

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

Board of Directors - Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 16, 2015

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

Call To Order: 7:00 P.M.

1. Roll Call

Present:

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

2. Hearing of Comments or Questions from the Attending Public for Items Not on the Agenda

No public in attendance.

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

None.

4. Acceptance of Agenda

Motion: Accept the agenda

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

5. Approval of Consent Calendar

The Board asked about the charges for the door handles on two of the work trucks. GM Koehler has nothing to add. Then they asked about the charges for Calpella wheeling the water and GM Koehler says that it is and that it's a 'real bargain'. He also says that they're going to be getting a bill from Millview and that it will be about \$300 per acre foot opposed to over \$600 per acre foot to buy it and treat it.

Motion: Approve the consent calendar

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: Unanimous

6. Approval of Minutes as Presented

Dir Pool points out a few more typos. They are noted and will be corrected. Dir Ricetti asked about the estimate of 250,000 cubic yards of soil that could slough off the bluff behind the Coyote Valley Rancheria. GM Koehler says that it's a conservative estimate that could be as high as 1,000,000 cubic yards with the potential to dam the river and flood the vineyard to the east and block East Road. Unfortunately, the Rancheria doesn't have the money to stabilize the slope and could lose about half of their housing. The Army Corps only offered to help move their houses. A tentative idea is to auger in earth anchors to stabilize the slope. But it'll be \$80,000 to even get a study done that can be presented for serious aid. GM Koehler has tried to convince agencies that it will greatly affect the fish and water quality for agencies downstream.

Motion: Accept the Regular Meeting minutes as corrected.

Motion by Dir Todd, second by Dir Basili

In favor: Unanimous

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

Everything will be included in the Managers Report.

8. General Manager's Report and Action Items

a. Groundwater Sustainability Act

Nobody is really stepping up yet, as discussed at the last meeting. Carre Brown is looking for each district to say what they'd like to do to be involved. Dir Todd says it makes the most sense for the County to step up and take charge. GM Koehler agrees and says if they don't want to do the actual field work, to contract with someone like the RCD, and that's about as neutral as you can get. RRFC still won't declare themselves. There's about a half-dozen wells being monitored in Redwood Valley and RVCWD could volunteer and ask to be trained to do it the way they want.

Motion: RVCWD takes the position that Mendocino County should be responsible

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: unanimous

GM Koehler clarifies that they can hire whomever they would like to do the monitoring.

b. District Operations

In turning on the Ag meters, they've found some that need replacement and that's what the field crew is doing right now. They've also received a lot of new meters and are replacing several that are hard to read or not very accurate. They're

Badger meters that are easily integrated to existing systems. GM Koehler said they're already seeing a difference in usage now that there are meters that will register the lower flows that the old meters missed.

c. Watershed Sanitary Survey

These are done every five years and that information is shared with the City and is in proportion to the water usage. So last time, we paid \$9,000 for a \$35,000 study. The Survey is a report on potential polluting activities like spilled hazardous wastes. The best idea is to join with the other water districts in this area to keep the price down.

Motion: Join the other water districts in the area for a Joint WSS

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: unanimous

d. Ag Water Reimbursements

Staff has recommended that instead of trying to keep track of who has what credit and when they've used it, just reimburse all the Ag users who paid for what they hadn't received and start from zero.

Motion: Adjust to just charging meter fees in times of lack of water and reset the credit status

Motion by Dir Basili, second by Dir Todd

In favor: unanimous

e. Tank Repair

The latest price is \$90,000 for not even the whole job. Superior Pump hasn't responded to anything. He also contacted Spiess who gave him a more specific answer. They think the problem is from inadequate ventilation in the tank. They will do a complete repair and fix the structural deficiencies for about \$120K and to reapply the enamel on the tank and upgrade the anti-climb device will about a little over \$200K. The combined price is about \$205K since they wouldn't have to charge twice for a mobilization/demobilization cost. The life expectancy of a welded-steel tank is 100 years (with maintenance) and this one was built in 1978. Also, a new tank is about \$1 per gallon; \$500,000 in this case.

Motion: Approve complete tank repair with Spiess

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: unanimous

f. Filter pumps

PG&E has a sub-contractor that comes out and does pump-efficiency tests. Fortunately, the lake pumps are about as efficient as they can get. There are four filter pumps, two of which are never used (the two smaller ones). Unfortunately, they only had the company test the two 60 HP pumps instead of the 40 HP. If we're looking for some sort of rebate, we should report the worse of the pumps

and the reason we stopped using the 40 HP is that they're so inefficient. Dir Pool points out that here at the plant we're on solar power and therefore probably not eligible for an energy saving rebate. GM Koehler agrees and says that he will check into the potential for a rebate before asking for action by the Board.

g. School Way Bridge

Work is starting on the bridge again soon. There are two meters that need to be moved by RVCWD on the south side of the bridge. As they begin to move the main water line, invoices will start coming in and it's going to cost about \$400,000. It'll hurt the bank account, but...

h. Intertie Grant

...there is reimbursement coming in from the intertie and the monitoring well. The intertie money is almost here as the paperwork has been sent in yet again and they're running out of things to find wrong with it.

i. Mini Excavator

We have spent \$22,000 in the past two years on excavator rentals; it's time to buy one. The budget is about \$50,000 but could go up to about \$80,000 for a new tractor and trailer and much less for one with 1,000 hours on it. Some talk ensues about various brand attributes. GM Koehler says that for small municipalities, a dealer would do something called a 'municipal lease' which ends with a change in ownership. Dir Ricetti asks if the JPA would end up owning it. It would be basically that each district in the JPA would 'rent' it from the JPA, paying for usage. For a used excavator and a new trailer, it would cost about \$1,200 - 1,500 per month on a five-year lease. At current usage rates, a new unit would last a very long time. And GM Koehler vouches for Steven's skill as an operator.

