

Redwood Valley County Water District
2370 Webb Ranch Road
Redwood Valley, CA 95470
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APPROVED B.O.D. 4/16/15

Board of Directors - Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 19, 2015

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

Call To Order: 6:05 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

A member of the public introduces herself and gives her address as near the School Way Bridge project. She claims that the project has caused numerous, unplanned disruptions to her water service and is asking about a plan to move her meter onto her property only so that she's not responsible for leaks that happen as a result of the construction project. Their use has increased significantly as a result of a leak caused by the construction and she says it took two weeks to even get through to the project manager to say that there was a problem.

GM Koehler says that the leak is on the service side of the meter and is therefore not a problem of RVCWD. They can only install meters in the utility right-of-way, so this meter will be moved to the changed right-of-way that goes with the re-alignment of the road. He was speaking with a County employee yesterday about the leak and suggested that they put in a valve at the property line to identify where the leak is.

The customer continues that she's very concerned about the leak and doesn't know where it is. She's upset that she has to call others trying to work out what's wrong. She wants that meter to be just for her use and subsequently, on her property.

Dir Pool explains that part of taking on a service across multiple properties is dealing with these sorts of issues.

She continues that the waste is what's really the problem. She asks what would happen if the property owner of the intermediate property agreed to let her put a meter on their lot?

Dir Pool says that she could do that, but she's still responsible for whatever water goes through the RVCWD meter in the utility right-of-way. The thing to do would be to find the leak and if it's in the construction area, the construction company needs to deal with the leak and pay for the water loss. But RVCWD cannot take on the liability of replacing the service line from the meter to the house. She is also advised to look into her title deed to see about an easement for her water line.

[Side note: In late March, the construction company found the leak and repaired it.]

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

None.

4. Acceptance of Agenda

GM Koehler asks that they bring Item F forward.

Motion: Accept the agenda with Item 8.f. moved up

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: Unanimous

Mark de Meulenaere: He was contacted by Willow Water District's Dave Redding to help the process of developing service contracts with water districts in the area. His purpose today is to talk about and answer questions about getting all the water districts under a simple, consistent contract for services by Willow, with Calpella as an example. Dir Pool says that they will rely on GM Koehler to develop a contract with Willow. The small water districts in this valley have a lot in common in terms of maintenance and operations, so it makes sense.

Dir Todd asks what the vision for all of this is. GM Koehler says that it's a sharing of equipment and personnel throughout the water districts. They all may be wearing "Willow" shirts, but they'll be maintaining all the systems. As of now, offices may not be integrated, but that's something that's being worked through. Paula may be retiring soon, for one thing. Retirements are different as well as many other procedures that are not easy to change. Right now we're talking about O&M integration.

Motion: Approve development of a scope of work leading to possible operations contract

Motion by Dir Todd, second by Dir Basili

In favor: Unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Calendar

Dir Ricetti asks about the "Fees" on the bottom of page 1. GM Koehler isn't sure what that's from, as it seems very odd. He'll check into it.

Dir Pool asks about a "Body shop" expense. The truck was parked on the side of the road where there was no shoulder and the truck slid into a sign-post when it started up.

There is a general consensus that they need to buy an excavator because of how much they're spending on rentals. GM Koehler agrees that this would be something that would benefit from a service contract with Willow.

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.

Motion: Accept the February 19th Regular Meeting minutes as corrected.

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Todd

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

We are doing pretty well. 100% of the water being pumped from the Lake is going to Ag at this time. The domestic side is being handled by the intertie. As of March 9th, we have diverted 69 acre-feet and about 35 of those were to fill up our pond, which means only about 34 acre-feet has been used for Ag - a relatively mild spring.

In the process of turning on all the Ag meters, leaks and bad valves were repaired and some old valves were replaced. These meters are much more accurate, so there will be some surprised users out there who were getting some water for free. The old 4-inch meters wouldn't move with a flow under 40 gallons per minute, and people knew that.

b. RRFCD

At the March 9th meeting, they had 7200 af under contract. In the past, that would mean the 800 af remaining would be available to RVCWD. Chairman Howard is looking into getting an additional reserve from that amount, which could be construed as a beneficial use of that water. Millview is also looking into getting more water under contract from RRFCD, which means there could be nothing left for RVCWD. GM Koehler reads off the contacted amounts for the past few years and how even though Redwood Valley is using less, RRFCD is "using" more. That 800 af would take care of most of Redwood Valley's frost needs, especially in a light frost season. Also, a light frost season would mean a huge difference between contracted water and used water.

Chair Howard is also looking into trying to work with the stipulated judgment for RVCWD to try and get an idea of what water would be available well in advance of how things are now.

In the past, the arbitrator has been a thing that both parties cannot agree on. Howard is trying to get that process going again.

Dir Todd asks what would happen if a bunch of the growers adjusted their water usage plan after a light frost season. GM Koehler says that would be a great solution. But trying to get growers to give up water would be difficult. The problem with going to arbitration is that the State might decide to take over the river and that would be the worst thing possible. So we hope that some growers give up water but be ready for arbitration. There are 30,000 af more in the Lake this year than this time last year.

