

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

Minutes
Board of Directors
Special Meeting
Wednesday, November 3, 2010

Directors Present: Donald Butow, Granville Pool, Merle Reuser
Directors Absent: Jeanette Hallman, Hal Voegel
Staff Present: Bill Koehler, General Manager
Linda Groth, Secretary Board of Directors
Others Present: Roy Beck

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL.

Granville Pool, Merle Reuser, Donald Butow

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

None

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING LAND PURCHASE FOR PROPOSED PIT POND SITE.

GM Koehler commented on the injustices and inefficiencies of the Regulatory Environment. Legal Counsel advises that the District cannot put money down on any property before we go through a CEQA process. Although the original CEQA has been posted on the Original Water Right, there was no CEQA done on the Changes of Place of Use (the four annexations). Without that CEQA there is no hope of going forward with Sonoma County Water Agency or the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control District because they are not going to go out of the Place of Use even though there is no additional environmental impact; it's the same water use as it has been for eons. The State Water Resources Control Board deals with the environmental and regulatory issues and they have all the pieces of information required. Legal Counsel did say the District could file a Mitigated Negative Declaration and get a handshake option on the property. Doing this wouldn't survive a serious challenge, but it potentially would get us in front of the right people. The realtor does not project that the property is going to move very fast. The engineer has provided a rough project description for going forward. A pit pond holding 1,700 acre-feet would be about 75-feet deep. Legal also advised that we don't have to do a property evaluation appraisal, but did suggest getting a hydrologist on-board. We have to understand at this point that there is no guarantee this project will lift the moratorium.

President Butow stated that the District has spent about \$5,000 to this point. He added, The Customer Survey results, and also participants at the Grange Hall Meetings held last year, tell us to do something. He proposed that now is the time to bring the matter back to our Rate Payers. GM Koehler reported, The District mailed 1500 Survey Requests and received 500 completed surveys in return: 20% of respondents support raising the dam, 16% support building a reservoir, and when costs got included on the survey, all the numbers went down a little bit. He

said there is no point in doing this if it won't give the District at least 2-years worth of domestic water storage. The projected cost would be \$10,000,000. What would be the impact on rate payers? A \$10,000,000 project would cost \$40 extra per month from the rate payers. A \$500,000 commitment would cost \$7-\$8 per month for 5 years from the rate payers, which would most likely get the District through the planning process.

After further discussion, President Butow stated that before we make these gut-wrenching decisions, we need to inform our customers by presenting general information at a Grange Hall Meeting and hearing from the Rate Payers. Is it supported? Board consensus is, do not spend more money on the project without Rate Payer Approval.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING PUBLIC MEETINGS TO DISCUSS PROPOSED PROJECT.

Prepare a Flyer to Rate Payers: This is a project we are considering and before we go forward, we want to know if you support this. There are a lot of issues, \$10,000,000 for approximately 2 years @ \$40 extra per month to domestic accounts. Do you want to support this?

The Board of Directors selected two dates for Meetings at the Redwood Valley Grange Hall from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.: Wednesday, December 8th, and Wednesday, December 15th. GM Koehler will prepare the Notice before he leaves on vacation and Directors Butow, Pool and Reuser will receive a copy of the draft before the Flyer is mailed.

The Meeting ended at 7:18 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2010 at the Water District Office, 2370 Webb Ranch Road, Redwood Valley, California.

APPROVED: _____ Board of Directors

DATE APPROVED: November 18, 2010 _____

SIGNED: _____
Linda Groth
Secretary, Board of Directors