

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

MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting  
August 16, 2012

Directors Present: Jeanette Hallman, Granville Pool, Pamela Ricetti, Jack Spilman  
Directors Excused: Donald E. Butow  
Staff Present: William L. Koehler, General Manager  
Paula Berezay, Office Manager/Secretary to the Board of Directors  
Others Present: County Supervisor John Pinches, Steven Gardner

CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL.

Pamela Ricetti, Director  
Jeanette Hallman, Director  
Jack Spilman, Director  
Granville Pool, Board President

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

Nothing.

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, Spilman, Pool

NOES: None

ABSENT: Butow

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.

After review and comment, a Motion was made.

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

Hallman/Ricetti Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Hallman, Ricetti, Spilman, Pool

NOES: None

ABSENT: Butow

7:07 P.M. County Supervisor John Pinches arrived.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

The Minutes of July 19, 2012 were presented.

**MOTION: Approve the Minutes of July 19, 2012 as presented.**

Hallman/Ricetti Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Hallman, Ricetti, Spilman, Pool

NOES: None

ABSENT: Butow

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

- a) Personnel Committee report.

This is a place-holder. Nothing to report at this time.

Director Spilman asked to discuss the radio system from the pump station to the water treatment plant. The Board agreed to hear his comments under Agenda Item 8.a..

8. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT.

8-A. District Operations.

The District is operating well with no specific problems to report.

Director Spilman inquired whether the radio system has been purchased yet, wondering if there is a possibility the District could get the same benefit by using wireless access.

GM Koehler confirmed that the radio system has not yet been purchased. He also explained that the signal is constant, 24/7, from multiple sites and because of that, the charges for wireless would exceed the charges for the radio system and therefore it didn't seem practical. However before purchasing anything, our SCADA company, MCC, will come to Redwood Valley and perform a Radio Site Survey. At that time we will discuss our options, i.e. dedicated frequency, licensed radio, broad spectrum radio or an alternative

such as what Director Spilman is suggesting. Before purchasing we will look at cost-effectiveness, buy-in costs, everything.

#### 8-B. Vacation.

GM Koehler will be on vacation the third Thursday in November, Regular Board Meeting date. The fourth Thursday is Thanksgiving Day. GM Koehler suggests the Regular Board Meeting be scheduled for the fifth Thursday in November so that he will be able to attend. This will be discussed again in October.

#### 8-C. Linda Vacation.

The Directors thanked Office Manager Paula Berezay for taking notes at the Meeting tonight while Recording Secretary Linda Groth is on vacation.

#### 8-D. Personnel/Operations changes.

GM Koehler reported that he met with field staff after receiving the July 19th draft Minutes which itemized Board directives after coming out of Closed Session. All field staff were verbally provided with that information and then later field staff was provided the directives in written form, which they signed and returned to the GM.

As requested, GM Koehler changed his work schedule to 7a-3:30p, M-F. On monthly Board Meeting day, he will arrive at 7a and will stay until the Board Meeting is over. He will not come to work the next day (Friday). This change of hours means he will not be able to attend the evening monthly meetings of the Flood Control District, the IW&PC, and the Farm Bureau Water Committee. These are very important meetings and should be attended by a Director.

President Pool said Dir. Butow is designated to attend the FCD meetings, however if he cannot then Dir. Spilman is the Alternate. President Pool asked Dir. Spilman to notify him if neither Don nor he can attend. On the IW&PC, Dir. Butow is the Commissioner and Dir. Ricetti is the Alternate.

For the Farm Bureau Water Committee, Dave Koball from Fetzer Vineyards is the Chair and is very up to date on water issues. Also attending is a representative from the Sonoma County Water Committee, providing updates on frost issues. President Pool requested that Director Ricetti attend the meetings and if she is unable to attend a particular meeting, Director Hallman will be the Alternate.

