

REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
2379 Webb Ranch Road  
P. O. Box 399  
Redwood Valley CA 95470  
(707) 485-0679

MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Directors Present: Donald Butow, Jeanette Hallman, Hal Voege, Granville Pool, Merle Reuser

Staff Present: Wm. L. Koehler, General Manager

Linda Groth, Office Manager/Secretary to the Board of Directors

Members of Public Present: Ric Piffero, Danny Piffero

Called To Order: 7:03 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL.

Jeanette Hallman, Merle Reuser, Donald Butow

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

None

Directors Hal Voege and Granville Pool arrived at 7:04 P.M.

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

GM Koehler has an urgent item. The attorney is not available for the Agenda Closed Session item listing Pending Litigation. The Closed Session details are still not being released to the public, but he requests that the Board of Directors, in Open Session, discuss how to proceed.

**MOTION: Discuss how to proceed.**

Hallman/Pool Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Hallman, Pool, Voege, Reuser, Butow

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

GM Koehler reported that he received two pieces of information from the law firm. First, the attorney isn't available tonight but will be back at work on Monday. Secondly, the April 30, 2010 deadline requested is meaningless. GM Koehler will talk with the Attorney when he returns next week and will schedule a time for a Closed Session Meeting with the Board.

The Board of Directors set a tentative date of Thursday, April 22, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. for that Meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR.

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

The Consent Calendar was reviewed.

**MOTION: Approve Consent Calendar except for Consent Calendar c. Bills Payable, Item #1. The invoice from Recovery Operations Specialty Services will not be paid until the District receives the final billing.**

Hallman/Pool: Discussion CARRIED  
AYES: Hallman, Pool, Voegel, Reuser, Butow  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

The Minutes of February 18, 2010 were presented.

After review and changes, a Motion was made.

**MOTION: Approve Minutes of February 8, 2010 with changes.**

Voegel/Pool Discussion CARRIED  
AYES: Voegel, Pool, Hallman, Reuser, Butow  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

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

a. Director Voegel reported that he had received an email from Supervisor Carre Brown providing the name of a man who has a lot of experience and new techniques in fixing leaky ponds. Director Voegel stated that the District has some conservation money available, and maybe the District should put on a presentation and perhaps a field event. The Pifferos (in attendance) offered their pond location.

b. Director Pool mentioned that he had received a phone call from someone who was trying to reach the Water District office but they could not find the listing in the phone book. He suggested getting the Water District listing placed in the white pages of the phone book. GM Koehler said we will take care of it.

7. DIRECTORS AND STAFF REPORTS OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED IN THE GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT. ACTION ITEMS.

a. Director Voegel requested that #7, Action Items, shall always include the item: Conservation.

It will be done.

8. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT AND ACTION ITEMS, APRIL 2010.

In consideration of members of the public in attendance, Danny Piffero and Ric Piffero, President Butow called for Agenda Item Number 8, Action Item 1 at this time.

Action Item 1. Customer Request for Meter Relocation.

The Piffero family is proposing to build a small house for their vineyard manager, (grandson, 4<sup>th</sup> generation rancher) on their home ranch the family has owned since 1929. There has been a domestic stub-out, with no meter, at the property for many years. There is also a property known as Mid-Mountain Ranch on Forsythe Drive and owned by Mr. Piffero that has several water meters which have never been used but are being paid for on a monthly basis and that have been paid for over many years. The Pifferos are requesting a relocation of one of these unused meters from Forsythe Drive to the stubbed-out meter box at the home ranch.

During Board discussion it was established that the Forsythe Drive meters are included in the list of active domestic connections under the terms of the pre-moratorium service list as reported to the State Department of Health Services and to Sonoma County Water Agency. The Board of Directors is willing to consider this request favorably if Sonoma County Water Agency has no objection. General Manager Koehler will be speaking with the Sonoma County Water Agency next month, and will bring this request to their attention.

The Pifferos left the Meeting at 7:56 P.M.

A. District Operations

There are no problems to report at the District. The lake level in Lake Mendocino is up to 754'. The ground is saturated. Three failed valves in the system were replaced, one was a 12" valve at the clearwell and the other two were 4" irrigation valves.

B. Solar Damage Insurance.

Repairs are completed at the damaged solar area, totaling ~ \$43,000. System is back on line. Still gathering information on insurance.

C. Recovery Operations Specialty Services.

Consultant has finally submitted the paperwork to close out all the projects. Both state and federal will need to inspect the projects before a check is released. The most recent invoice from consultant covers February 1-25<sup>th</sup> and represents about 50 hours total labor by three employees.

D. Stipulated Judgment.

Points in the Stipulated Judgment that need clarification have been forwarded to legal counsel.

E. Bid Process.

The law requires that all projects funded by the State or Federal Government are submitted for Bid Procedures, and RVCWD follows the law. Past projects have been posted at the Builders Exchange and the newspapers. One project received no bids with the first postings and had to be reposted and rescheduled. Most of the work at the treatment plant requires very specialized licensing and cannot be performed by a general contractor.

F. ACWA/JPIA Inspection

The Association of California Water Agencies/Joint Powers Insurance Authority performs biennial inspections of the assets they insure. The April appointment has been cancelled and not yet rescheduled.

