

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

Board of Directors - Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 20, 2014

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

Call To Order: 6:00 P.M.

1. Roll Call

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

2. Hearing of Comments or Questions from the Attending Public

An audience member wants to speak about her having a recent water leak. She is informed that water leaks are an agenda item. GM Koehler recommends moving the leaks up in the agenda.

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

None.

4. Acceptance of Agenda

Motion: Accept the agenda with customer complaints moved forward

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: Unanimous

Jump to Agenda Item 8.a. Customer Leak

Note: names have been omitted

There are two customers with a problem and while only one is present, they both have the same problem. These problems arise when we have a customer who is normally very frugal and has a leak resulting in a high water charge as well as the drought penalties associated with the overage. The customer states her case that they have been very careful with water usage and when they discovered the leak, they fixed it within hours. She continues that the penalty is there to punish abuse or carelessness and shouldn't apply to these cases. Dir Ricetti refers the question to GM Koehler who says he told them what he's said to previous cases such as this where the extra water pushes them into the higher

usage tier, but that hasn't touched the penalty. Dir Pool thinks he remembers them talking about not invoking the penalty for the first month or something along those lines (he'd have to refer to the old meeting minutes). The customer says she still thinks the penalty shouldn't apply to her situation. She has no problem paying the usage fee. Her last bill was about \$31 and this one is about \$2,000. GM Koehler says that the issue is if the Board wants to change the policy and if so, how to work with people who have already gone through this and had to pay the drought penalty. The Board debates who to reimburse and fine, and how to tell the difference. It will probably depend on previous month's usage to determine if the overage is from carelessness/disregard or just an unexpected leak. Dir Ricetti says this is a tough problem because it is the job of the customer to keep an eye on their plumbing and watch their meter during the month to see if they have a problem. There's also the problem of figuring out a way to reimburse those people who have paid overage charges in the near past. Dir Pool asks GM Koehler how difficult it would be to sort this all out, including the people who have already paid. He says it would probably take a couple of days. Dir Ricetti asks how they would know who to reimburse. GM Koehler says they would just have to look for people who have normally low usage and then have a sudden, large increase. GM Koehler suggests forming a committee to look into how this process would work and how much to reduce the bills by, along with a head count of customers affected and a monetary amount to reimburse.

An audience member speaks up that some other water districts have a Leak Policy wherein the customer shows proof (bill from a plumber, picture, etc) of a leak and it waives penalties: GM Koehler says that we do have such a policy, but this year, with the water restrictions, the penalty has been instituted. GM Koehler restates his committee idea and the Board agrees, with Dir. Ricetti and Todd comprising the committee with the help of Paula and Liz from RVCWD. Dir Pool states that in the current penalty cases, the penalty amount will be on hold until the Board reaches a decision.

5. Approval of Consent Calendar

Dir Ricetti has a question about the checks to Luhdorff & Scalmanini, will they be reimbursed later? GM Koehler answers to the affirmative.

Motion: Approve the consent calendar

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Todd

In favor: Unanimous

6. Approval of Minutes as Presented

Motion: Accept the October 7th Special Meeting minutes.

Motion by Dir Basili, second by Dir Todd

In favor: unanimous

Motion: Accept the October 16th Regular Meeting minutes.

Motion by Dir Todd, second by Dir Basili

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. Customer Requests for Bill Reductions
Already dealt with.

b. District Operations

District employee Wise has left RVCWD for a job with the County Department of Transportation. GM Koehler says he was very happy with Wise as an employee and that the County should be a good fit for him. He gave plenty of warning about the job change and was courteous about it. We wish him well. Dir Pool asks if GM Koehler has been looking at replacements. GM Koehler says that he has the same problem now as he did before where good, qualified operators are hard to find. Fortunately, this is the slow time of year or we'd really be scrambling. Dir Ricetti asks about advertising methods and GM Koehler says he advertises in many places, but the money isn't high and people from cities don't stay long in the country. His wife will continue to type the minutes.

Dir Todd asks who the mini-excavator being used on West Road belonged to (Valley Paving) and GM Koehler says they were over there for some time but they didn't have to pay for the three-day weekend. They used a boring machine to go under the road for the Ag repairs.

