

**MINUTES**  
**REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022**

**Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.**

Directors Present:

Director, Ken Todd

Director, Adam Gaska

Director, Tom Schoeneman

Absent: Bree Klotter

Others Present:

GM Jared Walker, Office Manager Liz Patton, Board Secretary Kate Barrett, Russian River Flood Control John Reardan, Beth Salomone, LACO Jordan Blough, Sandy O’Ferrall, Public, Jeff Basili, Granville Pool, Monica Huett, Elaine Blanc, Pamela Rosetti, Mary Camp, Bud Thompson

**Public Forum**

Member of the public, Bud Thompson, asked why residents with an ag meter are still getting billed when the water has been turned off, as well as why there was a rate increase.

- GM, Walker explained that the District continues to charge a base fee when the ag water is not in use because with that loss of revenue, RVCWD would dry up financially or would have to offset it with extreme increases on the domestic water.
- Director Schoeneman noted that this was the first time RVCWD raised their rates in many years. The discussion of raising the rates started over two years ago, but the District was trying to put it off due to Covid.

Member of the public, Pamella Rosetti, stated that the District should put in a formal request to the Russian River Flood Control to get more water.

- GM, Walker noted that the topic was on the agenda under *New Business*.

Member of the public, Jeff Taylor, explained that he is an ag customer in Redwood Valley. His property has a 4” ag line, and when he heard that rates were going to be increased, he decided to change to a 2” ag meter. He has never used the ag line and would like to get rid of his service and potentially recoup some of the cost of having the meter and receiving a new one.

- Director Todd noted it is not the District’s fault that he did not use the meter. The water was available to him as soon as he bought the property in 2001.
- The board decided that he is not going to refund him money from 2001 to present day, but if he wants to surrender his ag hookup he can send a letter to the District.

**Consider hearing of urgent items received since the agenda was posted**

None.

**Agenda**

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

## **Minutes**

Director Gaska made a motion, seconded by Director Todd, to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2022 regular board meeting. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote.

## **Financial Statements**

Director Todd made a motion, seconded by Director Gaska, to approve the financials for April 2022. The motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote.

## **Staff Reports**

### **a. General Manager**

- i. GM, Walker reported that the Millview/Calpella intertie booster pump and motor delivery has been delayed until July.
- ii. The VFDs from the raw water pump station have been ordered and have a four month lead time.
- iii. There have been discussions about a well moratorium. Numerous counties throughout California have put moratoriums on residential and ag wells, but there hasn't been any word if Mendocino Count is going to do the same.

### **b. Office Manager**

- i. None.

## **Old Business**

### **a. Report on Upper Russian River Water Agency and Consolidation Efforts**

- i. GM, Walker gave a brief history of the Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) for the public attending.
- ii. URRWA Ad Hoc Committee has had a couple of meetings with the City of Ukiah Ad Hoc Committee to try and plan a way to work towards a regional entity.
- iii. The State is willing to give up to \$60,000 per connection to consolidate.
- iv. The State has asked for a letter of interest from both the City of Ukiah and URRWA.

### **b. Drought and Water Supply Updates**

- i. GM, Walker noted that there is approximately 48,000 acre feet of water in Lake Mendocino, which is more than last year but far from a normal year.
- ii. As of Friday, PG&E issued a change petition to FERC to reduce stream flows into Lake Mendocino. It is assumed that PG&E was getting pressure from the Eel River side.
  1. If the application is accepted, then Potter Valley Irrigation District will get their minimum instream flow requirements, the rest (approximately 5CFS, if any) will go into Lake Mendocino.
  2. If there is no inflow to Lake Mendocino, the tributaries and other streamflows dry up, there will be increased releases from Lake Mendocino to cover downstream flow requirements.
- iii. GM, Walker has been working with the State and other water districts on a voluntary water conservation agreement. Since PG&E issued a change petition, the numbers keep changing on how much people need to conserve/how much of the water rights they are going to have.
- iv. GM, Walker noted that the Redwood Valley should prepare to have another year of 55 gallons of water per person per day.

**c. Grant Funding Updates**

- i. GM, Walker reported that \$60,000 of the \$200,000 were used for hydrant locks, the remaining \$140,000 is on hold by the Board of Supervisors.

**New Business**

**a. Consideration of Statement Qualifications for Project Management and Grant**

**Administration**

- i. GM, Walker reported that RVCWD was awarded \$1.8million for several projects.
  - 1. \$1.2 million of the grant is for finding a true source of groundwater.
- ii. The District has received two Statement of Qualifications from LACO and Ludorf & Scalmini.
  - 1. One of the agencies, LACO, is present at the meeting.
- iii. Jordan Blough, LACO, briefly talked about their qualifications and experience.
- iv. Director Gaska made a motion, seconded by Director Todd, to have LACO be in charge of Project Management and Grant Administration. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote.

**b. Request for Water from Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement**

**District**

- i. GM, Walker reported that this item was asked to be on the agenda based upon the RRFC's last board meeting.
- ii. Director Gaska made a motion, seconded by Director Todd, to direct staff to make a formal request to the board of Russian River Flood Control for water.

**c. Consideration of Creating an Ad Hoc or Standing Committee for Consolidation/Annexation**

- i. GM, Walker reported that as of right now, an Ad Hoc committee is formed consisting of Directors from Willow, Millview, and the City of Ukiah.
- ii. The State has been strongly urging Redwood Valley CWD to be involved in the consolidation.
- iii. The board would also like to start an Ad Hoc with RRFC to discuss being annexed into their boundaries.
- iv. Director Gaska made a motion, seconded by Director Todd, to nominate Director Gaska and Director Klotter to create an Ad Hoc to meet with RRFC and the City of Ukiah. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote.

**Director's Report**

None.

**Closed Session**

The board did not adjourn into a closed session.

**Adjournment**

Director Todd made a motion, seconded by Director Gaska, to adjourn the meeting. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

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**Tom Schoeneman - Board President**

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

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

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