. Even though we have repeatedly attempted to seal all the openings in it, and we have two sump pumps running, it flooded. We are making plans to get rid of the vault, we'll 45-degree the lines above grade and install the electrical equipment and valve above ground, and then 45-degree the lines back down again.

In addition, we experienced a lightning strike at the surge tank; it took out a lightning arrestor, which is what the arrestors are designed to do. We discovered that incident today; we will replace the lightning arrestor and go from there to sort-out if we have additional problems.

Also, we have a variable frequency drive that drives our motors at various speeds, such as slow start, slow wind-down. It adapts to the flow of water that we need through the plant. It is old technology and it is failing. At some time in the future we will need to replace it, at a cost of about \$10,000.

Member of the public, Mrs. Richardson has arrived, so we will go to Agenda Item 7.a.

8. DIRECTOR AND STAFF REPORTS OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED IN THE GM REPORT, ACTION ITEMS. (AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.a.)

a. Customer Request for Waiver.

GM Koehler has provided a chronology of the late notice, the turn-off of service, the late payment, the receipt of payment from bank and restoration of service the same day the payment was received at the Water Office, and the subsequent \$50.00 Reconnect Fee.

Mrs. Richardson said she is not here to request a waiver, she is here to dispute the \$50 Reconnect Fee because her water was never turned off. She said she took the payment to the bank drop-slot on December 10th and she should never have been on the turn-off list of December 14th.

She phoned the General Manager and felt that he was very unsympathetic to her, that he wouldn't remove the \$50 fee and that he should acknowledge the individual customer could have special situations that exist.

GM Koehler stated that he had office staff prepare a chronology of the account, which he had at his desk when he spoke with her. It showed that the field staff turned off the water on December

14th and then the office received the water payment late on December 14th and the field staff went back to the location and restored service.

Both Director Hallman and Director Pool told of experiences where they personally had problems with payments placed at the bank drop-slot and were not posted in a timely manner and resulted in extra fee's. They do not use the bank drop-slot any more. They can see how this scenario resulted in delayed posting.

Director Hallman said this customer is not disputing the late fee's, just the reconnect fee, and she understands what could have happened, therefore she is comfortable reversing the reconnect fee in this circumstance.

Mrs. Richardson said she is truly sorry this happened, and it won't happen again.

GM Koehler said, I would like to make one point in terms of how I see this. I understand your position that you feel that individual circumstances need to be viewed individually. We resist that every day. It is impossible for us to basically look at special consideration without creating a morass of special consideration, so it is essentially our policy, not to. All customers are treated alike. So, I'm sorry, but that's why I felt it important that you take this to the Board as it is a Board decision to waive policy.

President Butow remarked that the GM handled this properly, and it was appropriate to bring the matter before the Board. There are two sides to this coin, we need to be reasonable and also not be unfair to the rest of the customers.

MOTION: In this circumstance only, waive the \$50.00 reconnect fee on Mrs. Richardson's account.

Hallman/Pool Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Hallman, Pool, Voegel, Butow

NOES: None

ABSENT: Reuser

ABSTAIN: None

Staff was directed to waive the \$50 fee for Mrs. Richardson's account.

Mrs. Richardson thanked the Board and left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

9. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT, Continued, (AGENDA ITEM NO. 8)

B. Surge Tank.

We've had a real good test of the catch-stands that are designed to catch debris that washes down the basin. Rau & Associates has been checking the slope, per agreement, on a daily basis and is doing a great job. This is an additional \$33,770 charge for determining, for engineering, and for designing the 3-year monitoring plan. It does not include the times that labor is required to go down and clean out the catch-stands or if a piece of equipment is required to clean out the catch-stands. Rau & Associates did a very good job in designing a Best Management Practices document.

C. Ag Meters.

A lot of the ag meters in the system were installed during original construction. They are turbine meters, which is what was available at the time; and they are susceptible to shells,

rocks, twigs and whatever else comes up and then they will jam. We cannot get parts for the older style Water Specialty Meters, and we haven't been successful in our attempts to retrofit new registers onto the old meter bodies so that we don't have to replace the old meters. At some point these meters will have to be replaced.

D. Backflow Devices.

On the horizon, the CDPH regulations will require reduced-pressure devices. The CDPH agrees that the double-check-valves should never have been allowed in the first place, however, they will be grandfathered in. They are not going to require the double-check-valves be removed. GM Koehler would like to review the old, boiler-plated backflow device ordinance and revise it in such a way that when a double-check-valve needs to be replaced, it should be replaced with reduced-pressure devices. Over the next few months, GM Koehler will be bringing the Board of Directors new language for the new requirements.

