

**MINUTES**  
**REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**TELECONFERENCE VIA ZOOM**  
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021**

**Call to Order: 5:02 p.m.**

Directors Present:

Director, Bree Klotter

Director, Tom Schoeneman

Director, Jeff Basili

Director, Ken Todd

Absent: None.

Others Present:

Jared Walker, GM, Liz Patton, Office Manager, Kate Barrett, Board Secretary, RRFC, Beth Salomone

**Public Forum**

None.

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

Director Schoeneman noted that he wanted to discuss the letter Marvin Talso, ex-director of RVCWD, wrote to the state. This item will be discussed under *New Business; Consolidation Efforts of URRWA Districts*.

The letter was distributed to the board and staff.

**Agenda**

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

**Minutes**

Director Basili made a motion, seconded by Director Schoeneman, to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2021 regular board meeting. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote.

Director Klotter requested that the minutes be more descriptive. Staff said it was possible.

**Financial Statements**

Director Klotter noted that the financials didn't look good, but she didn't expect them to.

Director Todd asked staff how much the pipeline at the river crossing was going to cost. GM, Walker replied with the approximation of \$50,000.

Director Klotter questioned the \$6,400 to the ACWA/JPIA. GM, Walker reported that it is an annual due for liability insurance.

RRFC, Beth Salomone, noted that ACWA/JPIA is an activist and lobbyist entity that has regional boards that focus on specific regions' needs and issues.

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

## **Staff Reports**

### **a. General Manager**

- i. GM, Walker reported that the 20 inch river crossing is delayed as staff is still working with SHN and Fish and Wildlife on getting a permit. SHN is involved because a biologist report is also needed; staff was supposed to have a copy of it by tonight, but they haven't received it yet.
- ii. Ghilotti is making good progress on the waterline retrofit project. There have been lots of water disruptions and staff has been receiving phone calls about it.
- iii. Director Schoeneman noted that he had been receiving calls regarding water shutoffs and they didn't feel that they had enough notice. GM, Walker has been really good with following up and smoothing ruffled feathers.
  1. Director Klotter responded that she feels Ghilotti has been really good with giving ample notification and putting notices on people's doors/gates. Nobody has complained to her about Ghilotti and the water disruptions.
  2. Director Schoeneman reiterated that people have been coming to him about the water disruptions and not seeing the notices in their mailboxes in time, but the ruffled feathers have been smoothed over.
  3. Director Klotter replied that Ghilotti doesn't put the notices in the mailbox, they hang the notices on the door/gate.
- iv. GM, Walker reported that leaks have been popping up, but staff has been getting to them fairly quickly.
- v. The PSPS that was supposed to happen out on Tomki was cancelled.
- vi. GM, Walker reported that he and Director Schoeneman attended a meeting with the County of Mendocino and it sounds like Redwood Valley County Water District has some money coming their way: \$200,000 for the lake pump upgrades and the hydrant locks are coming from America Funding Relief.
  1. Director Schoeneman noted that they had originally asked for \$1.3 million and feels that RVCWD is getting screwed.
  2. Director Todd replied that Redwood Valley suffered the most damage.
  3. GM, Walker noted that Redwood Valley is only getting \$200,000 out of the \$23,000,000.

### **b. Office Manager**

- i. Office Manager, Liz Patton reported that the auditor is in the office and everything is going well. He is going to be at the office through tomorrow and then will come back in about three weeks to finish his work.
- ii. Director Klotter inquired about how billing is going.
  1. Office Manager, Patton replied that the new rates have taken effect. There are about 15-20 residents that are going to get flow restrictors once staff has completed working on leaks.
  2. Staff turned Flow Kana's water off for a couple of hours to get their attention. They have been using their irrigation even though it was supposed to be off. Staff is going to check on their water usage soon to make sure that they are complying.
  3. There has been some push back about the new rates as the first bills with the new rates just went out.
- iii. Director Klotter stated that she had a conversation with her neighbor and they said that the people who are having water leaks aren't finding out about it until they get their next month's bill; she was under the impression that staff was watching water usage and would contact customers if there was a spike in water usage.
  1. Staff noted that there are mid-month readings done for customers who are habitual high water users. Staff are not reading every single customer multiple times a month.

## **Old Business**

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

- i. GM, Walker reported that all of the water districts met their 25% water conservation goals for the month of July, however, staff is sending out letters to customers (excluding Redwood Valley) to reduce water usage by 50%.
- ii. Lake Mendocino is expected to hit the 20,000 acre foot threshold by the end of next week. The original plan was to make it to October 1st.
- iii. The releases out of the lake have been reduced.
- iv. Staff is unsure of what will happen when the lake hits 20,000 acre/ft.