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. Election Costs

GM Koehler contacted Katrina and she said she wouldn't be able to get back to him until mid-January or so.

e. PG&E Penstock Repair

PG&E says they have no choice and have been suffering a lot of negative comments but it is the best time to do it. Sonoma County Water Agency also complained about it. The State Water Board has told PG&E that they will have to make up for some of the lost water later. They have 60 days to make a plan, but no dates have been set. Dir Todd points out that with the way the Army Corps manages Lake Mendocino, it may be better to have the water released later in 2015 than normal. Seeing as how this repair HAS to be done, this may be the best way to do it.

f. Humboldt Bay Water Proposal

This was brought up about a year ago when it was first proposed. The best price that they can offer is \$2,000/acre-foot for untreated water but that's only with an installation of a 48-inch water line and pump 40 million gallons per day through it. But since there isn't near that demand, their other idea was to use the river to convey the water, but environmentalists put a stop to that very quickly.

The consensus is that the cons greatly outweigh the pros and it's much too expensive in any case.

g. Bureau of Reclamations Loan

Let's not go knocking on their door until we know exactly what we want.

h. Clearwell Repair

We are not happy with Utility Services. There are a few options here including holding them to the original estimate (with legal action if needed), not working with him at all, or paying the new estimated cost. Options for another crew to do this are limited. Maybe there is a middle ground that can be reached where we pay more, but less than the work would normally be done for. The field crew did say they were doing a job in Willits, so GM Koehler is trying to chase down who they did work for and what those people thought of this company.

i. LAFCO Election

The Board has the ballot form. There is some talk with GM Koehler explaining a new policy where that Board is trying to stagger the times when the Board members are elected to prevent a complete Board turn-over every four years. This does not need to be voted on tonight.

Various candidates are discussed as to their abilities and who recommends them. Dir Ricetti nominates Teresa McNerlin for the Regular Member Seat 4-Year Term. Dir Todd nominates Guinness. The Board does a poll where McNerlin wins with votes from Ricetti, Pool, and Todd; while Basili votes for Guinness.

The 2-Year term: Dir Ricetti nominates Kenneth Franklin and Dir Todd nominates Richard. Richard wins the poll with votes from Pool, Basili, and Todd.

Dir Ricetti votes for Tony Orth but Angela wins with votes from Pool, Basili, and Todd.

They all vote for the staggered-term proposal. GM Koehler says they need to make it formal, so:

Motion: Vote for Teresa McNerlin, Richard Shoemaker, Angela Silver, and Yes to the Staggered Term Proposal

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: unanimous

j. Climate Ready Water Utilities, EPA

Dir Pool says that they should continue to participate in it since there aren't any downsides and would keep them eligible for grants. GM Koehler says that RVCWD has been asked to do some data entry to give information about impacts of climate change. It will benefit the District in that they can attach it to grant applications to show how the climate is hurting Redwood Valley. Also, GM Koehler has asked both Tribes that RVCWD supplies water to to participate as well as Sonoma County Water Agency.

Motion: Participate in the Climate Ready Water Utilities study

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: unanimous

k. Draft Well Study

The final report has been written. Basically, there's water down there, but it's locked in clay (like a mush). They recommend to abandon that layer (around 400') and go for a layer at 190-200' where they optimistically guess at 150 GPM. That's the same depth as the Calpella well where they only get 30 GPM and even that has impacted the neighbors' wells. GM Koehler recommends not proceeding with a production well at that site, asks Dir Todd to talk to the owners to talk with the County to turn the well into a permanent monitoring well at which point RVCWD steps away from it. Dir Pool asks if the casing can be cut down if it becomes a monitoring well. He feels it's an eyesore and Dir Todd says that they're planning on putting up a fence and will do something about it.

It is questioned why they can't just put a submersible pump down this well and pump it for a week and see what happens. This is about as dry as things will ever get, so whatever you can get out of this well will be the minimum you'd ever get. That idea meets with agreement. GM Koehler will talk with the engineers to see what the options are with this well.