E. District License Renewal.

The Media in Filter 1 failed the media expansion test, and needs to be replaced. In addition, the surface washers have some damage and will need to be repaired. This requires specialized services, and several Requests for Proposals have been sent out. Most of these businesses are national, with roving crews. The nearest business is ERS Industrial Services, which is out of the bay area and is familiar with our water treatment plant throughout the years. Since this is an urgent matter, I am asking Board approval to go with the lowest bidder without having to bring the matter back to the Board before proceeding.

MOTION: Proceed with the project and award the contract to the lowest bidder.

Voegel/Pool Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Voegel, Pool, Hallman, Butow

NOES: None

ABSENT: Reuser

ABSTAIN: None

On another matter, a small tank is located on property in the Tomki area and what happens is that because there isn't much demand on Tomki, the chlorine level dissipates. Because of the low level of demand in the Tomki Road area, the water in that tank is largely bypassed unless there is a higher demand such as a fire or extremely hot weather. As a result, we must hand-dose the tank constantly. The CDPH is pushing us to install a mixer in the tank; it will have to be solar-powered. I actually have installed a solar-powered mixing device at a previous job, and it does work. I am convinced that, mechanically, it will mix; I am not convinced that it will stratify the tank sufficiently to activate the chlorine. I'm not convinced there is chlorine in the tank, to mix. I have ordered a depth sampler that we can use to measure the chlorine in the tank at the various strata, and I've got about 6 months to figure that out. A more extreme action would be to take the tank off-line. A big part of the problem is that this distribution system is extremely poorly designed. All the tanks are basically a couple of feet higher than the clearwells. It would have been so easy to put 2 - 4 feet of fill underneath those clearwells before they were built, and this problem would not even exist. So what happens is that we have to turn off the clearwells regularly, and force the four distribution tanks to drain into the system. This is probably 5 - 10 hours of labor a week. We've also tried to design automatic valves to do this. But, the CDPH is not happy with the performance and they have given the District some months to address it. Part of what is driving this is that we have had a couple of failed/positive for total coliform in Tomki.

Also the CDPH want us to establish a Valve Flushing Program. One of the things that's in the Licensing Renewal is a Line Flushing Program, and how we would go to Notification to the customers, because when you start a significant line flushing program with a system that hasn't been flushed this many years, you will have colored water for about a year.

F. Grange Hall Rental.

The Redwood Valley Grange Association has been very generous with the RVCWD by providing a community service and not charging for use of the Grange Hall during the numerous meetings we have held at that location. We also have more meetings coming up in the future. As a token of appreciation, it is suggested that the District not charge the R. V. Grange Association for the monthly meter fee of \$10.00. They would continue to be charged for water usage as it occurs.

MOTION: Waive indefinitely, the \$10.00 meter fee for the Redwood Valley Grange Hall.

Hallman/Pool Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Hallman, Pool, Voegel, Butow

NOES: None

ABSENT: Reuser

ABSTAIN: None

H. Personnel Issues.

As Directed, GM Koehler contacted the same Law Firm that the RVCWD has used for personnel issues in the past, with the intent to renew the contract. The law firm has provided an updated contract for approval and signature. The hourly fees quoted are similar to those charged by other personnel specialists.

MOTION: Move that we engage in this contract.

Voegel/Pool Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Voegel, Pool, Hallman, Butow

NOES: None

ABSENT: Reuser

ABSTAIN: None

I. SRF Application.

After two responses and supplying all the financial requirements, we are categorized as "E". We have two weeks to create a project and a plan as to how we will repay the loan. Noting that this is a loan, not a grant and the fact that we don't have a project developed, the General Manager recommends that we let lie for now. After discussion of various issues, the Directors agreed to revisit the matter some months in the future.

BREAK: 8:45 p.m.

RECONVENE: 9:00 p.m.

10. FINANCIAL REPORT. (AGENDA ITEM NO. 9)

The Financial Report was reviewed.

11. LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION/LAFCO. (AGENDA ITEM NO. 10).

GM Koehler reported he and Sean White will be contacting Frank McMichael some time in the future for preliminary discussions regarding the various forms of cooperative effort.

12. INLAND WATER & POWER COMMISSION. (AGENDA ITEM NO. 11)

President Butow commented that by the time the meeting was over, there really was not a lot to report. They are still arguing about the seismic study, and they never did finish this business about the adoption of an amended agreement.

GM Koehler responded that they got it as far as recognizing that everybody who had a right to an opinion on the reentry into the Feasibility Study had finally turned in all their stuff; so now it is going to go back to Attorney Rapport and he will insert the wording into the Agreement and it will then be brought back and everybody will get to vote to approve the Agreement as Amended. It has taken approximately two years to get to this point. The Financial Study still hasn't been done and the video still isn't finished.

President Butow stated that the White Paper to respond to the Friends of the Eel River hasn't been done.

