

**Minutes**  
**Upper Russian River Water Agency**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**November 3, 2021**

Director McNerlin called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm.

Present: Directors, Steve Bogart, Theresa McNerlin, Ross LaRue, Alternate for Redwood Valley, Tom Schoeneman, Alternate for Millview, Jeanie Metcalf, Willow GM, Jared Walker, Board Secretary, Kate Barrett  
Russian River Flood Control, Chris Watt, Al White, Millview Director, Ken Budrow, Redwood Valley Director, Bree Klotter

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**Approval of September 1, 2021 Minutes**

Director Todd made a motion, seconded by Director Bogart, to approve the September 1, 2021 minutes. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote.

**Approval of the Financials**

Director LaRue made a motion, seconded by Director Bogart, to approve the financials for September and October 2021. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote.

**Public Forum**

None.

**Update on Member Agency Projects**

- GM, Walker reported that Millview has an ongoing application process for annexation of about twenty-six parcels near the Masonite property. The public comment letters have gone out and the notices have been posted.
  - Millview also has a project going on at their Well 35 site. Staff has been adding filtration to Well 35; the filters are in place, the fencing has been added, and the roofing has been ordered. If there are no setbacks, it should be complete in the next month or two.
- Willow finished Spanish Canyon mainline replacement. The project went fairly well.
- Redwood Valley just finished up a twenty inch river crossing for an irrigation mainline right before the big rain came.
- Calpella is dealing with the Marina Estates Booster Station which was burnt during the Hopkins fire. The pumps have been ordered and staff is trying to get funding for the project. The project is estimated to cost \$50,000.

**Update on Potter Valley Project**

- GM, Walker reported that Lake Mendocino is up approximately seven or eight feet since it rained. However, we aren't getting a lot of diversion because of the Potter Valley Project.
  - The hydro plant that PG&E owns at the tunnel is out of commission at this time. They are estimating eighteen (18) to twenty-four (24) months to replace the transformer, and that is *if* they are going to.
  - Estimated bids for the project came in between five and ten million dollars on a project that PG&E wants to walk away from.

- Under normal conditions, when the hydro plant is running, we get two hundred and seventy five (275) cubic feet per second coming through the diversion. Right now, we are getting about forty-five (45).
  - There are drastic impacts on Lake Mendocino's storage and the recovery that is needed.
- Director Bogart asked if they are holding water back or is there no water to come through the diversion.
  - GM, Walker commented that Lake Pillsbury gained quite a bit of water from the storm, and there is a bypass around the hydro plant. It is the staff's understanding that they cannot let the full amount through the bypass.
- GM, Walker noted that Congressman Huffman was vocal about supporting the removal of Scott Dam. His reasoning was that it is more cost effective to tear down the dam than to reengineer a fishlatter. To get back to "normal" stream flows will be beneficial for the fisheries.
  - Without Scott Dam, the Potter Valley Project would not exist.

### **Update on Drought Conditions & Water Conservation**

- GM, Walker reported that last week staff was notified that there was going to be a temporary suspension of the water curtailments, due to the forecasted weather, from October 23, 2021 thru November 1, 2021.
  - The water curtailment suspension has been extended thru the end of November.
- GM, Walker noted that he would like to keep the water conservation efforts where they are at this time, because it takes so long to get that momentum back.
  - The board agreed with GM, Walker to keep the district's conservation efforts going.

### **Consideration of Consolidation Efforts**

- GM, Walker reported that the districts have been talking about consolidation, on many different levels, for months now. At the last URRWA meeting, the board decided to hold off on setting up a workshop due to the possibility of Redwood Valley being annexed into the Flood Control District.
  - Al White, RRFC, commented that Redwood Valley and the Flood Control District are no longer having conversations about annexation.
- Director Bogart noted that he is in favor of having a workshop with the other districts to discuss consolidation.
- Redwood Valley CWD Director, Bree Klotter, commented that she doesn't think the districts would gain much from consolidation since the consolidation on the business side has already happened.

### **Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (UVBGSA) Update and Financial Commitment**

- GM, Walker reported that a couple months back, URRWA made an initial commitment to contribute \$4,000 to the UVBGSA. At the last GSA meeting, staff learned that the GSA needs \$275,000 for funding annual costs for GSP implementation, UVBGSA administration, and for the fee study. Split between the four member agencies, URRWA's portion is \$68,750.
  - Staff's recommendation is to split URRWA's contribution among the member agencies based upon the number of service connections each district has.
  - Director McNerlin noted that she does not think that the Sanitation District can use rate payer revenue to fund a groundwater project.

- Without the Sanitation District’s contribution, the \$68,750 will be split in the following way:
  - Millview - \$27,225
  - Redwood Valley - \$21,240
  - Willow - \$17,220
  - Calpella - \$3,065
- Director McNerlin mentioned that the margin of revenue that each district works with compared to the County of Mendocino and the City of Ukiah doesn’t seem like a fair division of the burden of finances.
  - When LAFCo divides their fees, they base it off of revenue.
- GM, Walker commented that after this year, once the study is done, there is a possibility that there is grant funding that could be available.
- Al White, RRFC, commented that he would like to bring the topic of finding a more equitable funding distribution at the next GSA board meeting.
- Director Bogart made a motion, seconded by Director LaRue, to approve the contribution of \$68,750 to the UVBGSA contingent upon the approval from each member agency, with the exception of the Sanitation District. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote.

**Director’s Report**

- Director McNerlin reported that the Sanitation District has been trying to have conversations with the City of Ukiah about various issues, and they have gotten nowhere.
- Director LaRue noted that staff completed the Spanish Canyon mainline replacement.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:31pm.

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**Theresa McNerlin - Board President**  
**Upper Russian River Water Agency**

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

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

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