The Board wants him to continue his research of new machines vs buying a used one.

j. Operations Contract

Willow, Calpella/Millview, and Redwood Valley will all split the \$6,000 fee to get this process going. Even before this gets approved, GM Koehler is going to get some Millview/Willow employees over to the plant to practice running it.

k. Dissolution/Annexation

Last month the Board reached a consensus that this process will not move ahead until RRFC addresses the permit issue. After some back-and-forth at their meeting, RRFC agreed to work on the permit issue. So they would like Richard Shoemaker from their board to get together with Dir Pool to work the permit process.

Millview has a long-standing request for more water that they put in before their Masonite well was online. So if they do decide to take that water, Redwood Valley could be cut off again. But, if they do take the water, it would be hard for

them to put it to beneficial use, opening the door for a water audit that would most likely pass the water back to RVCWD. It's complicated and there are a lot of options. They will claim that having water under contract is beneficial use, but they've been busted before by Sonoma County Water Agency for bad accounting by not including other water rights.

There's a lot of other discussion about who's doing what and what problems there are. It's all been brought up at previous meetings and it all comes down to that the D/A process is on hold until the permit issue is worked out.

k. Drought

We're all seeing how the Governor can call for mandatory reductions, but how do you enforce it? How do you make sure some people only water two days a week? GM Koehler and Dir Pool have a discussion that highlights how poorly the rules are written and who has to reduce usage and by what amount. It changes as the months go by. Larger districts may have to limit days of use, but a small district like this can make a plan on how they can get the same reduction by other means. Ukiah did something where they allowed people with an even numbered address to water on one day and odd numbered addresses on the next day. In this valley, it would be easiest to split it for people on the east side and west sides of the Russian River. GM Koehler says that method still leaves too many holes since there are too many people out at the ends of the system who would never be caught breaking the rules. He says that we'll have to do the same thing as last year (if it gets to that point) where you get charged for overuse.

m. Customer Mailer

GM Koehler will send out a mailer to all the customers about what the State is starting to regulate and to the Ag customers about the potential for them to be cut off again. Last year, RRFC used the State's instructions to lower withdrawal from the river by 25% to cut off Redwood Valley Ag water (leaving 2,000 acre-feet in the Lake pointed out by Dir Ricetti).

Another thing is that people need to check their meters regularly to make sure they don't have a leak.

n. Place of Use

Paul got back to GM Koehler confirming that they should leave the reservations alone and not try to push either way.

o. New well

They have estimated the cost of a new domestic water supply at \$73,000 and a new pump station at \$60,000. It'd be a different type of casing, well screen, and other things pushing the price higher. They all agree that it seems like too much money and other bidders should be considered. The big problem here is that some water agencies that 'got' money in first round of grants and spent a lot on upgrades still have not been reimbursed by the State and are in danger of defaulting on

bank loans. RVCWD went about the first well with the knowledge the money may not come through and it will survive if the money never comes. But doing another well won't be a safe bet. Dir Ricetti seems to remember them quoting about \$25,000 for the well. It'll be smaller, too, as they only are looking for about 100 gallons per minute.

p. Election

Pretty much all of the Board is up for election plus the vacancy. Paula has put together a packet for each of them.

9. Financial Report

There are some surprises about the total amount of fee income since the system was first implemented by the previous general manager. GM Koehler says that the only way to get a lot of people to reduce water usage is via the pocketbook. There was also a problem with the computer system looking at a tank level instead of the reservoir level, so it would automatically turn the pump on and overflow the reservoir. They got it worked out, but there was a larger charge from the lake pumps from trying to fill the wrong thing.

Motion: Approve the Financial Report

Motion by Dir Todd, second by Dir Basili

In favor: Unanimous

10. LAFCO

Nothing has been put forward on the plan for services. Sean White finally got together an invoice, so that's been paid by RVCWD.

11. Mendocino County IW&PC

Looks like nobody can apply for the grant for the Quagga Mussels Program because nobody is the owner. So there's nothing to try to get rid of those invasive clams. PG&E is going to close down the tunnel next year for more repairs.

IWPC is still pushing for raising the dam at Lake Mendocino. It's the most logical thing and is pretty much all ready to go.

12. Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control

Already discussed.

13. Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)

Sonoma will file an emergency change petition to reduce the outflow from Lake Mendocino.

14-18

Nothing to report.

Side note: GM Koehler will be out for medical reasons starting the last week of May for 4-5 weeks. He will keep the Board updated as much as possible but is expected to miss the whole month of June.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Jeanette Wise

Approved:	<u>Board of Directors</u>
Date Approved:	_____
Signed:	_____

4 hours