Director Hallman stated that next month she would like the Board of Directors to have a more in-depth conversation of personnel issues. If anybody has any concerns or comments, they can bring it to the Board at that time if they need to. She doesn't have a preference as to whether it's in Open Session or Closed Session. GM Koehler will have this topic placed on the Agenda for next month.

Director Spilman asked if a chain of command has been set up as requested. GM Koehler stated that, as far as field work, he specifically assigned the job of Lead Person to Scott Norcross.

#### 8-E. Retirement Contributions.

This item is informational.

#### 8-F. Surge Tank Site.

Mrs. Benrazavi is too busy at the moment to deal with the transfer and the easement.

Since GM Koehler has already obtained certain proof that the District owns that property, he is not pushing her on this.

Director Hallman is not sure the District needs to sign over anything.

GM Koehler explained that the District has the easement that covers the valve site. We want the formal, recordable easement to the antennae site. We want the easement to protect us for access to everything that the District has in the ground.

President Pool stated that the alternative is to go back to the former tank site and put up a tower that would meet our needs.

#### 8-G. Conservation/Fishery Fund.

GM Koehler is meeting with Supervisor Carre Brown, as part of the Fishery Committee, on Monday. He received an email from SCWA yesterday saying they agree on the amount, but they have deleted out their water year 2010 because it falls outside the expiration of the original surplus water agreement. Until we get the new surplus water agreement which presumably should be very soon, they don't want that particular \$5,600 included. However, they do want the balance transferred into the Fund, with the exception of the \$5,600. That's not to say it's going to be approved; it's going into the Fund as per the agreement. There is also a stipulation in the original agreement that any funds that remain in the Fund that have not been approved and, if the agreement is not renewed, those funds are still to be spent the same way. It's just that we sidestep the Mendocino County Water Agency and go directly to SCWA for permission to spend the money up here for the same eligible items. It's a little convoluted, but after we move money into the account to get the full amount in, GM Koehler thinks they are poised at that point to authorize the extension of the surplus agreement. Presumably this will be used as a stepping stone to get a more permanent agreement with SCWA. GM Koehler would like to transfer the funds on Monday. There is basically \$21,000 for educational. The biggest individual hit was the \$9,000 we spent for the Conservation Kits that we delivered to our customers free of charge. GM Koehler provided SCWA with written memo that the result of distributing these free conservation kits was very positive. Also there is about \$7,500 which is our share of the cost of the USGS stream gauge; plus the \$5,000 contribution to the quagga/zebra initial hazard evaluation and the North Coast Consortium which is headed toward a permanent inspection program. The balance is to be used for the 4" irrigation meter replacement program.

GM Koehler said he will talk with Supervisor Carre Brown then he will meet with Paula to get the monies transferred into the Mendocino County Water Conservation and Fishery Advisory Board Fund. He will not make any expenditures until he receives permission from SCWA.

#### 8-H. Mussel MOU.

Signing the Zebra/Quagga Mussel MOU would indicate our support for the program and allow us to be at the table during discussion with the consultants who are going to be selected to do the preliminary evaluation and risk assessment. President Pool agrees there is a value to being at the table at the beginning of this process.

Director Spilman asked where the funding is coming from. GM Koehler responded that it comes from the Conservation Fund as just talked about in the previous Agenda Item. When we sign the MOU we become a part of the consortium.

Director Spilman asked where the money comes from if someone changes their mind.

GM Koehler stated that if someone changes their mind, the money doesn't come from the fund and the money doesn't get paid, because we are not paying it until it's approved as a fund expenditure.

Director Hallman added, The MOU does not require it.

GM Koehler confirmed, The MOU does not require it. The MOU merely says, We think this is a good idea.

President Pool added, And we are glad to be at the table.

GM Koehler reminded the Board that there is no commitment tied to the MOU and also, there is a mechanism for withdrawing from participation in the MOU.

