

Minutes
Upper Russian River Water Agency
Board of Directors Meeting
June 2, 2021

Director LaRue called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Present: Directors, Ken Todd, Ross LaRue, Steve Bogart, James Green, Willow GM, Jared Walker, Secretary, Kate Barrett, Russian River Flood Control GM, Beth Salomone, RRFC, Chris Watt, Al White

Absent: Director Theresa McNerlin

Public Expression

None.

Urgent Items

Director Green submitted *UVBGSA Funding for Next 5 Years* to be added to the agenda.

- Director Green reported that the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency needs more funding over the next five years.
- Operation and maintenance are expected to cost somewhere between \$135,000.00 and \$235,000.00 annually over the next five years.
- In 2017, the initial members (URRWA, City of Ukiah, County of Mendocino, and Russian River Flood Control) contributed \$5,000.00 which was augmented in 2020 with an additional contribution of \$3,000.00.
- The current fund balance of the UVBGSA is approximately \$10,000.00.
- At the most recent UVBGSA meeting, three funding possibilities were proposed:
 - a. The four members contribute totalling \$35,000.00 to \$60,000.00 annually for the next five years.
 - b. Impose well owner flat fees or well owner usage fees.
 - c. Pursue a ballot measure County wide or possibly certain districts to raise the needed funds.
- Director Green brought the subject up at the last Millview County Water District meeting, and the board seemed to be in favor of option 'C': to impose well owner flat fees or well owner usage fees.
- UVBGSA is looking for an answer by the next meeting.
- The board is going to take the topic to their respective individual boards.

Approval of Agenda

Director Todd made a motion, seconded by Director Bogart, to approve the agenda. This motion was passed with the following vote:

AYES: Todd, Bogart, Green, LaRue

NAYS: -0-

ABSTAIN: -0-

ABSENT: McNerlin

Approval of May 5, 2021 Minutes

Director Bogart made a motion, seconded by Director Todd, to approve the May 5, 2021 minutes. This motion was passed with the following vote:

AYES: Todd, Bogart, Green, LaRue

NAYS: -0-

ABSTAIN: -0-

ABSENT: McNerlin

Approval of the Financials

Director Bogart made a motion, seconded by Director Todd, to approve the financials for May 2021. This motion was passed with the following vote:

AYES: Todd, Bogart, Green, LaRue

NAYS: -0-

ABSTAIN: -0-

ABSENT: McNerlin

Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget

Director Bogart made a motion, seconded by Director Todd, to approve the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget. This motion was passed with the following vote:

AYES: Todd, Bogart, Green, LaRue

NAYS: -0-

ABSTAIN: -0-

ABSENT: McNerlin

Update on the Potter Valley Project

- GM, Walker reported that the last time he spoke to Janet Pauli, the IWPC was getting their draft letter ready to send to FERC.
- The diversions through the tunnel have been significantly reduced.
- RRFC GM, Beth Salomone reported that the Flood Control is currently working on their draft letter scrutinizing PG&E's decision to reduce the flow from the diversion to the Russian River and not the Eel River.
 - The Friends of the Eel River threatened a lawsuit, so PG&E reduced the flow from the diversion to the Russian River and let the Eel River remain the same.
 - There will be approximately 5,000 acre feet *less* coming into Lake Mendocino.
 - FERC approved this, but only on a temporary basis; until the end of June and is allowing a public review and comment period.
 - This is our opportunity to tell them what the impacts are by approving this order.
 - The deadline is June 4, 2021.

Update on Drought Conditions & Water Conservation

- GM, Walker reported that letters went out to Redwood Valley's domestic ratepayers asking them to reduce down to 55 gallons per person per day.
- Redwood Valley didn't have an option, but the community is no stranger to this.
- Staff is asking for cutbacks by 25% for all of the other Districts municipal users.

Consideration of Consolidation Efforts

- The topic has been brought up to the individual boards.
- There has been some hesitancy from some districts on the timing of this, given the water shortage.
- Most boards are open to staff putting together a proposal from a firm and what a consolidation would look like.

Report on Meetings by Board Members

- Director LaRue reported that he had a meeting with RRFC, Chris Watt and City of Ukiah, Doug Crane. It was a meet and greet and try to open lines of communication.

Director's Comments

- Director Bogart reported that on Saturday, June 12, 2021 an event called 'Drought Drop-By' is going to be held at Club Calpella and at the Redwood Valley Grange from 9am-1pm. There will be shower buckets filled with supplies to help conserve water. At the same time at Club Calpella there will be a pop-up shot clinic, where people can get the Covid vaccine.

Closed Session

The board did not go into closed session.

Adjournment

Director Green made a motion, seconded by Director Todd, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:03pm.

Ross LaRue - Director
Upper Russian River Water Agency

Date_____

Attest: _____
Kate Barrett - Board Secretary

Date_____