

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

Wednesday, July 29, 2009, 6:00 P.M.

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

Staff Present: General Manager Bill Koehler

Office Manager/Secretary to the Board of Directors Linda Groth

Members of the Public: Mr. and Mrs. R. Bednar

CALL TO ORDER: 6:05 p.m. by President, Board of Directors, Donald E. Butow

1. ROLL CALL.

Granville Pool, Director
Hal Voege, Vice-President
Jeanette Hallman, Director
Merle Reuser, Director
Donald E. Butow, President

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

Members of the public, Mr. and Mrs. R. Bednar inquired about where the District has filed for water rights to improve the water availability to the RV District. The Directors provided a brief review of past and present efforts to provide a year-round source of water for the District. After further discussion, Mr. and Mrs. Bednar said that when they returned from their six day vacation they found that, unbeknownst to them, a water line had been left open during their absence. This of course resulted in a very large water bill that they plan to pay promptly. However, they have also received an additional very high surcharge assessment for the excess water, and they are on a limited income that just covers their routine bills, and they don't have the money to pay for the assessment.

General Manager Koehler explained that the surcharge letters were mailed to customers this month, in accordance to the Conservation Ordinance Tier Four guidelines previously approved by the Board of Directors.

Mrs. Bednar said they have drastically reduced their water usage; they collect laundry water, shower water, dishwasher water and recycle it into their yard. Mr. Bednar said this happened while they were on vacation and he asked why this surcharge would be so much higher than the regular rates for a leak?

Director Voege reminded them that the District is under an emergency water Ordinance, and that Tier 4 of the Ordinance dictates the rates. Mrs. Bednar replied that they received that letter and they have been cutting back drastically; their lawn is totally gone. Mr. Bednar suggested the surcharge rate be rethought, since his leak was not due to willful neglect.

Director Butow told Mr. and Mrs. Bednar that under these circumstances, the District can offer them a reasonable payment plan.

Director Reuser added that the District was notified by the Flood Control District that they have no surplus water to sell us, and we have been buying Sonoma County Water Agency surplus water for the past year. The District has to comply with the SCWA requirements and must enforce the rates.

Mrs. Bednar said the payment plan will allow them to pay off the leak charges.

Mr. and Mrs. Bednar left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

3. BUDGET SESSION.

The 2009/2010 Proposed Budget was reviewed line by line.

Director Hallman noted this is a deficit budget.

Director Butow suggested the District will need to budget the purchase of 1500 acre-feet of water from Sonoma County Water Agency.

Director Voege suggested we may have to look at the Conservation Ordinance Tier 5 surcharges.

General Manager Koehler commented that the 50% reduction of water sales has hurt the Districts' income and yet almost all expenses have remained the same.

After further discussion and suggestions it was decided that this topic will be carried forward to the August Regular Meeting.

4. WATER RATE CHANGES.

After discussion, it was determined that this topic will be carried to the August Regular Meeting.

5. CELL TOWER CONTRACT.

Nothing submitted. Matter is carried to the August Regular Meeting.

6. VERBAL REPORT OF WATER AVAILABILITY STATUS.

General Manager Koehler reported that Pam Jeane from the Sonoma County Water Agency had asked for 50% cutbacks, back to January, but GM Koehler argued that the District needs to stay at the April beginning date. Ms. Jeane called him back the next day, saying that she had conferred with others and that the April date is acceptable to the Sonoma County Water Agency.

The Special Meeting ended 9:17 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 20, 2009 at the Water District Office, 2370 Webb Ranch Road, Redwood Valley, California.

APPROVED: Board of Directors

DATE APPROVED: August 20, 2009

SIGNED: Linda Groth
Secretary, Board of Directors