GM Koehler added that now, there is a decision to take the Commission down to San Francisco to meet with the Lt. Colonel. This will be a Posted Meeting if more than three Commissioners are expecting to attend. GM Koehler recalled that he was at a Meeting in Santa Rosa with both the Lt. Colonel and the new Project Manager, who swore that he would 'turn over a piece of paper that said in plain English, what you spent your money on and what you got for it'. Well he didn't; but he gave at least a little bit more clarity than Dillabough did; and looking at it, you realize that 93-cents on the dollar goes to their overhead.

President Butow commented, A little related item is this constant argument, that is, we all know there is an earthquake fault near the base of the dam. We've got to do a Seismic Study before we ever do anything else. And the Corps says, that's not how we operate; we've got to do a Cost Analysis of this and a Flood Impact of that. And we are saying, it isn't going to mean a thing unless we find out if the dam is safe or not if we raise it. So finally we're getting down to the point where a Seismic Study could be done; and they gave us a quote of about \$500,000. And at the next meeting, the zinger came down the road that you had to bring in Dam Safety to do this, and in order to do this, you had to spend another \$25,000 more for a feasibility-study-for-the-study, that is, a Scope of Work. And everybody was saying, wait just a minute.

On another topic, GM Koehler stated that Janet Pauli provided a verbal report of her attendance at the Frost Protection Meeting in Sacramento last Tuesday.

13. MENDOCINO COUNTY RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT. (AGENDA ITEM NO. 12)

President Butow reported he and GM Koehler attended the recent RRFCD meeting. They were talking about the 6,000 acre-feet issue and also discussing the problems of no longer having Randy Poole at the Sonoma County Water Agency and waiting to see who the new guy will be and what direction he will go.

Director Pool and GM Koehler stated that Sean White didn't seem to be too concerned about the Protest, including the SCWA Protest. GM Koehler said that Sean has done a great job and made some amazing changes at the Flood Control District and he is wished the very best.

The RRFCD is working on their own internal work. Their primary focus is on getting their License Application which in their opinion is going to take another year to actually finalize; and also gearing up for the Hill & Gomes Hearing next Tuesday. They also discussed the metering issues to comply with the SWRCB mandate for metered water diversions.

As to metering, President Butow wondered if this would include the tributaries.

GM Koehler stated, The State Water Board will be going after the tributaries. Also, Devon at the Farm Bureau has requested as always, that somehow RVCWD get involved in helping the growers to work together to be more proactive. The McNab Creek has been picked as the first URSA project because there are so few diverters on the McNab.

GM Koehler continued, I contacted Chuck Vau by phone today because he was in attendance at the Meeting in Sacramento, hoping to meet with him and see if he had any suggestions on how we can help get the Redwood Valley growers together. Most of these folks are not our customers and yet we do have sort of a relationship there, in that if they are told they cannot divert, they are going to come knocking on our door.

President Butow mentioned that it is concerning that a lot of these growers think the restrictions are on the Main Fork and not up here. He added, But the source for fish to spawn is up here, not on the main stem. Bill Townsend has that fish spawning area right where the West Fork joins the East Fork. Up here we have the Steelhead and the Chinook.

GM Koehler concluded that the District should become a bit more proactive in terms of trying to get these guys together, even if all we're doing is driving them down to the Farm Bureau and getting them hooked up with Devon and trying to get some of this AWEP money. One of the things that the Farm Bureau is working actively on, is working with Congressman Thompson's Office to apply for the availability of funds through AWEP and that's at least 50%, so people that don't have ponds can get some financial help.

President Butow said he is planning to write a Letter to the Editor of the local paper, explaining all this and referring them to Devon. I'll say, The URSA group is already in place; go down there and support them and help them promote this thing. Otherwise, you're just going to be at the mercy of whatever water cop that comes by and tells you you've got to do this, that, or the other thing.

14. CONSIDER ATTENDANCE AT SEMINARS, TRAINING EVENTS, CONFERENCES AS RECEIVED SINCE LAST MEETING. (AGENDA ITEM NO. 18)

GM Koehler would like to attend the 2-day AWWA Conference in Vacaville, California. It should cost \$300 for registration and \$100 for lodging and food.

MOTION: Approval for GM Koehler's attendance and expenses at the upcoming AWWA Conference in Vacaville, California.

Hallman/Pool Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Hallman, Pool, Voegel, Butow

NOES: None

ABSENT: Reuser

ABSTAIN: None

The Meeting Ended at 9:42 P.M.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 18, 2010 at the Water District Office, 2370 Webb Ranch Road, Redwood Valley, California.

Correction: Page 5, last paragraph, line 10:
"at the various strata"

APPROVED AS CORRECTED: Board of Directors

DATE APPROVED: June 17, 2010

SIGNED: Linda Groth
Secretary, Board of Directors