

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

Approved 7/16/15  
B.O.D.

Board of Directors - Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, May 21, 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 for Items Not on the Agenda

None.

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

GM Koehler says that IWPC has a request in for an emergency meeting to sign a letter to be an intervener to the protesting of the Friends of the Eel River who are protesting the change from PG&E to "dry" instead of "critical". This distinction keeps some water coming through the Potter Valley Project and the FotER want to stop all water.

**Motion: Put in the agenda to get in touch with IWPC to talk about their meeting**

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

4. Acceptance of Agenda

**Motion: Accept the agenda as amended**

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

5. Approval of Consent Calendar

Dir Pool mentions that domestic water usage is up a little from this time last year. It's not too bad, but we need to keep up on making sure people realize the water situation. Dir Ricetti mentions the PG&E bill for the Lake pump station. It's for the Ag water since domestic water is still coming from Millview. Also, stand-by power is quite expensive. Dir Pool asks about the Solomon Electric charge and how all of that is going. GM Koehler says they've run into a few bugs after which it worked great. Now they're still working on it.

**Motion: Approve the consent calendar**

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Todd

In favor: Unanimous

6. Approval of Minutes as Presented

Dir Ricetti asks about the tank repair project. GM Koehler has no updates. There are some glowing comments about the fine work of the recording secretary.

**Motion: Accept the Regular Meeting minutes as corrected.**

Motion by Dir Todd, second by Dir Basili

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

IWPC action item:

IWPC would like to approve the commissioners to send a letter intervening in the PG&E variance process. There is some talk about the available meeting dates. GM Koehler explains that the flow to Lake Pillsbury are based on certain lake levels at certain times of year; that it's not an all-or-nothing thing. Dir Todd agrees and says that he went to a meeting in Potter Valley where they said that there is 40,000 acre-feet in the Lake and there was 60,000 at this time last year. They can take 50 cfs but they'll look at what their needs are and only pull through what they need. They're also going to redo their watering schedule to save more and then if they drop below 10,000 they'll shut it off. They're worried about the needle valve at the lake. If the water level drops too much, then the first big rain will wash away too much of the banks and the silt will plug that valve preventing the release of water for flood control.

**Motion: Have a representative from RVCWD go to the IWPC meeting to participate in the letter in regard to the flow from Lake Pillsbury**

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: Unanimous

a. District Operations

Domestic water is still 100% through the intertie and has been since January 10th. As of about a week ago, we've pulled 100 acre-feet (approx 32.5 million gallons) through the intertie. It runs about 14-18 hours per day. The system running like this can handle more than 50 gallons per person per day. Through the end of April, we have diverted 285 acre-feet of Ag water. While the plant has been down, we've replaced the media [filter material] in the filters at the treatment plant and cleaned the clarifiers.

b. Well

He's also contacted Luhdorff & Scalmanini regarding a production well. This time, the plan would be to test it using a generator instead of a \$150,000 pumping station. There's a possibility that putting in a larger pump and really pumping the monitoring well hard could open up the formation to bring in a better flow. This well is screened in the same place as Calpella's well which is pulling about 30 gallons per minute through a 6-inch well, but it can't run all the time. GM Koehler suggests not doing anything until the grant money starts coming through.

c. JPA Dues and Minutes

The JPA is requesting \$100/month in dues as soon as they get the bank account worked out. The idea is to get a little bit of money coming in to take care of insurance and minutes. RVCWD has volunteered to pay for the minutes so far since the other districts have had expenses related to the JPA.

**Motion: Pay the JPA dues of \$100/month**

Motion by Dir Todd, second by Dir Ricetti

In favor: unanimous

d. Coyote Valley

Just for information: there was talk about who owns what over at Coyote Valley and what may happen if they get a well. RVCWD has been maintaining the system over there, even though it is all owned by the Rancheria. Normally a break on their system would be repaired by RVCWD using the money from their meter fees. If they do get a working well, RVCWD would cease to provide those services to them. These issues may come up in the near future.

There's more talk about the potential impacts of the bluff failure along the river by Coyote Valley.

e. June Board Meeting

GM Koehler and a few Board members cannot be present at the next board meeting.

**Motion: Cancel the June Board Meeting**

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: unanimous

f. Interite

Some changes to the system have increased the flow by about 30 gpm. A member of the audience asks about what tests are being done to the water that's coming through the interite. GM Koehler says that Millview fully tests and treats their drinking water, so all RVCWD does is routine bacterial testing and testing of the orthophosphate levels.

g. Conservation

It's confusing at best what the State Water Board is expecting of us. Fortunately, we're small enough that they don't really notice us. Paul [RVCWD's lawyer] has suggested sending out the letter that you have received by now, passing along the State requirements. Authority to make people comply is very difficult, compounded by the fact that there's about 400 private wells in this valley; so how do you know who's water is district water or private water.

