

MINUTES
REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TELECONFERENCE VIA ZOOM
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021

1. Roll Call

Director, Tom Schoeneman, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following roll call:

Directors Present:

Director, Ken Todd

Director, Tom Schoeneman

Director, Jeff Basili

Director, Bree Klotter

Absent: None.

Others Present:

Jared Walker, GM, Kate Barrett, Board Secretary, Beth Salomone, Matt Froneberger, Chris Watt, Granville Pool, Mary Camp, Richard Rhodes

2. Public Expression

A member of the public, Richard Rhodes, expressed to the board that turning off the ag water would make his living situation very difficult. Since the fires in 2017, he hasn't had time to rebuild everything and has diverted his irrigation water to his house. Mr. Rhodes asked the board to wait to turn off his ag water until he can get purification for his pond water.

GM, Jared Walker explained that if the board makes an exception for one person, then the board will have to make exceptions for others.

Director Todd suggested that Mr. Rhodes go to Pace Supply to get equipment to purify his pond water.

3. Consider hearing of urgent items received since the Agenda was posted

None.

4. Approval of Agenda

Director Klotter made a motion, seconded by Director Todd, to accept the agenda. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote.

5. Approval of Minutes Regular Board Meeting

Director Basili made a motion, seconded by Director Todd, to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2021 regular board meeting. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote.

6. Approval of Financials

Director Klotter made a motion, seconded by Director Todd, to approve the financials for March 2021. The motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote.

7. General Managers Report

GM, Walker reported that the Ag customers are getting shut-off on Monday (04.19.21). Most of the community is understanding, but it will still be really hard on the community.

GM, Walker also reported that water theft is happening in Redwood Valley. Staff has gotten reports of trucks stealing water from hydrants. There were reports of dirty water again, staff believes it is due to people stealing water from a domestic hydrant. Staff is working on ways to educate the public about water theft and the communities water needs.

Board Secretary, Barrett noted that on the front page of the website there is a place where people can report “water waste”.

8. Redwood Valley County Water District Rate Study Presentation

GM, Walker noted that there is no presentation, but wanted to keep reminding the board of the upcoming Rate Study Meeting on June 8, 2021.

9. Drought and Water Supply Updates

GM, Walker reported that there have been quite a few more meetings about the drought and water supply. Redwood Valley’s Ag customers are getting shut-off Monday, and it seems that residential is going to have to go to mandatory public safety minimums.

A resolution and a public hearing notice is almost complete; the notice needs to be published seven (7) days prior to the public hearing.

The Board agreed to have the public hearing Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

10. Water Restrictions for Domestic Services

Millview, Willow, Hopland, and River Estates are all going to have mandatory cutbacks on water also. As stated before, Redwood Valley is going to have to go down to mandatory public safety minimum.

GM, Walker expressed gratitude towards Beth Salomone and Russian River Flood Control. He is very thankful for the relationship between the districts and how they have been able to work together trying to find the best possible outcome.

Beth Salomone reported that she is part of an outreach program trying to get the word out about conserving water. She is going to start working with Secretary Barrett, so she can be the connection between the board and the outreach program.

11. Redwood Valley CWD Infrastructure Retrofit Project

GM, Walker reported that Director Klotter, Director Schoeneman and himself have been in several meetings with Senator McGuire's team, the County of Mendocino, and Local Groups. GM, Walker feels that everyone wants the project to go through, regardless of the water restrictions. Senator McGuire's team is trying to find more water.

Director Klotter wanted to know where they are going to get water from and how they are going to avoid water waste.

Beth Salomone noted that the Board of Supervisors is going to declare that we are in a drought and that might have an impact on the project.

Chris Watt expressed that getting the 22 million dollars settlement from PG&E would be a huge asset. He also noted that it is just a transaction; put reasonable terms on the table, put it in writing, and exchange.

Beth Salomone noted that she likes the idea of taking the District's concerns to Senator McGuire. She also suggested that staff should be doing outreach about the project to let the public know why they should not be worried.

GM, Walker proposed that they take concerns to McGuire's team and see what they propose.

12. Redwood Valley Rancheria Funding

Director Schoeneman reported that Mary Camp is championing our problems, but she needs information on what the district wants to do.

Mary Camp reported that the Rancheria is doing everything they can to conserve water. They are down to fifty (50) gallons of water per person per day and shower buckets have been given to all the residents.

GM, Walker noted that the District needs a shovel ready project for funding to be available; the board should look at something that could benefit the Valley as a whole.

13. Upper Russian River Water Agency Goals & Objectives

GM, Walker reported that staff has been trying to get a hold of the City’s ad hoc committee, but there is still no response.

14. Report of Attendance at Other Meetings

Director Klotter reported that during the MAC meeting, there was discussion about the 22 million dollar settlement form PG&E. She thinks that various organizations in Redwood Valley should work together and come up with a list of needs and bring it to the Board of Supervisors.

Director Schoeneman noted that Redwood Valley should be a priority.

Board directed GM, Walker to come up with a wishlist of projects that would benefit Redwood Valley’s community.

15. Directors Comments

None.

16. Closed Session

The board did not adjourn into a closed session.

Adjourn Meeting

Director Klotter made a motion, seconded by Director Todd, to adjourn the meeting. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Tom Schoeneman - Board President

Date _____

Attest: Board Secretary

Date _____