

**WILLOW COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021
6:30 P.M.**

Present: Mike Hildreth, Director
Gary Nevill, Director

Ross LaRue, Director

Absent: Devin Gordon, Director

Others Present: Jared Walker, GM
Liz Patton, Office Manager

Kate Barrett, Secretary
Beth Salomone, GM RRFC
Chris Watt, RRFC

Director Mike Hildreth called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Roll Call was taken.

Upon a motion made by Director Nevill, seconded by Director LaRue, the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of August 9, 2021 were approved. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote.

Bills for the month of August 2021 were reviewed. Upon a motion made by Director LaRue, and seconded by Director Nevill, this motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote, the bills were approved for payment.

The Financial Statements for August 2021 were approved.

Public Forum

- None.

Staff Report

a. General Manager

- i. GM, Walker reported that there was a fire in Calpella yesterday; approximately 10 to 12 homes were lost as well as Calpella's booster station.
 1. Staff had to truck in some water in order to get water to the upper tanks.
- ii. Water conservation efforts are going really well.
- iii. Redwood Valley Water District's lake pump intake is officially high and dry. Even if Redwood Valley wanted to divert water from the lake, they wouldn't be able to.

b. Office Manager

- i. Office Manager, Patton reported that Kate, the Board Secretary, has been ruthless on water wasters and is getting a good response from customers who have resisted conservation efforts in the past.

Old Business

a. Consideration of Rate Study from Hildebrand Consulting

- i. Mark Hildebrand, Hildebrand Consulting, briefly went over the presentation from the last board meeting.
- ii. Director LaRue made a motion, seconded by Director Nevill, to accept the smooth approach rate study. This motion was passed with the following roll call vote:
Ayes: LaRue, Nevill, Hildreth
Noes: -0-
Abstain: -0-
Absent: Gordon
- iii. Mark Hildebrand presented a proposed water shortage surcharge. The surcharge would help offset the reduction in revenue due to the drought.
 1. The board would have the authority to declare what stage of drought the District is in in order to determine how much the surcharge will be.
 2. The board would not need a public hearing in order to change the surcharge.
- iv. Director LaRue made a motion, seconded by Director Nevill, to approve the proposed water shortage surcharge. This motion was passed with the following roll call vote:
Ayes: LaRue, Nevill, Hildreth
Noes: -0-
Abstain: -0-
Absent: Gordon
- v. The board decided to hold the public hearing for the rate increase during the regular board meeting on November 8, 2021.

b. Report on Water District Service Contracts

- i. GM Walker reported that there are a number of projects going on within the districts.
 1. The Hopkins fire in Calpella burned down a dozen houses as well as Calpella's booster station. Staff is currently working on getting everything up and running.
 2. Redwood Valley's Infrastructure Retrofit Project is mostly complete. There was some additional funding which allowed for fire hydrants to be installed.
 3. Hopland has had well projects over the past couple of months, and one of their wells is going to be taken offline this fall to have it resleeved.

c. Report on JPA

- i. GM, Walker reported that there have been ongoing updates on water conservation and he doesn't foresee any of the districts going into any further restrictions.

d. Report on PG&E Potter Valley Project

- i. GM, Walker reported that the variance from FERC is going to expire August 13, 2021.

e. Update on Drought and Water Conservation

- i. GM, Walker reported that most of the districts are doing really well.

1. A common trend that staff is seeing is that the people who are calling the office to see how much water they use are customers who are already doing their part and conserving.
 2. Kate and the entire staff are doing a great job with following up with customers. Staff has had to install some flow restrictors on people who are not responsive to conservation efforts.
- ii. Beth Salomone, RRFC, noted that the reach losses have increased again. It is likely due to several different factors: i.e. temperature, groundwater pumping, and possibly illegal diversions.

f. Consolidation Efforts of URRWA Districts

- i. GM, Walker reported that all four of the water districts that are a part of URRWA are interested in moving forward with consolidation.
- ii. During the Redwood Valley meetings some questions were brought up.
 1. They are looking at an annexation with the Flood Control District as well.
- iii. If the boards move forward with having a workshop, it will be an open platform for questions and concerns and what will the consolidated agencies look like.

g. Water Supply Verification for Bella Vista Project

- i. GM, Walker reported that included in the packet is a technical memo that was required for Guillion to move forward with the project.
- ii. Reading through the report, it looks like there is enough water and storage for the project to continue.
- iii. Director LaRue made a motion, seconded by Director Nevill, to accept the Luhdorff & Scalmanini's proposal. This motion was passed with the following vote:

Ayes: LaRue, Nevill, Hildreth
 Noes: -0-
 Abstain: -0-
 Absent: Gordon

New Business

a. UVBGSA Funding

- i. GM, Walker reported that the original \$55,000 that URRWA was asked to contribute has been tabled for now.
- ii. URRWA has now been asked to contribute \$4,000 for the initial modeling of the UVBGSA.
- iii. During the last URRWA meeting, the board decided to cover the \$4,000 from their own finances.

b. Spanish Canyon Water Main Replacement

- i. GM, Walker reported that Gilloti made really quick work of what had to be done.
- ii. Last week, they installed about 450 feet of mainline coming out of our booster station.
 1. The contractor who is supposed to do the boring got injured during a different project and hasn't been able to come out to Spanish Canyon.
- iii. Ghilloti still thinks that the project will be complete by the end of September, even with the delay.

Closed Session

- None.

Adjourn

Director Nevill made a motion, seconded by Director LaRue, to adjourn. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WILLOW COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Date_____

ATTEST_____
SECRETARY TO THE BOARD
WILLOW COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Date_____