Overusers are still allowed due process, which means months of letters and court before you can start to impose the \$500/day fines. So basically, RVCWD can just hem and haw without much bite until the Board votes to reinstate overuse fees.

Another option would be to get some software that would allow meters to be read every week which would let us catch leaks and overusers more quickly. It will cost about \$3,000.

h. Election

"Director Needed" signboards are going out. They need to reside in Redwood Valley, do not HAVE to be a customer, and they need to be a registered voter.

i. Excavator

We have some loan information. It isn't a Federal loan, so there's no worry about having to pay back the big loan. It was an interesting application since we had to describe why the district defaulted on a huge loan. The estimated cost is \$67,000 at about \$1,100 per month payments for 5 years. It's \$5,000 for a trailer for it from 101 Trailer in Willits. With this piece of equipment on a trailer, DMV is calling for a Class B license. Kabota thinks it needs a Class A, using whatever truck you'll be towing with instead of a semi.

Dir Todd asks about what we were spending on rentals and it was \$11,000 per year for the last two years. And the bad part was that the rental was for a week, but it would only be used for a few hours in that week.

**Motion: Authorize the President to sign the contract for the excavator**

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: unanimous

j. Operations Contract

Willow has sent a couple of people over to check things out. Dave Redding has come over to look at the pay scales and employee handbook. It's possible that there will be a draft ready by the end of June.

k. Dissolution/Annexation, Plan for Services

Nothing has been done since RVCWD said they want the issue of the water supply contract permit with the Division of Drinking Water addressed. GM Koehler met with Sean White and Richard Shoemaker from RRFC and they finally agreed that they need to do something with this. It's going to be tough to get the water they need. The moratorium would need to be lifted and that would take more water than RRFC can provide.

A lot of the issues are re-hashed including how RRFC surplus water has disappeared into contracts with other users by 250% in a few years. They still haven't proven "beneficial use" either, as a lot of that water is never used and just flows down the river. After the State curtailment, Willow went to RRFC and asked if they could get more water if they needed it. RRFC took that as a request to change the contract and set aside 750 acre-feet. Willow uses 115 acre-feet. So it really looks like RRFC is trying to use up the water so there is no surplus for Redwood Valley, forcing us into slavery to them.

The Board decides not to agree with anything until RRFC takes care of things on their end.

l. Budget

Domestic sales should be about the same as last year. Ag is pretty uncertain. Things won't be too pretty next year because of the water line replacement on the School Way bridge.

Because of the State calling for curtailment of junior water rights, Ag water could be shut off tomorrow. There's no way of telling.

m. School Way Bridge Project

The start of this project is a bit uncertain because of the presence of migratory birds. [Side note: the work began on June 15th.] Swallows are considered migratory birds, so construction cannot disturb their nests. RVCWD preliminary work has been completed.

n. IRWM Grant

No money has come through yet. A second round is coming and the JPA may try to get part of it.

\*For some reason, this audio recording cut out at approximately 7:19pm\*

9. Financial Report

There are some surprises about the total amount of fee income since the system was first implemented by the previous general manager. GM Koehler says that the only way to get a lot of people to reduce water usage is via the pocketbook. There was also a problem with the computer system looking at a tank level instead of the reservoir level, so it would automatically turn the pump on and overflow the reservoir. They got it worked out, but there was a larger charge from the lake pumps from trying to fill the wrong thing.

**Motion: Approve the Financial Report**

Motion by Dir Todd, second by Dir Basili

In favor: Unanimous

10. LAFCO

Nothing has been put forward on the plan for services. Sean White finally got together an invoice, so that's been paid by RVCWD.

11. Mendocino County IW&PC

Looks like nobody can apply for the grant (refer Quagga grant for Lake Mendocino) because nobody is the owner. So there's nothing to try to get rid of those invasive clams. PG&E is going to close down the tunnel next year for more repairs. The good news is that this project will include a lot of other projects that are lumped onto the tunnel.

IWPC is still pushing for raising the dam at Lake Mendocino. It's the most logical thing and is pretty much all ready to go.

12. Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control

Already discussed.

13. Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)

Sonoma will file an emergency change petition to reduce the outflow from Lake Mendocino.

14-18

Nothing to report.

Side note: GM Koehler will be out for medical reasons starting the last week of May for 4-5 weeks. He will keep the Board updated as much as possible but is expected to miss the whole month of June.

**Motion to adjourn.**

Motion by Ricetti, second by Dir Basili

In favor: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Jeanette Wise

Approved:  
Date Approved:  
Signed:

Board of Directors  
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4 hours