GM Koehler will try to keep in touch with them to be ready for their actions. Last year they had a pretty good reason for cutting off Redwood Valley Ag water; this year they have no good reason if they try.

c. Water Availability

The outflows of Lake Mendocino are still coupled with the inflows to Lake Pillsbury. This is part of the changes proposed, but they're still hoping for a wet March. If they were to drop the outflow by 50 cubic feet per second, that would make a huge difference. But that probably wouldn't happen before Labor Day to keep the water high down by Healdsburg and beyond for recreation.

Talk again moves to the stipulated judgment and what constitutes beneficial use.

d. Tank Repair

The tank is in pretty bad shape. The workers have agreed to do the work they said for the price they said, but it's a waste of time and money without doing some other replacement. The latest bid from them is to sandblast the bottom portion of the tank and replace rafter ends and dollar plate. This will be about \$93,000. They may also want to install more vents at the top, since a lack of ventilation may be what caused this in the first place. The decision is to move ahead with the work.

e. EPA Climate Change

There's going to be some challenges figuring out what areas to look at. Lake Mendocino also gets water that comes from the Eel River from Lake County and Mendocino County. Also, rain that falls in Ukiah isn't really significant to flows into Lake Mendocino. Dir Pool thinks that this could help with grant funding.

Right now, Indian tribes are looked upon very favorably by the government. The December storm really eroded the river bank behind Coyote Valley and right now there's a possibility of up to 250,000 cubic yards of soil that could slough off into the river. The Army Corps of Engineers doesn't want anyone working in the river and the best they've done is offer to get some money to help move houses (about half the houses). Another thing, that much soil into the river would block it and send it way out toward East Road.

f. Operations Contract

Already discussed

g. Annexation/Dissolution

Copies of the document as it exists have been provided by GM Koehler and they need to look them over. There's more discussion about licensing, but it comes to that RRFCD would not be able to obtain an new drinking water permit because of supply restrictions. The recommendation from GM Koehler is to stop spending money looking into dissolution until RRFCD can show how they're going to get a water permit for drinking water.

There are other incomplete details in the document that are brought up. Another big thing is that if RVCWD goes through with the dissolution, they have to give up the stipulated judgment giving them right to surplus water.

h. Intertie Repayment

Paula has been doing a great job dealing with the repayment process and it's about 60% reimbursed. The cost to Millview is about \$175 per acre-foot and Calpella is asking about \$60 to wheel the water, and it's costing us about \$70 to pump it up the hill and into our tanks for a grand total of about \$290 per acre foot. Compare that to approximately \$500 to \$600 per acre foot to treat water from the Lake, we're doing pretty well. There are some changes that will be made to the system that will increase the flow by about 20 GPM.

So at this point, GM Koehler is looking at this whole set-up as more of a pilot test than an emergency solution. 4/5 of Millviews Board is also very enthusiastic about this maybe becoming a permanent situation. They're also wanting to talk with the City of Ukiah about working out some sort of groundwater recharge system for the rainy season.

*A present Millview Board Member speaks up to ask to clarify an earlier comment. He clarifies that it was unanimous vote to have their GM look into the availability of extra water, not to try to get said water.

* This was stated later in the minutes.

i. IRWMP Grant

This is the monitoring well and some other bits and pieces. GM Koehler will be meeting with Jarod from the City on Monday to talk about it. Nobody has received any money yet.

j. Well Proposal

Still nothing from the engineers.

k. Fire Service

There has been a new request for domestic fire service. This is not in violation of the moratorium since there is no water flowing except in emergencies. Because of the new building code, this will be an issue more in the future.

They decide that they will continue with the current stand-by fee schedule and give the connection to whomever needs it. Also, it will cost the District nothing to have one of these installed.

A present Millview board member speaks up to ask to clarify an earlier comment. He clarifies that it was a unanimous vote to have their GM look into the availability of extra water, not to try to get said water.

I. Place of Use

Nothing new has come from Paul, the lawyer. GM Koehler thinks that they should drop this issue and keep things the way they are. It could get worse more easily than get better.

9. Financial Report

Money is being saved by not running the pumps, but PG&E charges about \$150/day for stand-by power. The School Way Bridge project is going to be expensive, too.

Motion: Approve the Financial Report

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: Unanimous

10. LAFCO

Nothing to comment on.

11. Mendocino County IW&PC

Carre did the meeting because Janet wasn't there. They want to move ahead with the feasibility but can't match funds yet. There is no snow pack above Lake Pillsbury and the rate through the PG&E tunnel may change soon, possibly for the better, and the construction will continue next year.

12. Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control

Already discussed.

13. Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)

Some talk about procedures and the Brown Act.

14. Other Meetings

Items 16-18

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Basili, second by Dir Todd

In favor: Unanimous

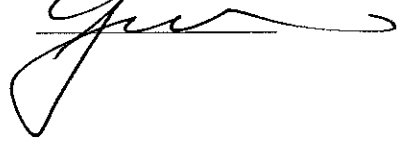
Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Minutes submitted by Jeanette Wise

Approved:
Date Approved:
Signed:

Board of Directors

22 APR 15

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