Another thing is whether or not to drill another well over by Barra. Considering the springs along Forsythe, there could be different hydrogeology on that side of the valley. But the geology doesn't look promising, and Dir Ricetti doesn't want to waste money.

l. Intertie

The intertie was tested today. Getting water from the South works really well, but it isn't very automated right now, but that's a minor thing. The intertie from Calpella to Millview is also upgraded. With all this work, the balance is about \$30,000 so we may go in the hole a bit, but grant money is on the way. The property has officially been transferred. The biggest problem is that there's no drain in the floor but Ernie [Wipff] will core out a hole for drainage. Also, the place is a wasp condo.



m. School Way Bridge

They're done for the year. Unfortunately, there's a leak on the west side under all the dirt piles and plastic. It's isolated so it's not leaking right now. Dir Pool asks if we can go out and fix it, but it's too hard to get permission this time of year. It's a 10-inch pipe, 4 feet deep, about 20 feet from the creek and if it does keep leaking it could take that part of the hillside into the creek. The best thing to do will be to wait until the construction season opens next year and get the County to lean on MCM to get the work done before the job opens again.

n. Dissolution/Annexation

GM Koehler asks Zellman of RRFCD if he read the email from Joy about the annexation. He highly recommends that they read it and have another special meeting just to talk about what's contained in that email. RVCWD and other districts have been working on a JPA, but it is NOT ready for public access yet. Joy's email states that RRFCD will have to answer all the questions brought up at the last special meeting.

GM Koehler guesses that in a few weeks there will be a draft JPA ready for the public and RRFCD will have answered the State's questions at which time the Board will need to decide which route they want to take. Also, how can the District get word out to the residents of the valley about the possible mergers? GM Koehler says the easiest way may be to send out a single flyer to every customer saying "Here's what's going on and if you're interested, go to the RVCWD website periodically for updates." Dir Pool even suggests FaceBook.

Dir Todd asks how RRFCD feels about the JPA. Zellman replies that at first look it seems like a good thing for this valley. But in the bigger picture, it's harder to get one going with government. Also, a JPA may be better in terms of district cooperation, but it still doesn't necessarily give Redwood Valley better access to water, which is a concern to Dir Todd and a reason he favors the Annexation.

o. Local Agency for Groundwater Monitoring

Somebody needs to be monitoring groundwater by 2017. Whether or not the County is/will be doing it is uncertain right now. Zellman says that there are lots of webinars about it. Right now, the program only applies to the Russian River Basin and not the whole County, though that may change.

p. JPA

Already discussed in n.

q. Customer Complaint

A couple of letters have come in about paying for Ag water that they have not received. GM Koehler doesn't understand the complaint since months ago he sent a letter to all Ag customers explaining the situation and why they are still being

charged for Ag water. This customer also didn't show up when there was a hearing for Ag customers. The Board won't change their policy on this.

9. Financial Report

Things look really bad until you take into account that the monies spent on the well will be reimbursed. In addition, there are two charges that are once-a-year expenses. Taking all of that into account, we're only down about \$4,300 this month. There is also an issue with the State losing a reimbursement request.

Motion: Approve the financial report

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Todd

In favor: unanimous

10. Local Agency Commission of Mendocino County (LAFCO)

No attendees.

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

There may be some money available for groundwater management. There has to be a feasibility study before Coyote Dam can be raised and this is a way to get that study done with a minimum of cost (still about \$1.5 million).

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

At the dual board meeting, the Board approved the contract with the consultant preparing the plan for services and there have been some minor revisions but she will be checking in with the customers.

13. Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)

Nothing.

14. Other Meetings

At the Farm Bureau meeting, Devon commented that the farmers on the West Branch (us) are no-shows when it comes to talking about pond construction. Dir Todd says he's doing it. He's come to realize that the frost water regulations are going shut off water access from the river. They start talking about possible legal action against pond owners.

Willow met and talked about the JPA in a closed session.

The ad-hoc are still looking at Prop 1 funding for the Humboldt Bay project.

Prop 84 funding will be Spring 2015 for the next round.

Items 16-18

Nothing to discuss at this time.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Minutes submitted by Jeanette Wise

Approved:

Board of Directors

Date Approved:

18 DEC 14

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Ricetti', written over a horizontal line.