

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

Board of Directors - Special Meeting  
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Directors Present: Granville Pool, Pamela Ricetti, Ken Todd, Jeff Basili  
Directors Absent: None  
Staff Present: General Manager Bill Koehler  
Others Present: No attending public

Call To Order: 4:00 P.M.

1. Roll Call

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

2. Hearing of Comments or Questions From the Attending Public

None

3. Acceptance of Agenda

**Motion: Accept the agenda**

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

4. Approval of Minutes for November 6, 2014

A few minor changes are noted.

**Motion: Accept the minutes with the changes**

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

5. Discussion Items

A) Operations Contract

On Monday night, Willow approved for Dave Redding and GM Koehler to pursue an agreement where RVCWD would operate with Willow, Millview, and other small districts under the management of Dave Redding. This kind of agreement has been

discussed before but has always been hypothetical since there was talk of the dissolution/annexation with RRFC. Essentially, Willow would operate RVCWD, as far as infrastructure and operations. The current RVCWD Board would stay seated and continue to set policies; so all that would change is who decides day-to-day operations. This decision is driven by the coming retirement of GM Koehler and Tim Bradley. Dir Ricetti asks what the added cost would be to RVCWD. GM Koehler says that he doesn't know. It probably won't save any money in the short-term but may in the long-term. Dir Pool brings up that since RVCWD just lost one of their field employees, it will save the necessity of hiring another one.

Right now, there are not enough qualified operators for RVCWD and getting employees and especially managers to stick around is very difficult. Also, getting together with the other districts will allow for, say, a dedicated meter-reader instead of sending qualified operators out to read meters. Also, the meter-readers would see that life could be better as an operator, motivating them to study and become certified operators. With GM Koehler's impending retirement, either this agreement with Dave Redding is needed or they need to hire a replacement so GM Koehler can train them, and getting managers has always been difficult.

Tonight, GM Koehler is coming to the Board to make sure they will work with a plausible agreement that he and Dave will work up. Obviously, they can't pre-approve such an agreement, but they need to know it will be taken seriously when it's written up. Dir Todd asks how this will affect the annexation. GM Koehler says that in the past, Willow and Millview have taken the position that if RVCWD pursues the annexation, they want nothing to do with RVCWD.

Martha Barra says she sees this as a decision between dealing with RRFC or the other small districts since it seems those two groups disagree. The Board and GM Koehler disagree with her assessment by re-stating that Willow not wanting to deal with RRFC has changed and they are willing to work on an agreement if needed.

Willow and RVCWD are similar in size when referencing domestic customers; but operation is very different and Millview uses groundwater. So there will be a lot of cross-training needed.

Before a motion can be called, Dir Basili asks Paul Zellman from RRFC how he sees the situation and if RRFC will work with RVCWD if it comes under the leadership of Willow. Zellman says that he doesn't see Willow's stance going from "hell no" to "we'll consider it" to any different. But that he does see that RVCWD is trying to separate this service agreement from the JPA, which RRFC has been opposed to. He does see this as one step toward all the water districts in this area coming under one leadership, something that he sees as very important in the long-term.

**Motion: Have GM Koehler and Dave Redding come up with a service agreement**

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: Unanimous

GM Koehler advises that since he will be working with Dave and Tim on this agreement, some things may not get to Board members or be lost in the shuffle, but if the Boards have any issues they would like considered, it should be passed along. Dave Redding has a very good track record with operating under these agreements with Hopland River Estates and a few other districts, so he seems to be a good choice for working with on this.

#### B) JPA Agreement

Willow approved signing the JPA, and part of the process is passing a resolution to enter into the JPA. One of these resolutions needs to come from each District and filed with the State. Willow signed on Monday, Millview signed Tuesday, and then GM Koehler discovered a mistake today in the document. So there was a lot of discussion today with the other districts and they need to sit down and make sure they're all signing the same document. Discussion ensues about what mistakes were made and what items were left out. Dir Todd asks about changes in the pay rates and it comes down to that secure water costs more than surplus water (which is what RVCWD customers have right now). In this JPA, all parties have to agree on policy changes. This prevents one district from "ramming something down the others' throats". There's also a good amount of talk about the State's coming regulations of groundwater use.

The language about how the JPA Board will make decisions receives some talk and it concludes with a decision to add language that requires a representative from every district to attend, with alternates if needed, so that they can require a unanimous vote to pass anything.

Paul Zellman asks about how the funding for the JPA will work. GM Koehler answers that the JPA Board will authorize an action that costs money. That cost will be divided amongst the districts based on amount of diversion. Ag water and domestic water will be treated equally. A budget will be developed yearly with each district estimating their portions, than the budget as a whole will need to be passed unanimously. At the beginning, there will be very few costs - a recording secretary and a few legal fees.

More talk of wording corrections are discussed.

The recommendation from GM Koehler is that the Board approve this JPA document with the changes made; they will meet again to vote when they receive the final draft.

Paul Zellman is asked if this JPA document is a deal-killer for the annexation with RRFCD. He says that he doesn't think so but that's because he doesn't know where this JPA document is going and what exactly they're trying to accomplish with it. There is also a time element here, to get the JPA approved before the new groundwater laws go into affect at the beginning of 2015. Then further changes can be made by amendment.

#### **Motion: Approve the formation of a county water district JPA with a forthcoming revised document**

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: Unanimous

C) Dissolution/Annexation - Annexation Process

GM Koehler wants to set up a committee to look into the permitting process that would be undertaken in the event of a dissolution/annexation. So far, the focus has been on the LAFCO process and this new permit issue needs to be dealt with. Paul Zellman argues that this doesn't need to be done until the dissolution/annexation paperwork has been signed. GM Koehler asks why should they wait? And that the permit issue has to be solved. Paul Zellman says that they'll just figure it out when the time comes. GM Koehler doesn't like this answer and feels that this is a make-or-break issue. If the new water entity formed by d/a cannot get a permit, what's the point of continuing the discussion? And they already have paperwork and questions from the State that need to be answered and there isn't much cooperation from the RRFCD.

The subject turns to costs and they bring up that in order to annex, RVCWD would have to provide a legal description of its area as well as details of all of its assets, both of which are expensive prospects. This also includes all of the legal descriptions for the many easements across private property. GM Koehler wants to get some Board members involved so that they can see the problems with this process. It is agreed that Zellman and Dir Pool are willing to meet.

**Meeting adjourned by President Pool**

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Minutes submitted by Jeanette Wise

Approved: Board of Directors  
Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed: \_\_\_\_\_