

**REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**

2370 Webb Ranch Road  
Redwood Valley CA 95470  
(707) 485-0679

MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, December 15, 2011

Directors Present: Donald E. Butow, Jeanette Hallman, Granville Pool, Pamela Ricetti, Jack Spilman

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present: William L. Koehler, General Manager

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

Others Present: County Supervisor Carre Brown, Will Carson/Millview CWD, K. Tiemann

7:00 P.M.

County Supervisor Carre Brown asked if any of the three recently elected Directors have already been Sworn-in and signed their Oath of Office. Director Pamela Ricetti has done so. At this time Supervisor Brown performed the Swearing-in with Oath of Office for both Director Granville Pool and Director Jack Spilman.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:04 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL.

Pamela Ricetti, Director  
Granville Pool, Board Vice-President  
Jack Spilman, Director  
Jeanette Hallman, Director  
Donald Butow, Board President

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

Nothing.

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

As a matter of general information, President Butow stated the Board will follow the procedures it has used at several previous Meetings with new Directors, that is, the election of Board Officers will be held at the January Board 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.

After review and clarifications, a Motion was made.

MOTION: Approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Pool/Ricetti Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Pool, Ricetti, Hallman, Spilman, Butow

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

Minutes of the November 17, 2011 Regular Meeting were presented.

MOTION: Approve the Minutes of the November 17, 2011 Regular Meeting as presented.  
Hallman/Spilman Discussion CARRIED  
AYES: Hallman, Spilman, Ricetti, Butow  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: Pool

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

Nothing submitted.

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

a. Conservation, other than in GM Report.

Today GM Bill Koehler along with GM Tim Bradley of Millview and GM Dave Redding of the Calpella and Willow County Water Districts met with a representative of the RCD. The request was that we offer support for the RCD applying for a Conservation Grant. The RCD is going to approach Sonoma County Water Agency for matching funds to apply for the Grant, which will be for conservation. GM Koehler requested that, if this were to come about, and since we (Redwood Valley) have already spent \$30,000-\$40,000 on conservation measures for our domestic customers, that it would be appropriate to possibly look into gauges or other helpful tools for our agricultural customers. The RCD will meet with each of the District's Board of Directors, as the RCD cannot apply for grants directly themselves, they have to be sponsored by some agencies. A presentation will be made to the RVCWD Board of Directors next month

b. Election results.

The newly elected Directors, Granville Pool (incumbent), Pamela Ricetti and Jack Spilman are now serving on the Board of Directors. President Butow thanked County Supervisor Carre Brown for being in attendance tonight and performing the Swearing-In and Oath of Office before the Meeting began.

e. Water Main marking.

Director Spilman expressed concern about the potential of unmarked, or mismarked, water mains being damaged and the resulting added expenses possibly being placed upon the District. GM Koehler said his research shows that very few water mains are located outside the county road right-of-way. The District has only Engineered Drawings, not As-builts, and unfortunately they are not always accurate, such as the area of School Way where the lines were actually located 6' away from where they were shown on the drawings. Fortunately, in the five years that he has worked for the District, there has been only one (1) time that someone hit our main. Director Spilman said he experienced the same thing with line markings on his property several years ago; the lines were actually located some distance from the markings. GM Koehler informed the new Directors that the District is in the process of having its whole system incorporated into a GPS system. And with that information, the general consensus of the Board was that the GPS system will resolve the issue.

f. Safety issues regarding operators and heavy equipment.

Director Spilman reported a recent situation where he heard quite a few comments from throughout the community about an obviously inexperienced field crew personnel operating some track-steered heavy equipment. The risk of injury was a concern, and also costs to the District if an injury should occur. GM Koehler informed the Directors that he also heard, and this was taken very seriously. After an in-house safety meeting the next morning, that employee was relegated to lower level tasks until further notice and further training. Safety meetings are ongoing.

