

MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
Board of Directors  
Thursday, May 19, 2011

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

Directors Excused: Merle Reuser

Staff Present: William L. Koehler, General Manager

Linda Groth, Office Manager/Secretary, Board of Directors

Others Present: None

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL.

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

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

No members of the public in attendance at this time.

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

Nothing submitted.

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.

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 January 20, 2011 were presented.

MOTION: Approve Minutes of January 20, 2011.

Pool/Voege Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Pool, Voege, Hallman, Butow

NOES: None

ABSENT: Reuser

ABSTAIN: None

The Minutes of February 17, 2011 were presented.

MOTION: Approve Minutes of February 17, 2011.  
Pool/Voege Discussion CARRIED  
AYES: Pool, Voege, Hallman, Butow  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Reuser  
ABSTAIN: None

The Minutes of April 21, 2011 were presented.

MOTION: Approve Minutes of April 21, 2011.  
Voege/Hallman Discussion CARRIED  
AYES: Voege, Hallman, Butow  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Reuser  
ABSTAIN: Pool

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

GM Koehler remarked on the unusual presence of an extremely slow and low flying, seemingly unmarked helicopter following the riparian corridors surrounding the water district a couple of days ago. Director Butow added that it spent a lot of time near the PG&E substation and also over his property. Director Hallman said she knows of someone in northern Ukiah who took a picture of it at his property and who is researching the identity and purpose of its presence. GM Koehler added that it also got over to the Potter Valley area and he feels that it is likely associated to NMFS (National Marine Fisheries) and fish.

Director Voege reported that Anna Burkis and Joe Scrivens of the Water Commons group were reviewing the water portion of the Ukiah Valley Area Plan in order to discuss issues at the Board of Supervisors Meeting that same day. They contacted Director Voege at the last minute with some questions and he felt that a couple of those questions should be handled by GM Koehler and that's why Director Voege contacted GM Koehler under this sense of urgency. As it turns out, the BOS has continued this item until next month. GM Koehler reported that the BOS has since turned this over to Roland Sanford to handle, and that Roland phoned GM Koehler yesterday to discuss the one item regarding common rates. The Water Commons group had suggested that there be common base rates and common tiers throughout the greater Ukiah Valley, including Redwood Valley. GM Koehler had already discussed with Joe Scrivens that such a rate structure is an impossibility because the language for the rate structure needs to reflect the true cost of water. The Redwood Valley District has different debt services, a different cost of production, and different treatment technologies. The Willow District is always going to have cheaper water than Redwood Valley District unless they raise their rates artificially which is hard to get away with under Prop 218; and the Rogina water system has another completely different rate structure which has to be approved by the P.U.C. So, although GM Koehler tried to explain all this to Joe during a lengthy conversation, it never got changed.

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

- a. Conservation, other than in GM Report.  
GM Koehler reported that the plan for the xeriscape demonstration project will be ready for the Board at the next meeting. They are going to propose a design/build contract for Board consideration at that time.

## 8. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT AND ACTION ITEMS, MAY, 2011.

### 1. District Operations.

The District is operating normally with no problems to report.

### 2. Surge Tank Insurance Settlement.

Both parties have agreed to pay 50% of the costs with no acceptance of the blame. Our Insurance company is satisfied with this agreement as it eliminates the need for court and attorney fees.

### 3. Lake Mendocino Access Road.

GM Koehler will be meeting with the new interim park manager to discuss abandoning the existing road and improving the narrow trail when the existing road becomes too narrow to be safe. He has contacted the Ukiah Trail Group to discuss abandoning the existing road in the manner most suitable to trail users.

### 4. Senate Bill 34.

GM Koehler and the Board discussed their agreement that this is a horrible Bill. The District would be expected to calculate and collect the supposed "tax" from everyone in the Valley who has irrigated acreage and domestic water usage (wells), and then turn the funds over to a state agency for disbursement. Half the money would go to improvements in the Delta and the other half to an as yet undetermined legislature. It was noted that the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) opposes the Bill, the Farm Bureau opposes the Bill, as do many, many others. The Board consensus is to support Opposition to the Senate Bill 34.

### 5. SCIF Inspection.

The recent SCIF inspection concluded that in general this is a safe workplace in substantial compliance with all safety policies and procedures. There will be no recommendations issued for improvements considered to be needed.

### 6. School Way Bridge.

The Mendocino County DOT project should start construction in the Spring of 2013 and be substantially completed before the start of the rainy season. The existing bridge will remain in service until the new bridge is available.

Based on similar projects, a rough estimate of the costs to the Water District for relocating the existing domestic water main is \$200-\$250,000. GM Koehler recommends that we initiate contact with an engineering firm as soon as we have the 65% plans.

Director Butow stated this \$250,000 is going to hit the District very hard and he asked if there is a way to categorize it as an emergency so the District could apply for some aid.

