

REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
2370 Webb Ranch Road  
Redwood Valley CA 95470  
(707) 485-0679

MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting  
November 29, 2012

Directors Present: Donald E. Butow, Jeanette Hallman, Granville Pool, Pamela Ricetti, Jack Spilman  
Directors Absent: None  
Staff Present: General Manager Bill Koehler  
Recording Secretary: Linda Groth  
Others Present: Mike Cordell

CALL TO ORDER: 7:03 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL.

Pamela Ricetti, Director  
Donald Butow, Board Vice-President  
Jeanette Hallman, Director  
Jack Spilman, Director  
Granville Pool, Board President

2. HEARING OF COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FROM THE ATTENDING PUBLIC.

Member of the public, Mike Cordell introduced himself as a 7-year resident of Redwood Valley and this is his first time attending a District Board Meeting. He hopes to be able to attend the Meetings and be helpful as a part of the public to offer his input. President Pool and the other Directors expressed encouragement for him to continue attending the Meetings and offering his input.

3. CONSIDER HEARING OF URGENT ITEMS RECEIVED SINCE THE AGENDA WAS POSTED.

Nothing.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA.

**MOTION: Accept the Agenda as presented.**  
Hallman/Ricetti Discussion CARRIED  
AYES: Hallman, Ricetti, Butow, Spilman, Pool

NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR.

- a. Financial Statement.
- b.-1. Bills Paid since those approved at last Meeting.
- b.-2. Bills Paid as approved at previous Meeting.
- c. Bills Payable.
- d. District Activity.

The Consent Calendar was reviewed.

**MOTION: Approve the Consent Calendar as presented.**

Butow/Spilman Discussion CARRIED  
AYES: Butow, Spilman, Hallman, Ricetti, Pool  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

The Draft Minutes of October 18, 2012 were reviewed.

**MOTION: Accept the Minutes of October 18, 2012 as presented.**

Hallman/Butow Discussion CARRIED  
AYES: Hallman, Butow, Ricetti, Spilman, Pool  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

7. DIRECTOR AND STAFF REPORTS AND DISCUSSION OF NON-ACTION TOPICS.

- a. Personnel Committee Report.  
Nothing.
- b. Ad Hoc Consolidation Committee Report.  
No communications received by RVCWD; nothing to report.
- c. Discussion of Rates.  
Nothing.

Other: GM Koehler remarked about a news article in the Ukiah Daily Journal which reported the City of Ukiah paid a consulting firm for calculating their Cap Fee. This is a reminder that if RVCWD receives a glimmer of hope in getting the moratorium lifted, the District will also need to hire a professional consulting firm for calculating a Cap Fee.

President Pool stated that Manager Sean White, Flood Control District, sent out an email today with graphs showing that if the area prediction of rainfall materializes, we should expect flooding at Hopland.

President Pool asked GM Koehler what happens to our water supply if the District experiences a prolonged power outage. GM Koehler responded that we do not have backup power at the lake, but by the same token if the power outage happens in conjunction with rainfall, and most likely no demand of water by ag customers and only indoor water needs by domestic customers, we have 68-acre-feet of storage at any given time as our buffer. This would provide a minimum of 30-days of domestic water supply in the event of a power outage. We have solar power in addition to our water treatment plant generator and we also have generators at two boosters out on Tomki Road.

## 8. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT.

### 8-a. District Operations.

The District is operating well with no problems to report.

### 8-b). CPA.

Robert Johnson, CPA, has notified the District he will accept the invitation to serve the District. He will be doing an intensive 3-day review in the office in mid-December.

### 8-c). Backflow Device Inspector.

There were three applications received from State Certified Testers and although the pricing was slightly different, there was not enough difference to justify changing contractors at this time.

Also, most of our customers have installed double-check-valves for the State of California Backflow Prevention Program requirement. However the State has changed their requirement to the installation of reduced-pressure-devices. One of the advantages of the double-check-valve is that it is installed in-ground but it is not as fail safe as the rp devices which are installed above ground. Even though the double-check-valves are 'grandfathered in' by the State, there will be a time in the future that the District will have to convert to rp devices.

### 8-d). West Branch Mitigation.

Work has begun on bank stabilization, on the West Branch Russian River, and the schedule stretches over two years. The 'signage' for the project lists the RCD, State Fish and Game, and the Water Board; the District has been invited to have the RVCWD name also listed. The Directors agreed that because the District was assessed a \$64,000 mitigation fee, after the insurance company had settled the claim, the RVCWD should certainly be included on the signage.

