

Approved B.O.D.
11-20-14

Redwood Valley County Water District
2370 Webb Ranch Road
Redwood Valley, CA 95470
(707) 485-0679

Board of Directors - Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 16, 2014

Directors Present: Granville Pool, Ken Todd, Jeff Basili
Directors Absent: Pamela Ricetti
Staff Present: General Manager Bill Koehler

Call To Order: 7:00 P.M.

1. Roll Call

Granville Pool, President
Ken Todd, Director
Jeff Basili, Director

2. Hearing of Comments or Questions from the Attending Public

None.

3. Consider Hearing of Urgent Items Received Since the Agenda Was Posted

None.

4. Acceptance of Agenda

Motion: Accept the agenda
Motion by Dir Todd, second by Dir Basili
In favor: Unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Calendar

There are consent calendars for September 18 and October 16. GM Koehler says that we are down 45% in water use from this time last year.

Motion: Approve the consent calendar from September 18

Motion by Dir Basili, second by Dir Todd
In favor: Unanimous

Motion: Approve the consent calendar from October 16

Motion by Dir Basili, second by Dir Todd
In favor: Unanimous

6. Approval of Minutes as Presented

Dir Pool has a few corrections and those are noted to be passed along to the Recording Secretary.

Motion: Accept the September 18th minutes with the corrections specified.

Motion by Dir Todd, second by Dir Ricetti

In favor: unanimous

7. Directors and Staff Reports and Discussion of Non-Action Topics

Items are either not relevant or will be discussed later.

8. General Manager's Report and Action Items

a. District Operations

GM Koehler passed someone going slowly on Rd D [legal passing area] and they called and complained. The tank repair that was authorized last year has moved forward and the tank guys came to look at it. They showed up, said "we can't do that", and left. He will be talking with the field guy who said that they could do the repairs and make some noise.

The main talking item is the high disinfection by-products (DBPs) at the tank on Tomki (the North Tank). That water is the most aged water in the system, so that's where the problem shows up. Dir Todd asks how long that water is in the system and GM Koehler says it's about a 5-7 days. That sample was also taken during hot weather and the tank is a dark color, all of which contribute to high DBP levels. This is a problem every year, but since the sampling is a running annual average, it's always been low enough to smooth over. This time, it was high enough to put the average over the limit. Also, the chlorine used at the plant was also degraded with time and that tank was black, contributing to the breakdown of the chlorine. That problem has been fixed. The favorable way of dealing with high DBPs is with an aerating pump. It involves taking water from the bottom of the tank and spraying it to the top. This particular DBP is trichloromethane and it is the easiest to mitigate with aeration, due to its volatility. There are probably enough solar panels already to power the pump and we'll start by running it in day only so as to avoid buying battery packs. The work can be done in-house, the only thing is to make sure they're drinking water approved.

b. Meeting Time Change

Dir Basili has suggested making the meeting time earlier. It is decided to change it to 6 p.m. and agreed upon by consensus.

c. District Engineer

Michelle Fredrick is leaving her job with CDPH to spend more time with her kids. They will probably be bringing up someone in-house to fill that position.

d. Family Care Unit

There are already two houses on the property and there are two service connections, both of which are paid up on. The plan with this one is to convert a garage. Environmental Health has done a septic inspection and feel that the leach field is adequate and believe that the unit will be required to be torn down when the need for it is done. It is not a new meter. Water usage may be up a little bit, but nothing significant.

Motion: Approve the family care unit as presented

Motion by Dir Todd, second by Dir Basili

In Favor: Unanimous

e. Water Usage

RVCWD has contracted for 355 acre-feet and have used 278 af as of the end of September. We're averageing around 35 af per month which means we should make it into December. GM Koehler thinks that the pot growers are NOT having much of an impact since it seems most of the larger grows are on wells or trucking water in. Therefore, he is not expecting a large drop in water usage after the harvest.

Dir Todd asks about the punishment of catching illegal water trucks and how it's not a large fine since the value of the water is only about \$30. GM Koehler doesn't know anything about the penalties involved. It seems all they can be charged with is petty theft, but Dir Todd thinks it can be upgraded to 'misuse of public assets'.

In January, RRFC gets a new 8,000 af contract, but GM Koehler doesn't think that we can get a contract with them if the intertie is up and running. If we have another dry year, it's pretty irrelevant since this whole area will be hurting. But it could be hard to get RRFC to sell us water. Mrs. Barra says they have to prove beneficial use, but GM Koehler says they found a loophole in that they can say their beneficial use is conservation. RRFC has done some very unpopular things with its customers. We may be able to get enough water through the intertie to support domestic use, but there wouldn't be anything for Ag users.

f. Election/Appointment

The issues have been straightened out with the County to make sure this problem [missing the appointment of another Board member] won't happen again. As long as a board has at least 3 people, that board is legal. GM Koehler didn't even ask about the cost of special election, but the guess is about \$10,000. It doesn't matter for this particular problem, but this information (county codes and such) will be saved for future reference.

g. Monitoring Well

The status has not changed. Samples have been taken and results are not in yet. There was a single sampling event. Elevated levels of boron is a deal breaker. If the chemical constituents are fine for drinking, then they will analyze the isotopes

to see if it's groundwater or surface water. The report should be available 4-6 weeks after the sampling event.

h. Intertie

We are about 80% ready. The building is built, the roof is on, and the pumps and 90% of the internal piping is in place. It will be surprising if it's not done by the middle of November. Dir Pool asks about the issues with point-of-use but Tim Bradley has been out sick all week, so nothing was answered.

i. School Way

The end of the construction season near the river is October 15 but they have another month to do work further away from the river. A chunk of main needed to be removed on the south side. It was leaking and threatened to tear up the hillside. There has been some problems with MCM construction about access, but we have backing from the Mendocino DOT. Work will be done in-house.

j. Audit

The audit is done and there is a contract for the next three audits with Mr. Johnson. Dir Todd asks about cost increases, which are a few hundred bucks a year.