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

### A. District Operations.

The level of water in Lake Mendocino is well below the conservation pool level, and will remain that way unless we get some rain. Fortunately the demand last month was very low.

### B. Redwood Valley Community Church.

This project is being done by the customer. There are no asbestos mitigation issues and the Water District is not responsible for the design. District personnel will supervise, and the District will be named as Additional Insured. There is no expense to the District with this project.

### C. Watershed Sanitary Survey.

The Watershed Sanitary Survey was received today. GM Koehler has not had time yet to thoroughly read the document.

### D. Broad Band Alliance.

Member of the public, Keith Tiemann informed the Directors that the Broad Band Alliance meeting scheduled for January 6<sup>th</sup> has been changed to January 13<sup>th</sup> and they will be formulating their next presentation to the Board of Supervisors. He hopes a representative from the Water District can attend and report back to the Board of Directors. In addition, he urged that the Internet Availability Survey be completed and returned. County Supervisor Carre Brown stated that the Availability Survey is very important. These surveys are sent to Washington D.C. and they give the testimony from our citizens showing that there is very little coverage in our rural community. There will be no Grant funding available to communities where their maps show that they are mostly covered; and as it stands now, the federal maps show, inaccurately, that the rural communities around here are already mostly covered!

### E. Conservation Ordinance.

GM Koehler brought attention to the lack of rain so far, and the potential that we may need to implement our Conservation Ordinance. After having the Ordinance in effect for a period of time it is apparent that there are a few sections of the Ordinance that need to be revised. For instance, the tiers need to be changeable upon discretion of the Board Action or notices from various Agencies of Authority, and not limited to the lake level and dates. The Directors held a general discussion for the benefit of the new directors, including information that a general pattern of conservation throughout the system has overall reduced not only the consumption of water but the income level to support the District. Proposition 218 requires public hearings so that the customers are given opportunities to participate and to understand why, if the water usage drops, the rates must increase in order to cover the costs of operation and maintenance; or else the District has to build some combination of rates/reserves into the regular rate structure. The Water Code requires us to provide water for, 1<sup>st</sup>, human consumption, 2<sup>nd</sup>, human sanitation and 3<sup>rd</sup>, fire protection. There are special provisions for medical institutions and schools. It was agreed that GM Koehler will bring something for discussion during the January Meeting and if it appears we are facing an emergency before the January Meeting, a Special Meeting can be called.

County Supervisor Carre Brown left the Meeting at 8:18 P.M. at which time the Directors again thanked her for being here to Swear-in the Directors and to participate in the Meeting.

## 9. FINANCIAL REPORT.

After review and discussion, a Motion was made.

### **MOTION: Accept the Financial Report as presented.**

Pool/Hallman Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Pool, Hallman, Ricetti, Spilman, Butow

NOES: None

ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

10. DIRECTORS AND STAFF REPORTS OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED IN GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT. ACTION ITEMS. (AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.C. AND NO. 7.,D., (Continued)

a. Resolution No. 2011-3 and Bank Signature Cards. Agenda Item 7.c.

**MOTION: Approve Resolution No. 2011-3 and Bank Signature Cards.**

Hallman/Pool Discussion CARRIED  
AYES: Hallman, Pool, Ricetti, Spilman, Butow  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

b. Resolution No. 2011-4 and Signatures. Agenda Item 7.d.

**MOTION: Approve Resolution No. 2011-4 and Signatures.**

Hallman/Pool Discussion CARRIED  
AYES: Hallman, Pool, Ricetti, Spilman, Butow  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

11. M. C. INLAND WATER & POWER COMMISSION.

- a. Report of attendance at IW&PC Meetings.
- b. Consider any correspondence concerning the IW&PC.
- c. Discussion and possible action on IW&PC topics.

President Butow and GM Koehler attended the IW&PC Meeting at which Consultant Paige Poulos provided a progress report on efforts in getting the word out up and down the Russian River, for the importance of protecting the Eel River Diversion.