Action Item 2. Salary and Benefit Review.

General Manager Koehler stated the importance of reviewing the salaries, benefits and job duties of District employees. He requested that the Board appoint an ad hoc committee to meet with him and report back to the Board. After discussion, Director Reuser and Director Pool offered to participate in the ad hoc committee with GM Koehler and there were no objections.

Action Item 3. Minutes and Financial Statements.

General Manager Koehler reported that he has asked staff to attempt to streamline the Minutes and the financial information. The intent is to make these documents easier to produce and easier to use. The Board is in agreement with abbreviating the reports.

BREAK: 8:50 P.M.

RECONVENE 9:07 P.M.

9. SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY. (Agenda Item No. 14)

The RVCWD has been purchasing water from Sonoma County Water Agency at \$58 per acre-foot. When the Mendocino County RRFC&WCID (Flood Control District) sold water to RVCWD in the past, they charged \$18 per acre-foot, but their expenses have increased and the cost will never be that low again. The Board of Directors should discuss what they would expect to do if the Flood Control District hasn't sold all its contracted water and they inform us that the unused water is available to Redwood.

GM Koehler commented that the advantage of going with the Flood Control District is that we are doing a good deed. The advantage of going with Sonoma County Water Agency is that we are building into the Conservation Fund. The 410 acre-feet that we pumped would be in the neighborhood of \$25,000 that would not go into the Conservation Fund. He added, But if it's a significant price difference it would behoove us to go to with the Flood Control District.

Director Voegel recommended that the 2009 water be purchased from Sonoma County Water Agency in order to bank it in the Conservation Fund.

Discussion ensued.

Director Pool asked what complications this would make with Sonoma County Water Agency.

GM Koehler said he will be meeting Pam Jeane at Sonoma County Water Agency on Thursday. This matter will also be discussed.

**MOTION: Authorize General Manager Koehler to purchase that amount of water from Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control District unless, in the course of his meeting with Sonoma County Water Agency, it seems imprudent to purchase the water from Sonoma County Water Agency, then it will be purchased from Sonoma County Water Agency.**

Pool/Hallman Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Pool, Hallman, Butow

NOES: Voege

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Reuser

10. FINANCIAL REPORT. (Agenda Item No. 9).

The Financial Report was reviewed.

11. LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION – LAFCO. (Agenda Item No. 10)

- a. Discussion and possible action on LAFCO topics.
- b. Consider opportunity to vote for Special District Representative -2010. Position A and Position B.

- c. Vote for Position A. Nominees are Richard Shoemaker and Michael Palleson.

**MOTION: Vote for Richard Shoemaker as Special District Representative-2010 to LAFCO for POSITION A.**

Voege/Hallman Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Voege, Hallman, Pool, Reuser, Butow

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

- d. Vote for Position B. Nominees are James Ronco and Guinness McFadden.

**MOTION: Vote for Guinness McFadden as Special District Representative-2010 to LAFCO for POSITION B.**

Voege/Hallman Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Voege, Hallman, Pool, Reuser, Butow

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

9:50 P.M. Director Hallman had to leave the Meeting at this Time.

12. INLAND WATER & POWER COMMISSION. (Agenda Item No. 11).

The invoice in the amount of \$2000 for 2010 membership in the IW&PC will be paid.

GM Koehler reported on IW&PC Mtg. At the URSA meeting in Sacramento, it was established that the State Board will not budge in the matter of language that regulates groundwater associated with surface water.

The other report: last year when PGE shut down the tunnel so they could build a bypass around the powerhouse, they built it wrong and now it's closed and needs to be repaired.

13. MENDOCINO COUNTY RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT. (Agenda Item No. 12).

President Butow reported on his attendance at the Flood Control District Meeting. He noted the newspaper article which reported that the FCD did drop their prices this year.

GM Koehler reported that at both the IWPC meeting and the FCD meeting, it was discussed that the City of Ukiah is issuing a Request for Proposals for a recycled water study.

14. STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD. (Agenda Item No. 15)

In an August 8, 2010 letter from the SWRCB, Victoria Whitney requested that URSA ask diverters for reasonable access to their property. URSA declined to provide contact information to the State.

GM Koehler reported the Protest Period for Sonoma County Water Agency opening up Decision 1610 is May 13, 2010. The Flood Control District is Protesting; they want SCWA to broaden the scope and discussion into other issues. Should RVCWD file a Protest so Redwood can sit at the table? If so, our legal counsel will handle that; it will cost some money.

**MOTION: Authorize the General Manager to issue a Protest for the reopening of D1610 in order to get Standing.**

Voege/Pool Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Voege, Pool, Reuser, Butow

NOES: None

ABSENT: Hallman

ABSTAIN: None

15. STATUS REPORT OF PLACE OF USE ISSUES. (Agenda Item No. 16)

GM Koehler confirmed that RVCWD has requested that we be the Lead Agency and also, we have requested a Negative Declaration on the CEQA.

The Meeting ended at 10:03 P.M.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 22, 2010 at the Water District Office, 2370 Webb Ranch Road, Redwood Valley, California.

APPROVED: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DATE APPROVED: August 19, 2010

SIGNED: Linda Groth  
Secretary, Board of Directors