### 8-e). School Way Bridge Project.

We have not yet received the MOA from the County however the project has been put off for another year, so there isn't an urgency at this time. We will continue to receive fees from time to time from Rau Engineering regarding the Change Order.

### 8-f). Care Unit.

GM Koehler has signed a Will-Serve letter to the County for one of the care units that is in the final stages of completion. The Will-Serve letter states the condition that the County Administrative Permit must be current and complete.

GM Koehler has asked the County to investigate the status of all the Care Units in Redwood Valley.

At this point, Director Hallman requested that the Board refer back to Item #a of this General Manager's Report and the Board agreed.

a) District Operations. Continued.

Director Hallman wondered how the operations were handled during GM Koehler's vacation period. GM Koehler reported on some repairs that were required and while understanding some of the staff responsibilities have changed, and acknowledging the learning curve, he is pleased with the outcome.

Director Spilman expressed concern about avoiding accidents that are much more likely to occur with untrained and/or inexperienced operators and he suggests the District hire Wipf Construction for jobs requiring heavy equipment. Wipf Construction provides the heavy equipment along with trained and experienced operators.

After a round of discussion including insightful questions from member of public Mike Cordell, President Pool with Board consensus supports the importance of hiring a trained and experienced outside contractor for operating heavy equipment on District projects. GM Koehler will follow-up.

Director Hallman asked if the Grade II Operator has plans to study for the Grade III Operator level. GM Koehler said it appears not, as that would require a semester of college study and Grade III is intense in studies of disinfection.

Director Ricetti expressed disappointment in the goals and level of commitment of those employees. GM Koehler asked that nothing change until results of a Grade 1 test. He further reminded the Board that if the District wants an experienced Superintendent or Lead, the Personnel Committee must meet because the District does not offer enough to attract an experienced Operator.

ACTION ITEM 1. Appointment of Director.

GM Koehler reported that the District did receive one response to its postings for volunteers to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors with one more year to serve on this term before reelection. Former Director Hal Voegel delivered a packet today and spoke with GM Koehler. He is offering to serve on the Board for the one-year remainder of the term however if there is another interested party, he will step down. At election time, if there is no interest from another party, he would be willing to continue in office.

Director Butow said Hal did speak with him, and Hal concluded that he would be willing be of help to the District if there were no applicants yet.

The Board of Director's is deeply appreciative of former Director Voegel's offer and goodwill. The goodwill is mutual.

The Board also appreciates that Mr. Voegel continues to attend as a citizen on a committee and offering his contributions to the Inland Water & Power Commission monthly meetings.

At the present time the Board decided the matter will be postponed at least to the December Meeting, but noting that the 60-day open timeframe for appointment established by Government Code Section #1780 could extend the deadline to February 1, 2013.

Replacements for Committee's and Other Meetings attended by Director Butow were discussed.

Inland Water & Power Commission: Commissioner-Pam Ricetti; Temp Alternate-Granville Pool Ad Hoc Committee re Water Rights (Neary): Granville Pool will continue. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Attendee will be appointed at a later date.  
RRFC&WCID (Flood Control Dist) attendance: Jack Spilman. 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate-Hallman, & 2<sup>nd</sup>-Pool

GM Koehler requested a reopening of Item 8.d. and the Board agreed.

8-d). West Branch Mitigation. Continued.

At last Board Meeting, the \$643.00 payment for a billing from Fish and Game was held until GM Koehler could obtain details for the charge. He has now received the details with timesheets showing work during September and October, 2011, and staff concluding that this work is done. We're just now, a year later, receiving this billing. A letter from the Supervisor states, There is no more work being done on this incident; this is it.

The Board said to go ahead and pay the invoice.

GM Koehler then mentioned that we will receive a bill from Rau Engineering pertaining to the Regional Board.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT.

After a review of the Financial Report for November, 2012, a Motion was made.

**MOTION: Accept the Financial Report as presented.**

Ricetti/Butow Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Ricetti, Butow, Hallman, Spilman, Pool

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

10. LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION OF MENDOCINO COUNTY – LAFCO.

GM Koehler reported the Municipal Service Revue has been released and he has commented on some minor factual errors in the MSR that don't really have significant importance. He has until late December to complete the District's full response. There will be no problems with compliance.

