

Minutes
Upper Russian River Water Agency
Board of Directors Meeting
December 1, 2021

Director McNerlin called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Present: Directors, Steve Bogart, Theresa McNerlin, Jerry Cardoza, Ken Todd
Willow GM, Jared Walker, Board Secretary, Kate Barrett
Russian River Flood Control, Chris Watt, Al White

Absent: Director Ross LaRue

Approval of November 3, 2021 Minutes

Director Todd made a motion, seconded by Director Bogart, to approve the November 3, 2021 minutes. This motion was passed with the following vote:

Ayes: Todd, Bogart, McNerlin

Noes: -0-

Abstain: Cardoza

Absent: LaRue

Approval of the Financials

Director Bogart made a motion, seconded by Director Todd, to approve the financials for November 2021. This motion was passed with a unanimous aye vote.

Public Forum

None.

Update on Member Agency Projects

- GM, Walker reported that there are ongoing monitoring wells being drilled: Willow's Norgard well field monitoring well finished up last week and there is one currently being drilled out on School Way in Redwood Valley.
- GM, Walker also noted that Redwood Valley is seeking grants for some of their upcoming projects.
- Calpella's Marina Estates booster station roof, which was lost during the Hopkins Fire, is on site and will be completed soon.

Update on Potter Valley Project

- GM, Walker reported that April 14, 2022 is the deadline of reaching an agreement between PG&E and FERC on the relicensing efforts.
- PG&E's hydro plant went down and will cost \$5-10 million to replace it and 18-24months to complete the project. There is a good chance that PG&E is not going to fix the hydro plant.
- As of right now, there are no diversions going through the power plant itself, everything is going around to a bypass that is restricted to 45 CFS.
 - The bypass can go up to 135 CFS, but they are only required to release 45 CFS.

Update on Drought Conditions & Water Conservation

- GM, Walker reported that all of the districts are still in their mandatory water conservation efforts and staff does not think they will be lifted anytime soon.

- The water curtailment notices from the State have been suspended at least until December 15, 2021. The State is predicting it will be extended through the month of December.

Consideration of Consolidation Efforts

- GM, Walker reported that this has been an ongoing conversation over the past several months. Staff is trying to get a workshop together with two members from each member agency of URRWA and have them discuss the pros and cons of consolidation.
- Director Cardoza commented that being in URRWA is costing all of the districts a lot of money by contributing to things like the UVBGSA and the Potter Valley Project when there are private water companies that aren't paying anything.
 - It feels like URRWA is in the same position as it was when URRWA was first created: all the districts agree to consolidate, but nothing has changed in six years.
 - GM, Walker noted that the ultimate long term goal is to have one regional entity, whether the water districts consolidate or not. In order to better things for the entire community, there should be one regional water and sanitation district.

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

- GM, Walker reported that all of the districts approved and sent their portion of the \$68,750 contribution for the UVBGSA.

Letter of Support for Sonoma Water Agency’s November 16 Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP)

- GM, Walker reported that as of November 14, Sonoma Water issued a new Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) to maximize reservoir storage capacity in Lake Mendocino. Staff would like to issue a letter of support.
- The board directed staff to write up a letter of support for Sonoma Water and Director McNerlin will sign it.

Director’s Report

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:39 pm.

Theresa McNerlin - Board President
Upper Russian River Water Agency

Date _____

Attest: _____
Kate Barrett - Board Secretary

Date _____