

**MINUTES  
REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
TELECONFERENCE VIA ZOOM  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021**

**Call to Order: 5:04 p.m.**

Directors Present:

Director, Tom Schoeneman

Director, Bree Klotter

Director, Jeff Basili

Director, Ken Todd

Absent: None.

Others Present:

Jared Walker, GM, Liz Patton, Office Manager, Kate Barrett, Board Secretary, RRFC, Beth Salomone, RRFC, John Reardan, Redwood Valley Rancheria, Mary Camp, Public, Katrina Fry

**Public Forum**

None.

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

None.

**Agenda**

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

**Minutes**

Director Klotter requested a correction on page four (4) under *Old Business e. vi.* and noted that there was a vote to continue work with the ad hoc committee in order to pursue annexation with the Flood Control District.

Staff informed Director Klotter that an actual vote did not happen. The board unanimously decided to continue work with the annexation, however there was never an official vote.

Director Todd made a motion, seconded by Director Basili, to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2021 regular board meeting. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote.

**Financial Statements**

Director Todd inquired about a payment to Willow County Water District for \$39,102.41.

Staff replied that Willow will bill back the districts if they use Willow's credit card for tools or supplies if it is actually meant for another district. In this case, Redwood Valley used the credit card to purchase the Fish and Wildlife permit for the replacement of the 20 inch irrigation main at the river crossing as well as the usual Master Service Agreement charge.

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

## **Staff Reports**

### **a. General Manager**

- i. GM, Walker reported that staff got the approval of the finalized Fish and Wildlife permit to start the river crossing project. Staff has to give them seven (7) days notice prior to excavating the area, seven (7) days post report, and a biologist needs to be on site every day that there is digging. The project shouldn't even take a week to complete.
  1. Director Schoeneman asked if the \$14,000 would cover the biologist costs.
    - a. GM, Walker noted that the biologist said he would try.
- ii. GM, Walker reported that Tuesday night PG&E turned power back on after the Hopkins Fire and for some reason one of our lake pumps started.
  1. Staff received a phone call early Wednesday morning from a customer stating that while on a walk, they could hear horrible noises coming from the direction of the lake pump. An operator went out and shut the pump off, however the pump was damaged and needs to be pulled.
  2. Director Schoeneman asked if this was something that insurance would cover.
    - a. Staff is looking into it.
- iii. Calpella lost one of their booster stations at the Marina Estates subdivision. All the tanks are full now, even though there was a bunch of water being used.

### **b. Office Manager**

- i. None.

## **Old Business**

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

- i. GM, Walker reported that Redwood Valley's water sales numbers are way down. The community is doing a really good job at conserving water. There are still some high users, but with all things considered Redwood Valley is in pretty good shape.
- ii. There is some rain in the forecast. It's not a lot, but at this point in September we will take it!

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

- i. GM, Walker reported that the project is pretty much wrapped up. There are a couple meter box lids and loose ends to tie up, but the majority of the project is complete.
- ii. Staff is waiting for the fire hydrants to come in, then Ghilotti will come and install them for us.

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

- i. Director Schoeneman noted that he has been working on a couple of different angles. The County says that the money is there, but you have to enter to win.
- ii. In Biden's Build Bigger Better, there is a lot of money marked for California. Director Schoeneman asked for 20 million dollars for several different projects.
- iii. Director Schoeneman has been trying to get together with Mary Camp, because she is going to be a real great asset on how to tap into the money.
- iv. Some of the money from the PG&E settlement has been hung up with the fire department. They don't want to buy fire hydrants, they would rather get new radios. However, that money was marked for new fire hydrants and we will fight to make sure the money is used appropriately.
- v. Mary Camp commented that the district should be able to apply for the Small Communities Drought Relief Funding. It can be used for repair of infrastructure.
- vi. Beth Salomone, RRFCA, commented that she is on our ACWA Region 1 board and is working with our representative at ACWA to see if they have any support that they can provide to URRWA members to help with funding for drought relief.

**d. Upper Russian River Water Agency**

- i. Director Todd reported that there was conversation about consolidation among the districts of URRWA. URRWA also paid \$4,000 to UVBGSA since they had the money and so they didn't have to go back to the individual boards and delay the check even longer.

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

- i. Katrina Frey, a member of the public, commented that she was in favor of Redwood Valley County Water District being annexed into the Russian River Flood Control District.
- ii. Director Klotter commented that there hasn't been any discussion of consolidation being the best course of action, and since there was no vote on annexation during the last meeting that is still in the air as well. The board hasn't had any decision about either of them one way or the other.
  1. Director Schoeneman replied that it is all very complicated and URRWA seems to be more willing because the annexation doesn't necessarily concern them. The consolidation seems to be something that is moving forward. For annexation, the District is looking at money, LAFCo, and all sorts of hoops to jump through and the District doesn't have the money.
- iii. Director Klotter stated that there may be fewer costs up front associated with consolidation, but the cost of actually making the interties available to the district to be able to get water to Redwood Valley is going to take a number of years and millions of dollars. If the District were to annex into the Flood Control then, once the lake is back to normal, the water would be immediately available. She doesn't see how consolidation would benefit the ag community.
- iv. GM, Walker suggested that the board get legal opinion on whether the board should pursue annexation, consolidation, or both and weigh the pros and cons.
- v. Director Todd stated that annexation is important and that's the best source of water. However, he is also in favor of consolidation.
  1. Director Basili agreed with Director Todd and stated that the District should do both and do it the right way.
- vi. Beth Salomone, RRFC, stated that if all the members of URRWA consolidate, Redwood Valley doesn't just get water. They have to be within the Flood Control's boundary. It is likely that they will still be on a surplus basis.
  1. If Redwood Valley were a customer, they would get a guaranteed amount of water rather than depending on surplus water.
  2. Beth is not going to advise her board to talk to Redwood Valley's legal counsel until the District is solid on what they want.
- vii. The board directed staff to contact legal.

**f. Consolidation Efforts of URRWA Districts**

- i. This item has been covered in previous agenda items.

**New Business**

**a. UVBGSA Funding**

- i. GM, Walker reported that URRWA authorized \$4,000 of URRWA's money to cover the initial studies and the modeling that needs to be done.
- ii. There is still a possibility of UVBGSA needing more funding.

**b. Consolidation Workshop**

- i. The board decided to wait until they have had a meeting with legal counsel before going to a consolidation workshop.

**Director's Report**

Director Todd noted that he has been having inspections from the State Water Resource Board and there are more inspections to come.

Director Schoeneman attended the IWPC meeting and stated that it was mainly a closed session, however he could say that it will be going on for a long time.

**Closed Session**

The board did not adjourn into a closed session.

**Adjournment**

Director Todd made a motion, seconded by Director Klotter, to adjourn the meeting. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

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**Tom Schoeneman - Board President**

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

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

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