**MOTION: President Pool will sign the Memorandum of Understanding with regard to the zebra and quagga mussels M.O.U.**

Ricetti/Hallman Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Ricetti, Hallman, Spilman, Pool

NOES: None

ABSENT: Butow

**8.1. School Way Bridge Funding.**

GM Koehler reported that, as suggested by County Supervisor Carre Brown, he has spoken with Assemblyman Wes Chesbro and also his local representative Ruth Valenzuela. Assemblyman Chesbro said he would support Ruth's efforts to find funding on our behalf. Ruth phoned GM Koehler recently to say that she has found absolutely nothing. It is a dead-end. She will keep this matter open in hopes of finding something in the future.

County Supervisor John Pinches stated that Supv. Brown is out of town and before leaving, she asked him to come to this Board Meeting to sit in on this issue and he hopes he can provide some insight. Before doing so, he would like to hear the GM report on this issue.

GM Koehler stated we have the preliminary drawings from Rau & Associates. The decision was made to do this as a continuing construction project with the primary contractor who is building the bridge because we want to avoid any construction delays. They are going to build the new bridge and a crane will insert the two water mains into the interior of the bridge along with the PG&E gas line. We'll have a 10" irrigation water line and an 8" domestic water line with flexible earthquake fittings on both ends, 2000 lineal feet total. Just taking the cost of the ductile iron pipe and not knowing what the cost of a crane operated installation into a bridge is, we think the estimate of \$200,000-\$300,000 is fairly accurate. The County will select the overall lowest bid, and we understand there is potential for huge cost overruns.

Supervisor Pinches stated: The bridge itself is designed to accommodate all utilities. The feds pay 80% of the cost of all that. It's real clear that the water lines are not a part of that.

He continued: I spoke with Howard at DOT today and Howard said he would support an option for RVCWD to have a separate MOU with the County if RV thought it would save some money.

Supervisor Pinches suggested that since the County is also retaining the original right-of-way after the original bridge is removed, the Water District can simply string the domestic and irrigation water main lines across the river without being involved with the new bridge.

Both GM Koehler and Director Spilman explained the critical need to protect the water mains by utilizing ductile iron pipe. The suggested C900 pvc pipe will decompose over time if subjected to direct sunlight. Also, if the ductile iron pipe were to be strung across the river without being involved with the new bridge, it would have to be supported some way, similar to a suspension bridge.

GM Koehler reported his contacts and conversations with various agencies regarding their experiences and expenses, and all that went into the Board decision to do this as a continuing construction project with the primary contractor. It is painful for the District that this project is draining 25%-30% of its capital reserves. Construction is scheduled to begin in May, 2013 and the fiscal impact will affect us next year.

Supervisor Pinches encouraged further conversation with Howard at DOT. GM Koehler and President Pool will plan to meet with him.

8-J. Overlap Area.

Nothing. (This is a placeholder).

8-K. SCWA Surplus contract.

Discussed previously in the Meeting. GM Koehler is in frequent contact with SCWA.

Supervisor Pinches left the Meeting at 8:07 P.M.

8-L. Archived material.

After approximately three weeks of research and going through historical materials from the storage locker, GM Koehler was able to reduce the volume of material by 75%. He did find some valuable information: some missing Resolutions; the surge tank site history; the details regarding early attempts to purchase water from SCWA; the bad history in 1978 with the MCRRFC&WCID and subsequent costs to the District; the original design of the pump station.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT.

The Financial Report of August 16, 2012 was reviewed and discussed. This is the first Report in the new fiscal year and shows that we are slowly dwindling down our capital.

Director Ricetti asked if we are going to continue spending our capital or else are we going to consider raising our rates. GM Koehler will have that matter listed on the Agenda for the September Board Meeting. He urged the Directors that have not yet read John Dickerson's report, to please do so before the next Meeting.