### **b. Redwood Valley CWD Infrastructure Retrofit Project**

- i. GM, Walker reported that staff and Ghilotti have completed the flushing process. The new water meters are slowly starting to get installed. There are about 80 new domestic meters.
- ii. There have been a couple of hiccups along the way, but everything is going well for the most part.
- iii. The timing should be right for them to finish up this project and then go start on the river crossing.
  1. WIPF could no longer do the project, they didn't have enough guys for the job.
  2. Gilotti could probably get the job done faster than WIPF could due to all of their connections and extra staff. The District is fortunate that they were already in the area.

### **c. Redwood Valley Rancheria Funding**

- i. Director Schoeneman noted that he hasn't spoken to Mary Camp recently, but will try to do so next week.
- ii. GM, Walker noted that Mary Camp has been active in some of the other meetings that have been going on the last two months.
- iii. Director Todd asked if she would be receptive to the idea of helping fund the Potter Valley Project.
  1. Director Schoeneman said Mary Camp is willing to help the District out as long as it is safety related.

### **d. Upper Russian River Water Agency**

- i. Director Todd reported that there was a presentation from BB&K on consolidation among the URRWA districts.
  1. He felt it was very informative and impressed that they thought consolidation would only cost \$20-30,000.
    - a. Director Schoeneman agreed.
  2. GM, Walker noted that all of the other boards were also impressed with the presentation.
- ii. GM, Walker had a conversation with Wing-See Fox, the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District's GM, about what consolidation would look like:
  1. Every district keeps their own zones, debts, and water rights.
- iii. During Calpella's board meeting, Director Bogart expressed some concern about consolidation due to the drought situation. Director Bogart suggested having a workshop or ad hoc committee meeting with all of the districts who want to consolidate and make sure everyone is on the same page.
  1. Director Schoeneman agreed that having a meeting with the other districts would be beneficial.
- iv. GM, Walker noted that if the districts were to consolidate, then they would have a pool of Flood Control water in which they could distribute among the districts how they choose.

**e. Redwood Valley CWD/Russian River Flood Control District Annexation**

- i. GM, Walker reported that the ad hoc meeting went well and they had good discussions.
- ii. Director Klotter stated that the agreement when they left the meeting, the attendees would go back to their respective boards and determine whether their boards still wanted to pursue the annexation into the Flood Control District.
  1. Director Klotter asked the board if they were willing to pursue the annexation with Flood Control or are they going to drag it out. The Flood Control wants to pursue it.
  2. Director Schoeneman asked if they got annexed in, where is the water? Would they be getting any water right now if they were already annexed? The board is currently looking into a consolidation that might supersede the annexation.
  3. RRFC, Beth Salomone, replied that if Redwood Valley was already annexed in the Flood Control then they would have water.
- iii. Director Klotter stated that if they want Redwood Valley to be an Ag community, then they need to have water that they can pull from the Flood Control District.
  1. GM, Walker commented that they already use Flood Control District water for the Ag community.
- iv. Director Todd asked what the bottom line is; what does it take for Redwood Valley to get in the Flood Control District.
  1. RRFC, Beth Salomone, replied that it is a LAFCo process. The ad hoc committee continues to meet, consultants will most likely need to be hired, then both the District and Flood Control take it to LAFCo and then they take it to the County.
  2. Director Klotter stated that California LAFCo provided Mendocino County LAFCo \$100,000 to help pay for the cost of consolidating Redwood Valley into the Flood Control, so there are funds already set aside to help start the process.
  3. Director Schoeneman asked how much more it would cost after the \$100,000.
  4. Director Klotter did not know.
- v. Director Todd asked if this was something that Mary Camp could help fund.
  1. Director Schoeneman said he would ask.
- vi. The board wants to continue work with the ad hoc and move forward with exploring annexation into the Flood Control.

**New Business**

**a. UVBGSA Funding for next 5 Years**

- i. GM, Walker reported that Ross LaRue is the new representative from URRWA.
- ii. During a special meeting last week, staff learned that there is an additional \$16,000 for funding that is going to be wrapped into the whole project.
  1. This amounts to about \$4,000 per member agency which is due as soon as possible.
- iii. UVBGSA was graded on their classification of needing a GSA.
  1. Staff thinks that there is enough documentation to prove that they don't need a GSA.

**b. Consolidation Efforts of URRWA Districts**

- i. GM, Walker felt that the topic has already been covered other than the letter from Marvin Talso.
- ii. Director Schoeneman stated that there is no rush, and the board can shelve it until next time if needed.
- iii. Director Klotter commented that if the District doesn't do something, then the Department of Water Resources is going to come in and force consolidation.
  1. GM, Walker replied that the Department of Water Resources told him several years ago that they were not going to do that to our districts.

**Director's Report**

None.

**Closed Session**

The board did not adjourn into a closed session.

**Adjournment**

Director Basili 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 6:38 p.m.

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**Tom Schoeneman - Board President**

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

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**Kate Barrett - Board Secretary**

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