Motion: Continue with Mr. Johnson for the next three years for audits

Motion by Dir Todd, second by Dir Basili

In favor: unanimous

k. CUWCC Membership

It will cost about \$1,500 but with that aside, there isn't a lot of benefit in it. So for right now it's a non-issue until it comes up again to qualify for something.

9. Financial Report

There are two financial reports, for September and October. Once again, more is going out than coming in, but it's closer than previously. But the two big costs for the well are coming back to us from the grant. Backflow testing is still being done by RH&Sons. Mrs. Barra asks about the discrepancies between the monthly costs for health insurance for the three field employees. GM Koehler makes a note to ask Paula about it. Mrs. Barra asks about the effectiveness of the overage charges and GM Koehler says that for some people it had a great effect and with others it didn't do anything except increase our cash flow. GM Koehler is looking into a way to increase penalties or otherwise "get bigger teeth" to penalize abusers.

Motion: Approve the September financial report

Motion by Dir Basili, second by Dir Todd

In favor: unanimous

Motion: Approve the October financial report

Motion by Dir Todd, second by Dir Basili

In favor: unanimous

10. Local Agency Commission of Mendocino County (LAFCO)

GM Koehler did not attend the latest meeting. The paperwork that was handed out in the special meeting outlines the way to proceed if things get past LAFCO.

11. Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (IW&PC)

GM Koehler did not attend their latest meeting. Dir Ricetti did attend, but she is not at the Board meeting.

12. Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District (RRFC)

GM Koehler did attend as did Dir Basili. Dir Basili said that their list of discussion items for the merger is very similar to ours. GM Koehler is rather unhappy with their response in that they pretty much just went off of what GM Koehler had written, not really adding anything of their own. Lee [Howard] and Judy were not at the meeting, for what it's worth. RRFC proposed a joint meeting on either November 5th or 6th.

Dir Pool adds another talking point which is an open discussion about getting a permanent contract. GM Koehler adds another would be talking more about the JPA. So far, it has been made fairly clear to us that doing the annexation and the JPA together in some way will not happen, but that seems to be the best way to go.

Discussion continues about how an annexation would affect RVCWD customers. Ag water would be in a more perilous situation since it comes second to drinking water. Dir Todd points out that the system RRFC uses right now where you pay for a certain amount of water whether or not you use it is essentially buying insurance for the year. RRFC sells Ag water to its customers much, much more cheaply than RVCWD does, so it may be better to work out a system where the grape growers buy directly from RRFC if they annex RVCWD. Also, as Mrs. Barra points out, RRFC can legally only store about 1,400 af of Ag water and would that be enough to supply all the growers that it currently sells to if all the RVCWD Ag customers switched to buying it directly. With the JPA, it wouldn't change RRFC's area of use for Ag and it would provide them with a very reliable customer base. So the JPA seems to be a win-win situation. All the districts would stay under their current operating sections and wouldn't need more water than RRFC could provide.

Another thing that came out of that meeting was that they voted to start video recording their meetings and Judy has stated before that she will not allow herself to be photographed.

GM Koehler asks if they want to proceed with a meeting in November and Dir Basili says that it seems like nothing has moved forward with RRFC and that they aren't putting anything forward from themselves. Dir Todd wants to get together with them to start asking more questions and getting answers instead of just getting pushed aside. A plan is

made for a dual board meeting in about a week, tentatively planned for November 6th. More discussion ensues about how the new rate system may work.

Again, RRFC does not want to be responsible for RVCWD's debt. If, for some reason, RVCWD was annexed and then locked the door to the plant and walked away, RRFC would be responsible for that debt. Also, in case of the annexation, Redwood Valley would get precedence over contracts with RRFC since they are part of RRFC. So then it doesn't make sense that Redwood Valley would have a contract, since aren't they the same entity now? It doesn't make sense.

It also came out in the meeting that RRFC does not own the water, the tax base that paid for it owns the water and RRFC is just there to administer the water, not to throw their weight around. Mrs. Barra asks if RRFC is like the Mendocino County Water Agency, GM Koehler explains that before 1959 there was a larger regulatory agency that had jurisdiction over all of Mendocino County. It morphed into MCWA and then there was a spinoff known as RRFC which was only responsible for water past the Coyote Valley Dam. There is an idea out there that the Board of Supervisors could dissolve RRFC and take control of the 8,000 af, although there's no reason for them to want to.

13. Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)
Nothing.

14. Other Meetings

GM Koehler went to a meeting of the Eel/Russian River where they talked about the State wanting to go after trespass grows. They're also expecting mussels to invade Clear Lake next and any day now. There are too many points of entry and boats coming in from all over the state. Operation of Lake Mendocino is also under scrutiny. Dir Todd states that the solution to all our problems is how that lake is being handled.

The Upper Russian River Managers meeting also happened with the goal of having PG&E to re-think their work on the tunnel from the Eel to Potter Valley. PG&E is under no obligation to listen, but it's worth trying.

15. State Water Resources Control Board

We had an inspection by the State Water Board last week. Her visit was to see how we handled the curtailment order even though we get our orders from RRFC. So GM Koehler took her everywhere in our system. She also wanted to see the annexations of RVCWD.

Items 16-18

Nothing to discuss at this time.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Dir Todd, second by Dir Basili

In favor: unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Minutes submitted by Jeanette Wise

Approved: Board of Directors
Date Approved: _____
Signed: _____