The COE Report listed nine deficiencies that resulted in the Coyote Dam rating as a 3. Most of the deficiencies can be corrected; the deficiency that cannot be corrected is the proximity of an earthquake fault next to the existing Dam. The SCWA has agreed that the water level behind the dam can be raised, but since the dam is a flood control facility, releases continue to be made. Any increase in the water level depends on what time of the year that we receive substantial rains.

The IW&PC is still talking about supporting the installation of alarms up and down the Russian River in case of dam failure. Judy Hatch continues to express concern that pouring more money into efforts to get the dam raised, is a 'lost cause'. She is thinking that an All Boards Meeting is needed, perhaps in February after Sean White collects some more information.

The next Eel/Russian River Commission meeting will be held in Ukiah at the City Council Chambers on February 9, 2012, and Sonoma County Supervisor Efren Carrillo will be in attendance. The Commission will be discussing the Biological Opinion.

12. MENDOCINO COUNTY RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT.

- a. Report of attendance at MCRRFC&WCID meetings.
- b. Consider any correspondence concerning the MCRRFC&WCID.
- c. Discussion and possible action on Flood Control District topics.

Director Pool reported the FCD seems to finally have their GIS mapping completed. The original map submitted to the State Board was created with fairly primitive technology (planimeter and hand drafting) and were inaccurate. The GIS mapping technology revealed a huge difference in the actual acreage from what the mapping was supposed to show in the first place. The State Boards calculation from the original map was 12,000 + acres; the GIS calculation reveals that it is 16,000+ acres. The FCD submitted the GIS mapping as a correction, hoping the State will accept it. If the State does not accept it as a correction, the FCD will have to do a Protest.

There was also comment that they need to try to get SCWA to lift its Protest. Director Pool also reported that Sean White said something about needing to set up another meeting to research that, but it was not clear with whom the meeting would be held.

GM Koehler added that he did not attend the FCD meeting, but he did read the Minutes of the previous meeting, and then he read the GM Report for this meeting. He thinks Sean was saying that the next step would be for Sean to attempt to have a meeting with SCWA first, regarding the 6,000 A-F. Then following the meeting regarding the 6,000 A-F, it is Sean's general feeling that it would be time to kick-start the FCD-RVCWD ad hoc committee meetings again.

### 13. SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY.

GM Koehler reported that he attended a meeting with Pam Jeane, Grant Davis and Jay Jasperse at the SCWA headquarters in Santa Rosa last Friday, December 2, 2011. The meeting was held at his request and there were a number of topics for discussion.

On Monday, December 5, GM Koehler phoned Sean White and gave him a full report of the meeting. The primary topic was to discuss getting the Surplus Water Agreement reauthorized, as it has been expired for two years. Complementary to that, is to get release of funds that are still being held in the account - including the \$64,000, including the \$22,000 that we've already spent, including the \$10,000 that we owe on the stream gauge. It rapidly segued into a discussion of the 6,000 A-F; of the founding ordinance of Sonoma County Water Agency (which prohibits, for all practical purposes, the sale of a water right); the 7500 A-F; the conservation efforts; the whole can of worms.

GM Koehler continued, he set up the meeting hoping to take care of a whole lot, but what he did get was a better understanding of what they want from us in order to make this process go forward. In the past, we have been approaching it from the angle of, how can we make them release the 6,000 AF, and what would we do with it. Instead, what SCWA wants is, rather than backing in to the 6,000 AF, they want us to figure out what we really need. The way the additional 6,000 is currently projected is actually two applications, one for 2600 and one for 3400, and has a point of diversion as our pumps. It's kind of complicated because it's unlikely that we would need 6,000 A-F in Redwood Valley, unless something dramatic changes (such as a population explosion).

