

**MINUTES**  
**UPPER RUSSIAN RIVER WATER AGENCY**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**MAY 5, 2021**

Director LaRue called the meeting to order at 5:01 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

Absent: Director Theresa McNerlin

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**Public Expression**

None.

**Urgent Items**

None.

**Approval of Agenda**

Director Bogart made a motion, seconded by Director Todd, 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 April 7, 2021 Minutes**

Director Bogart made a motion, seconded by Director Todd, to approve the April 7, 2021 minutes.

This motion was passed with the following vote:

AYES: Todd, Bogart, Green, LaRue

NAYS: -0-

ABSTAIN: -0-

ABSENT: McNerlin

**Approval of Financials**

Director Todd made a motion, seconded by Director Bogart, to approve the financials for April 2021.

This motion was passed with the following vote:

AYES: Todd, Bogart, Green, LaRue

NAYS: -0-

ABSTAIN: -0-

ABSENT: McNerlin

**Update on Potter Valley Project**

GM, Walker reported that he was just in a meeting with Sonoma Water and approximately sixty (60) other people to get updates. The decline of water in Lake Mendocino will most likely start next month.

Redwood Valley declared a water shortage emergency last night which will limit residential usage to 55 gallons of water per person per day, and has already shut off all of their ag customers.

In the next week or two, the state is going to send out official water shortage notices. The letters are warnings letting the districts know that full curtailment of water rights could be coming soon.

### **Update on Drought Conditions & Water Conservation**

GM, Walker reported that staff is moving forward with public hearings declaring water shortage emergency with all the districts. The resolutions passed during the public hearings will meet the requirements for reducing water and give staff the opportunity to have special meetings at a later date if water restrictions need to be tightened.

This is a very different situation than the drought in 2014 because the state told the districts exactly what to do, and this year the state wants us (Russian River Flood Control, Willow County Water District, the City of Ukiah, Farm Bureau) to manage our own water and to work together as a team to figure it out.

When Governor Newsom came to Lake Mendocino to declare an emergency water shortage, it gave the state the ability to curtail pre-1914 water rights.

Director Green inquired about Redwood Valley's public hearing. Director Todd reported that there was no public input, but most people in Redwood Valley know about the drought and are just waiting for the inevitable.

GM, Walker noted that Redwood Valley is going to send out letters to the customers notifying them of the mandatory cutback to 55 gallons of water per person per day. Secretary Barrett, who has been working with Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, is going to add in flyers with water conservation tips.

### **Consideration of Consolidation Efforts**

GM, Walker reported that Director McNerlin asked for this to be on the agenda. This is something the JPA has been considering this for quite some time now.

With the drought going on and the projects going on in individual districts, there isn't much time to work on consolidation efforts. The Board decided to table this item for another time.

### **Report on Meetings by Board Members**

Calpella County Water District, Steve Bogart

- Had challenging exchanges with staff regarding water quantities.
- Calpella's board would like to see how everyone is going to work together through the drought. The board is worried about the "haves and have nots".

Redwood Valley County Water District, Ken Todd

- Redwood Valley declared an emergency water shortage yesterday and ag customers have been shut off.

Willow County Water District, Ross LaRue

- Reviewed an emergency water shortage resolution.

Millview County Water District

- The last rate study was done three (3) years ago, but not implemented. The last rate increase was in 2011, so the topic is going to keep coming up,
- The board supported a 40% decrease in all water usage.
- Talked about a drought emergency public hearing.

### **Director's Comments**

None.

**Closed Session**

The board did not go into closed session.

**Adjournment**

Director LaRue adjourned the meeting at 6:04 pm.

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**Ross LaRue - Director**  
**Upper Russian River Water Agency**

**Date**\_\_\_\_\_

**Attest:**\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kate Barrett - Board Secretary**

**Date**\_\_\_\_\_