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

Ricetti/Hallman Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Ricetti, Hallman, Spilman, Pool

NOES: None

ABSENT: Butow

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

GM Koehler reported he still has not been contacted by the person LAFCO has hired to finalize the Municipal Service Reviews, but his conversations with Frank McMichael before Frank left LAFCO definitely confirmed that he does not need anything from RVCWD regarding our MSR; mostly because our Sphere of Influence is not looking to change.

(8:22 p.m.)

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

A lot of the discussion has taken place in previous meetings regarding Paige Poulos and the education program that has been funded until now. Apparently it was agreed that there are probably sufficient funds in the dues account to pay Paige for a year. The initial money was to get things rolling; they are exploring the possibility of forming a 5013C under the umbrella of Fish Friendly Farming, so that they can go out there and get tax-free donations, etc.

GM Koehler reported that Director Butow told him that the only thing really worth reporting from the August 2012 IW&PC Meeting is that there was a great deal of consternation and discussion about whether it is even legal to provide the money from the dues account to pay for this project. The Flood Control District has apparently chosen to look into the legality issue. GM Koehler feels this is a bit strange because the IW&PC was formed with the specific intent of protecting the project. The primary enemy to the project is the "Friends of the Eel River". That group is determined to tear the dams out, with no regard for the impact that such an action will have on 600,000 people including 4,000 residents of Redwood Valley. The Federal Energy & Regulatory Commission will be reviewing the licensing for the project in 10 years from now, and it is a 20-year process.

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

GM Koehler reported that Director Butow told him that the primary topic of interest at the FCD Meeting was concern that there should be an investigation made into whether it's legal to extend the funds held in the IW&PC dues account.

GM Koehler seems to recall that Judy Hatch, the FCD representative serving as a Commissioner on the IW&PC, did vote in support of this.

Director Hallman added that she skimmed through the FCD Meeting Minutes. It was a very short meeting and there was nothing that stood out.

#### 13. SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY.

Already discussed.

#### 14. REPORT OF ATTENDANCE AT AGENCY OR ENTITY MEETINGS NOT LISTED SEPARATELY HEREIN.

GM Koehler attended the Eel Russian River Commission meeting on July 30, 2012 in Eureka, California. Jimmy Smith, a longtime Chair and Supervisor from Humboldt County, is retiring. He has been a great voice of moderation and hopefully his replacement will also take a view of moderation. The Commission has tentatively agreed that if Lake County is still financially strapped, there may be some funding available to help get Lake County, which includes Lake Pillsbury, reengaged. There was discussion of fish-friendly "block water" releases out of Lake Pillsbury during the spring rather than the fall. Spring releases would encourage the out-migrating fish.

President Pool reported he & GM Koehler met with Chris Neary, Tim from Millview and Dave from the Willow and Calpella Districts. GM Koehler added that since Millview and Willow are now sharing an office, they are also doing cross-training in their water treatment processes of both well/groundwater and river

water with direct filtration. There was some mention of having Redwood Valley field staff also cross-train with the two agencies for distribution system and related maintenance, etc.

15. STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD.

Chief Engineer Jay Jaspers, along with other representatives of the SWRCB, will be touring the entire Russian River. These are people that are promulgating Rulings affecting the Russian River area and with changes of personnel at the SWRCB over a period of time, most of them have never visited the area. During the Upper Russian River and Lake Mendocino portion of the tour, GM Koehler and President Pool will be meeting with the SWRCB representatives, along with the Flood Control District representatives, and the Sonoma County Water Agency representatives. The tour is being conducted this coming Wednesday, August 22, 2012 and a report will be provided at the September Regular Board Meeting.

16. STATUS REPORT OF PLACE OF USE ISSUES.

Nothing new to report.

17. STATUS REPORT OF 2800 ACRE-FEET STORAGE RIGHT.

Nothing new to report.

The Meeting ended at 8:45 P.M.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, September 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: September 20, 2012

SIGNED: Paula Berezay  
Secretary, Board of Directors