

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

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

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

Call To Order: 6:00 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

None. Only GM Koehler and Marv Talso are 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 Todd, second by Dir Basili
In favor: Unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Calendar

Dir Pool points out an item on page 4 listed as "blow gun". It is explained to his satisfaction.

Motion: Approve the current consent calendar

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

6. Approval of Minutes as Presented

There are a few minor changes to be made. Item J in the minutes seems a little muddled, but GM Koehler says that the gist of the conversation was recorded.

Motion: Accept the October Regular Meeting minutes as corrected.

Motion by Dir Basili, second by Dir Todd

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. District Operations

As of November 19, we have about 125 acre-feet left. It won't all be used but that's a small price to pay to keep the Ag water secure for the customers.

b. School Way Bridge

The second payment has been made. The contractor that was installing the guardrails punched a hole in the Ag main at the bridge. Fortunately it was the Ag line and not the domestic. GM Koehler met with the County DOT on the site and took a lot of pictures. The contractor is trying to blame Redwood for not marking the water line even though we did and the water line was installed as part of the bridge project and was installed according to plans. The contractor was very upset and wanted Steven to mark the pavement again with "No water line", which obviously he wouldn't. So there's about a day and a half for Redwood and Wipf, and then MCS had to repair the drainage. GM Koehler is leaning toward that if Redwood doesn't get a bill for the drainage repair and Wipf's time, that we just walk away and absorb Steven and Scott's time. Dir Ricetti asks why we don't bill them and GM Koehler says that they'll fight it really hard. Dir Basili reminds him that there's a 2-foot margin around any marks on the ground; that if you're digging within 2-feet, you should hand-dig. GM Koehler agrees and says that the guardrail contractor says there was no mark in the first place. If there's no mark where you asked for marking, they should call up the utility and complain, not just dig anyway. There was a lot of talking and blaming at the site, so we'll have to wait and see.

The repair is straight-forward and since it's an Ag line, no services needed to be shut off. The repairs would come to a few thousand, but we'd spend that much on lawyers. GM Koehler says that if they try to blame us for the environmental damage, we'll fight it. So he took a lot of pictures of the site.

c. Domestic Fire Service

All new construction requires a 3/4" meter with domestic fire sprinklers which is larger than our usual meters. The options are to have a tank and pump from a well or to have a connection with Redwood for fire protection ONLY. So it will be the

same for the church where there is a stand-alone fire meter. Ag water won't really work because of debris in the water that would plug up sprinklers or a filter, cutting down on reliability.

The question is, will we allow this? And at what cost? A regular meter is \$20/month, so he recommends \$10/month. This meter will be read monthly and if there are any problems, there will be major repercussions.

Motion: Agree to domestic fire services at \$10/month; owners pay installation cost including backflow device

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: Unanimous

d. Toilet Rebate Program

We agree to a certain monetary amount to support this program. They finally came up with the money (allegedly). There wasn't much interest from the public on this one and it's been even less from qualified plumbers who are willing to go through the government paperwork required for reimbursement. The only one so far is out of San Mateo.

GM Koehler has started to think that this would be a good program to back out of because of the lack of response. Now, though, backing out will be a signal to government that Redwood is not interested in conservation which will affect requests for future funding. Ukiah and Redwood are still in it, but it seems that Russian River Flood Control has backed out. In light of this, Redwood decides to stay in the program.

e. Intertie Grant

The money still hasn't quite come through. GM Koehler has sat down with Jarod Thiele with the City of Ukiah about trying to get the money. Redwood has spent \$130,000 so far and those receipts have been submitted with any remainder going to Millview since they've put a lot of money in relation to this grant as well.

f. Rosalind Peterson

GM Koehler has found something in the Public Information Act that allows him to bill for time spent copying information. She has been refusing to pay for his time to make the copies.

g. Tiered Rates

A recent lawsuit has said that you cannot charge tiered rates for conservation purposes even though the State of California wants agencies to do that. So we may have to do away with tiered rates in the future. In that event, a rate study will have to be performed to make sure Redwood can sustain new rates. Redwood may be able to keep the tiered rates since we don't have a firm water right.

h. Willow Contract

This contract will be in effect on December 1st. We have also agreed to pay \$24,000 for a new vehicle or part of a new vehicle if they want something bigger. So we're going in with a new truck, a Ranger, and the F-350 stays here and if it leaves, it gets billed.

Dir Ricetti asks how Steven and Scott feel about this. Scott is happy about it and will start on December 1st but Steven wasn't offered a position right now. GM Koehler is working on this and trying to help him out in how to deal with people. The deal is that Steven has one month to have a change in attitude and if he does start sharing his vast knowledge and expertise, GM Koehler will ask Dave Redding to reconsider his decision. Steven has a lot of knowledge and talent and has worked here for 10 years. But the final decision is Dave's.

i. Millview Contract

The Board needs to rescind 2015-2 because of a disagreement about what the duties of the GM are. So some language was added that seemed to satisfy them which is now 2015-3. This vote needs to be done by roll call.

