

**WILLOW COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2023
6:30 P.M.**

Present: Mike Hildreth, Director
Gary Nevill, Director

Ross LaRue, Director

Absent: Devin Gordon, Director

Others Present: Jared Walker - GM, Ashtyn Davis - Board Secretary, Public - Chris Watt, Jake Morley

Director Nevill called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Roll Call was taken.

Minutes

Director Hildreth made a motion, seconded by Director LaRue, to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, as amended. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote.

Financial Statement

Director LaRue made a motion, seconded by Director Hildreth, to approve the financials for June & July 2023. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote.

Public Forum

- Director Nevill made a motion to move New Business item C. Consideration of Connection Fee Deferment for Bella Vista Subdivision to Public Forum.
 - Jake Morley, the Project Manager for the Bella Vista Subdivision, addressed the board requesting to defer payments of service connection fees. He states that they would like to pay the fees out of escrow as opposed to paying up front.
 - The board will further discuss the proposal and will bring it back to the next meeting.

Staff Reports

a. General Manager

- i. GM, Walker reported that he had received an email from Russian River Flood Control stating that there would be an increase in water rates from \$47 to \$68 per acre foot starting at the beginning of the next contract year. This will be a 40% increase; it has been around 10+ years since they have increased their water rates.
- ii. The Russian River Water Forum has an upcoming meeting this Thursday from 10 am to 1 pm either via zoom or in-person.
 1. Discussions were being had regarding the proposal for PG&E draft license surrender decommissioning project between Sonoma Water Agency, Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission, and Round Valley Indian Tribes.
 2. There were also conversations of alternative plans that have been discussed previously.
 3. Rumors of lowering Van Arsdale Reservoir about 15 to 20 feet in elevation.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chris Watt stated that PG&E was willing to receive a proposal in regards decommissioning project from anyone that wants all or part of the project. Over the last six months the RRWF has been working in confidence with PG&E to figure out what that statement meant exactly. Sonoma Water, Inland Power, and the Round Valley Indian Tribes put together this proposal stating they have interest in forming a regional entity that could continue the diversion.

b. Office Manager

- i. None.

Old Business

a. Report on PG&E Potter Valley Project

- i. Covered in GM report.

b. Report on Water Districts Service Contracts

- i. GM, Walker reported that there has been a tremendous increase in service line leaks from Redwood Valley to Willow; staff has been working hard to address these issues.
- ii. Redwood Valley's Water Treatment Plant is operating full time Monday thru Friday with inner ties supplementing throughout the weekends.
- iii. Annual Title 22 Water Samples will be taking place and completed over the course of the next month.

c. Update on Drought and Water Conservation Efforts

- i. GM, Walker announced that the Emergency Water Shortage has ended throughout the entire state of California.
- ii. Once the resolution has been lifted this Agenda item will be removed.

d. Report on JPA and Consolidation Efforts

- i. GM, Walker reported that it has been about six weeks since the last Ad Hoc meeting took place
- ii. Still awaiting a response from the state attorney's office regarding the draft proposal that was submitted for reviewal
- iii. Anticipating an Ad Hoc meeting on the last Tuesday of this month with hopes of having a response from the State on this and how to move forward.

New Business

a. Consideration of FY 2023/2024 Annual Budget

- i. Bring back to the next meeting.

b. Announcement that the Water Shortage Emergency has ended - Lifting Resolution No. 2021-02

- i. Director Hildreth made a motion, seconded by Director LaRue, to lift Resolution No. 2021-02. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote.

Adjourn

Director LaRue made a motion, seconded by Director Hildreth, to adjourn. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WILLOW COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Date _____

ATTEST _____
SECRETARY TO THE BOARD
WILLOW COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Date _____