So that complicates the issue in that before, when we were discussing the 6,000 A-F, the 6,000 would be available pretty much at any point of diversion anywhere within the merged FCD & RV Districts, thereby increasing the water supply pretty much anywhere in those areas. The homework that we were sent back, was that we need to get real about a) how to merge the Districts b) define a future with a coordinated approach – essentially, they want a white paper or a roadmap so to speak, that includes how to stretch a limited supply, get rid of the uncertainty of the surplus agreement. Sonoma would like to see Redwood, at least, approach it from two different tiers: what would we need in order to relieve the uncertainty that we have, and without increasing supply. And how much would we need if we were actually able to increase supply.

GM Koehler further continued, So, we have some work to do. What do we think our projected demand at build-out is going to be? The new Directors have both said they have been approached by people who want to get onto the Ag System. We need to look at maps of the distribution system and see if we could physically serve them now, or if Ag Main Extensions would need to be built. The Ag distribution system does not cross the freeway, although the Domestic distribution does; but there is potential for new ag customers, on the west side. We also need to look at the domestic side. We have a 'waiting list' of potential applicants. The 2005 Census states there are 2500 homes in this zip code; we serve 1350 of those homes (this includes the mobile home parks). This figure does not include any granny units, for example, that have been added to customer properties but haven't been registered with us. We do not serve the Black Bart Trail area of Redwood Valley, or the Baker's Creek area off Tomki Road, etc., etc. The maximum amount of water that we have delivered in a year is 2600 A-F; we currently are delivering about 1350 A-F. If we expand our service areas, that would involve the Annexation process and then could involve installing booster pumps along with the Main Line Extensions, etc.

One of the discussions that came up during our many ad hoc meetings, was some reluctance on the part of the alleged new district, to get involved in the annexing additional new areas. No doubt it is such a pain to work with the

State Board on annexing, it is a multi-year process. However, we need to start with figuring out how much water we actually will need.

During general discussion, GM Koehler provided that adding another filter, at another \$250,000, is 400 more houses on the system. That's all we really need to upgrade the water treatment plant. The clarifiers are big enough and we have surplus water storage in the field, as far as the tanks. Another topic to decide will be the Capital Improvement Fee (Cap Fee) for each new service.

Discussion of various scenarios continued. In that vein GM Koehler stated, if we can get the moratorium lifted, we will be able to develop additional ways to serve our customers' water needs.

And tying in to Prop 218, we will need to get an engineering firm in here to perform a real Rate Study/Cap Fee Study. If we bring in Cal-Rural, they will do it for free. That's a good starting place.

It is assumed that the 2800 AF for storage is gone, we don't have that storage.

Back to the SCWA meeting, the money is not being released at this time. GM Koehler did discuss the \$64,000 expenditure with them and they do agree the expenditures do qualify, but they are not releasing funds piecemeal. They are refusing to be in the drivers' seat. They are telling us that we need to be in the drivers' seat. We need to tell them the integrated package including what political form we're going to take, what we've got to offer, what pieces we want to keep, how we are going to stretch the supply. Because part of the premise we and FCD went to SCWA with a couple of years ago was, you know, if we could quit squabbling, there probably is enough water.

President Butow mentioned that the SCWA founding ordinance states that Water Rights cannot be sold (except by fairly prohibitive measures), but it also states that the water can be sold under permanent contract (such as Healdsburg, etc.); therefore Mendocino could purchase also.

GM Koehler stated that 6 months ago they told us that in order to come up with that number, D1610 has to be resolved, because until D1610 is resolved, they can't model how much water might be available.

During discussion, member of the public, Will Carson left the meeting at 9:43 P.M.

It was agreed the District will discuss all these facets further, and proceed with doing its homework.

The Meeting ended at 9:55 P.M.

The next Regular Meeting will be at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, January 19, 2012 at the Water District Office, 2370 Webb Ranch Road, Redwood Valley, California.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Groth, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: Board of Directors

DATE APPROVED: January 19, 2012

SIGNED: Paula Berezay  
Secretary, Board of Directors