After some discussion, Director Pool concluded, It isn't an emergency, it is a hideous cost, but it is the cost of doing business.

More updates to come.

### 7. FEMA, CalEMA.

The final payment has moved to the state level of Notification of Obligation and Payment.

Theoretically the actual Federal check and the actual State check should arrive soon.

### 8. Watershed Sanitary Survey.

Collaboration on the Watershed Sanitary Survey has finally gotten off the ground. The three agencies collaborating are Millview, Redwood Valley and the City of Ukiah

Five years and ten years ago the District's share of the Survey cost was \$6,000. This will be budgeted in the coming fiscal year.

### 9. Retirement Funding.

Another employee is now enrolled in the Retirement Fund.

### 10. Web Site.

The website has been recently updated and there is a new link to Items of Interest pertaining to water, such as the School Way Bridge, and also a report on the alleged fish kill "near" Redwood Valley April 28th. The Navigation Bar now includes a link to a section discussing the proposed merger.

11. Ad Hoc.

An update is reported on the District's website. GM Koehler and Sean White drove down to Santa Rosa and met with Pam and Grant at Sonoma County Water Agency. It was as positive as could be, without getting a commitment. They appreciate the cooperation between Redwood and Flood Control. Pam and Grant both agreed that if there is a deal struck for anything approaching the 3500 ac-ft, they would help us move through the CEQA process. Their statement was, It's not about the money, it needs to be reviewed for the accurate, real-time reporting of all diversions. And while reserving the right to bring in other conditions, the other thing they want now is, county-line-to-Potter Valley, a unified voice should there ever be a challenge to the Potter Valley Project. They want to maximize the best management of the river, for fish and for people.

There will be another meeting between Bill and Sean before they report to their ad hoc committees. GM Koehler reiterated that Frank McMichael at LAFCO stated that Redwood cannot be merged into an FCD. Frank suggested it would be a reorganization or a consolidation into a new entity, recommending a Community Services District.

The Directors agreed that there will be another ad hoc meeting at RV before then meeting with the FCD ad hoc committee and reporting back to the Board, then likely scheduling another Joint Boards Meeting at the Barra facility in Redwood Valley.

12. Vacation.

GM Koehler will be on vacation during the first part of June, but he will be back in time for the Regular Board Meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT.

The financial report was reviewed.

It was noted the District received an annual payment from the County for property taxes.

There was discussion of proposed monies going into a Sinking Fund.

10. MENDOCINO COUNTY INLAND WATER & POWER COMMISSION. (Agenda Item No. 11)

Director Hal Voege reported that the IW&PC received one proposal in their search for a consultant. It was from a consultant in Potter Valley named Paige Poulos. She has very good credentials, she is a high-powered lady and this is a good fit. The IW&PC was pleased that the proposal she submitted was within the IWPC budget. Hal and Supervisor Carre Brown will meet with Ms. Poulos next week to put the contract details together and Janet will then sign the contract.

Director Voege also reported receiving word from Supervisor Carre Brown today with the good news that the Corps of Engineers now has an allocation for \$400,000 for the Coyote Dam. He doesn't know if that figure is just for the fiscal year or if it's for some kind of broader thing. More information will follow soon.

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

Discussed earlier in the Meeting.

Also GM Koehler reported, After all this fuss from the State Water Board over maps - we need modern maps, we need something fancy, we need something electronic - the FCD submitted the requested fancy, modern maps. They were ArcGIS overlaying Google Earth. Well, the State Board came back with, oops, we have an injunction against us from Google that says we can't use Google Earth.

Not only that, the State Water Board hasn't upgraded their license for ArcGIS, so they couldn't open anything that the FCD submitted. So now the State has told the FCD to come back again, this time with something not so fancy or modern, so that they can open it.

12. REPORT OF ATTENDANCE AT AGENCY MEETINGS, I.E. CITY OF UKIAH, COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, OTHER SPECIAL DISTRICT'S, COUNTY OF MENDOCINO DEPARTMENTS OR OTHER ENTITY NOT LISTED SEPARATELY HEREIN. (Agenda Item No. 13)

Nothing to report.

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

Discussed earlier in the Meeting.

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

It was noted that State inspectors were in Redwood Valley recently, investigating a supposed 'fish kill'. The Water District was not contacted and no details are known.

15. CONSIDER ATTENDANCE AT SEMINARS, TRAINING EVENTS, CONFERENCES AS RECEIVED SINCE LAST MEETING. (Agenda Item No. 18)

Nothing submitted.

The Meeting Ended at 9:02 P.M.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, June 16, 2011 at the Water District Office, 2370 Webb Ranch Road, Redwood Valley, California.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Directors

DATE APPROVED: June 16, 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ Linda Groth  
Secretary, Board of Directors