11. M. C. INLAND WATER & POWER COMMISSION.

Director Butow reported:

The thrust of the meeting was the 'white paper' response to Friends of the Eel River. In that regard, they are moving forward and expanding by working with Fish Friendly Farming.

Evidently there was a Russian River Symposium that was supposed to happen with the Russian River agencies, however Mendocino was left out.

The City of Ukiah Recycled Water Master Plan will meet December 19<sup>th</sup> at the City Council Office. Director Butow handed the packet to GM Koehler. GM Koehler informed the Board that the first three phases of the Plan have nothing to do with Redwood. Dir. Butow feels that finally people are moving forward with attitudes to use gray water. GM Koehler added, It impacts RV indirectly, for instance, if the vineyards immediately around the wastewater treatment plant use that, it will free up more of Flood Control's water.

Regarding the costs of the Coyote Dam-Raising Feasibility Study, the Corps has decided that the IW&PC can get dollar value credit for the in-kind work that has been done over the years. Candace is researching all of the historical IW&PC records to bring a defensible value to the table. Right now the Corps of Engineers wants \$92,000 as the IW&PC share of expenses to date on the Feasibility Study.

Director Butow said that looking back over his years serving on the Commission, he can report something positive: Because of the convoluted nature of the way the COE works, they were bringing some data to the occasional meetings they attended, but John Groth and I kept asking them why they were doing these studies, (economic impact, etc., etc.) without first doing the seismic studies to know if the dam is earthquake safe. Well, finally, they actually did some very thorough seismic studies and the findings are that the dam is very safe for an earth-filled dam. They also came up with a plan for a warning system and they plan to install alarms downstream within the coming year, to warn people that a flood is anticipated.

In regards to still protecting the Eel River Diversion, yes, the IW&PC is still very committed. The powerful group Friends of the Eel River are putting out through various media, their spin on why the Diversion should be stopped. The one thing they never address is the devastating impact that would have on Potter Valley, Lake Mendocino and all points south including the Russian River, Sonoma and Marin Counties, etc. There is also a very strong group within the fish and game community, NMFS, saying that dams are bad, you've got to get rid of the dams; totally ignoring any impact on the communities.

Since this was Director Butow's last attendance as an IW&PC Commissioner because of his Retirement, he was thanked for his 15 years of service and presented with a Letter of Appreciation. There was also a delicious homemade berry cobbler from Janet Pauli and everybody enjoyed sharing it.

12. MENDOCINO COUNTY RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT.

No report, since no one was able to attend from Redwood Valley.

13. SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY.

Bill has just returned from vacation; he will let SCWA folks know he's back and ready to be updated.

14. STATUS REPORT OF PLACE OF USE ISSUES. STATUS REPORT OF 2800-ACRE-FEET STORAGE RIGHT. (Agenda Items # 16 and #17.)

We have received the two annual \$1000.00 billings from the State for our two applications. We will send payments.

15. CONSIDER ATTENDANCE AT SEMINARS, CONFERENCES, MEETINGS. (Agenda Item # 18.)

GM Koehler was contacted today by a representative of Indian Health Service. The point Bill was stressing to caller is, we're all looking for a solution, and the Round Valley Tribe and the Weott Tribe are a part of this. It is unfortunate that the Federated Tribes have been sold a bill of goods by the Friends of the Eel. We've got to get their support.

9:25 P.M.

At this time President Pool informed Director Don Butow that the Board has a Letter of Appreciation for him. President Pool asked Director Jeanette Hallman to please read the Letter aloud, as she follows Don in seniority on the Board.

The Letter of Appreciation reflected on Director Don Butow's 15 years of dedication and outstanding service to the District and the people of Redwood Valley. The outstanding accomplishments include working with the Federal Government to get the Federal Loan postponed until after the District experiences full build-out and expansion of its customer base.

Director Butow was deeply touched, and wanted to add that there were always four other Directors who were contributing with their time and ideas and thoughts throughout all those years of service.

President Pool further surprised Director Butow with a Wall Plaque of Appreciation. This was followed by a delicious homemade cake gifted by Liz Markowski which was shared and enjoyed by all in attendance. The exquisite white flowering plant was gifted by Paula Berezay. Director Butow expressed much appreciation for all of this.

The Meeting ended at 9:45 P.M

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 20, 2012 at the Water District Office, 2370 Webb Ranch Road, Redwood Valley, California.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Groth, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: Board of Directors

DATE APPROVED: December 20, 2012

SIGNED: Paula Berezay  
Secretary, Board of Directors