Motion: Rescind 2015-2

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

Dir Ricetti: Aye

Dir Basili: Aye

Dir Todd: Aye

President Pool: Aye

Motion: Approve 2015-3

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

Dir Ricetti: Aye

Dir Basili: Aye

Dir Todd: Aye

President Pool: Aye

j. Sustainable Groundwater Act (SGA)

The latest meeting was on October 19. The decision was to obtain a facilitator. The only thing people have been able to agree on is that they don't want someone else to run things. So far it's still pointing toward the County. This will be discussed more later.

k. LAFCO

Angela Silver is the LAFCO alternate and the Calpella representative to the JPA. The MSRs are being discussed and the current information is inaccurate but people are using them anyway to determine the spheres of influence of water districts.

The other LAFCO issue is that they want a letter from us regarding the annexation of Redwood with RRFC. There is a letter present for the Board to approve. RRFC

is waiting for a new general manager before they start work on an RFP. So GM Koehler drafted this letter to send to ask if they want us to keep spending their money in pre-application work. The letter is looked over by the Board and no problems are noted.

Motion: Approve the letter to LAFCO

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: Unanimous

l. RFP for Debt Process

RRFC has talked about having another dual board meeting to talk about the annexation. This will be discussed more later.

m. Consolidation with CWDs

Senate Bill 88 is quite a grab bag. The big thing is that Ag users are being required to monitor and report their water usage hourly; financially impossible for most. They also want to consolidate failed water districts and Redwood qualifies for that. The State would really like to have some successful consolidations. They're trying to force wealthy communities to match with poor ones and of course they fight that. They really like disadvantaged communities and ones without much water. So this could be a great opportunity for all the little districts around this valley to come together. We may be able to get them to help pay for this and the nice thing is that if the State is forcing it, no CEQA process. GMs Koehler and Dave Redding are starting to do some meetings with higher-ups to see what we can get done.

Ag water systems are not included. Since Ag water is a huge part of Redwood being sustainable, they won't take away that ability. If the water districts around here were able to consolidate, they would consolidate their water rights and that would be quite a thing.

9. Financial Report

Dir Pool asks about an item for Professional Fees – Engineering. GM Koehler doesn't know off the top of his head, but he will find out. Another item for RRFC is for our half of the RFP that went nowhere.

Motion: Approve the Financial Report

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: Unanimous

Since the last Board meeting, GM Koehler has been to 10 evening meetings of various agencies.

GSA:

The facilitator will help with decisions about who can vote. Ag cannot right now but everyone says they need to have a voice. Sonoma County was there and is demanding the right to be a spectator, which they're allowed to do. The City of Ukiah is still undecided and if they decide to form their own GSA, things will get messy. Whether or not that is allowed is in question. There should be only one to keep things smooth and if one breaks off, more may follow.

Ag representation has been present at these meetings.

JPA:

They met on the 4th and Dir Todd was there. They all agreed that the final goal of the JPA is consolidation. They are ready to start collecting money and have a bank account. They've also contacted Redwood's accountant to start keeping the financial books so the JPA is ready when issues come up.

RRFC:

They're not doing so well right now. There's dissent between some of the board members. Lee Howard has turned against the annexation and is fighting it. They had no responses to their RFP because it's too small to bother with. They had 12 applicants for the general manager position, most from northern California. They're working on hiring a couple of people for office help and meter reading. They haven't done any more work on licensing from the State and lost their only contact when their previous GM left.

Willow:

The handbook has been approved and that was the last step toward moving ahead with the contract.

Upper Russian River Managers Meeting:

There will be virtually no inflow into Lake Mendocino until March 1st because PG&E is working on the tunnel. SCWA is looking into doing another change petition by January 1st. The heavy rains are expected in January and February. City of Ukiah has announced they're going to try for money for the Purple Pipe Project. It's a \$55 million project for only 1,600 acre-feet per year.

Janet did a presentation for the ACOE that was a bunch of smaller projects that would produce as much water as raising the dam so that ACOE could have a comparison to make the dam expansion look better. Rau and Associates came up with a plan for a desalination plant in Fort Bragg with the water being trucked over to Lake Mendocino for \$2 billion dollars and a purchase price of \$2,000 per acre foot.

FIRO Act: (Forecast Improved Reservation Operations)

This is amazingly a sensible process. However, the ACOE won't accept the IWPC study and will have to do their own study, but there's a good chance that they will use the other studies to back their own.

IW&PC was canceled.

Farm Bureau:

They've done a report that shows how loss of Ag water will affect the economy. Pears are a minor issue, livestock has been dropped, and grapes are the main driver. It would be \$7 million dollars per 100 acre feet of lost water. It may be too high, but is based on all of Mendocino County. This number also covers the loss in tax revenue to the County. Sonoma County is going to be the lead agency for their GSA and the water agency will be the partner; it seems like a good system.

Millview:

They had their moratorium lifted. Of the 800 people who were waiting, they got 58 responses. They have 298 openings and more may come, but they can only get 20% of their existing amount without going through more regulatory hoops. The cap fee for new 3/4" meters is \$7,900 not including installation and that's the smallest that is allowed now.

Millview is also on board with trying to get everyone together in the valley and working together. Dir Pool says that they will see improvement working with Redwood. Before Tim Bradley was GM there for 14 years, they had 10 GMs in 10 years. Dir Pool suggests that one other person from the Redwood Board start attending the Millview meeting, because he has a previous, ongoing commitment at that time. Dir Basili says that he would be able to do it.

GM Koehler was at the last meeting at the City of Ukiah and thanked them for donating their water to Redwood.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by Jeanette Wise

Approved:

Date Approved:

Signed:

Board of Directors

12/17/15
