

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

Board of Directors - Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 16, 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

No public 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 Ricetti, second by Dir Basili
In favor: Unanimous

GM Koehler says that Emily Luscombe from Coyote Valley Rancheria would like to be conference-called in to this meeting during Item 8.

5. Approval of Consent Calendar

Since there was no regular meeting in June, there are two consent calendars. Dir Ricetti asks if there is a running total for the fines collected. GM Koehler says there is not since they aren't levying fines this year.

Motion: Approve the May consent calendar

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

Dir Pool asks about an item list from Mendo Mill that includes "2 units" which to him means that it is a large amount. GM Koehler isn't sure what the item is.

Motion: Approve the June consent calendar
Motion by Dir Basili, second by Dir Todd
In favor: Unanimous

6. Approval of Minutes as Presented

Dir Pool points out a few minor typos.

Motion: Accept the May Regular Meeting minutes as corrected.
Motion by Dir Todd, second by Dir Ricetti
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

Emily Luscombe, Environmental Director, Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians joins the meeting by phone

a. District Operations

Everything seems to be working pretty well. Still running 100% domestic through the intertie and it's working quite well. There was a high-usage day in June where they started to draw Calpella's tank down, but they made it through. We will prevent that in the future by throttling our pumps down to prevent that draw on Calpella's tank.

The excavator was obtained on June 30th and has already been used on numerous occasions.

b. Intertie and Lake Pump Automation

The lake pump is completely automated and it's set a little bit low to turn off and a little bit high to turn on to help save energy. It runs about 9 acre-feet 5-7 nights per week. For a while, the east intertie was set to run constantly at about 100 cfm but that caused some minor overflow, so now both intertie pumps are on call.

They also installed a backup alarm that would warn of a broken main between the lake and the RVCWD reservoir.

c. Conservation

We're doing alright. Right now, people aren't supposed to be watering more than twice a week. Ag water is not curtailed so far and at this late of a date, it's unlikely to happen. There's about 8,000 af MORE in Lake Mendocino this year than at this time last year.

d. Ag Water

This was on the agenda for Russian River Flood Control (RRFC) but they did not meet in July. Sean White is in San Diego to try and get the Army Corps of Engineers to redo the way they operate reservoirs all over, particularly Lake Mendocino.

e. Lake level

There have been numerous estimates, but the final word from RRFC is 790 feet. GM Koehler went to Sean White to find out what to do. GM Koehler's recommendation is that they review their bookkeeping because usually what happens is that in February or March they come along and say, "Well, actually we did [have a surplus]." He refused. He basically said it's on RVCWD to find someone else to give us water. So GM Koehler went and asked Millview, Willow, and the City of Ukiah to put this as an item on their agendas, which they did. Willow does not have enough surplus. The City gave us 400 af last night. Millview will say they have extra to the tune of 200 af on Wednesday.

The water from the City will probably come by RVCWD buying half of their contract at a slightly elevated price, but it's worth it. It may end up with us having bought more water than we use, but it'll be close. We've used 800 af so far and we're using around 7 or 8 af per day, just for Ag water. The discussion from Todd and Ricetti is that this water will be all used by Ag customers.

Part of the agreement with Ukiah is that if they don't use their other 400 af, we can have that and alternately, if we haven't used the first 400 af and they need it, they get it back. The City also did a great presentation of their production abilities and forecasts. This Board takes it as a good sign of future cooperation.

f. Tiered Rates

The lawsuit that has challenged tiered rates hasn't gone anywhere and the Governor is opposed to doing away with them. So let's not do anything yet.

g. Director Vacancy

There is still a vacancy and apparently someone has signed up. All the current Director terms are up (Todd because he's on a 2-year term) and so they all need to go sign up for the election.

h. State Water Board Actions

The SWB has taken some actions. The first is the power to force consolidation of small water districts while bypassing LAFCO. These are primarily directed at the very small and poor water districts out in the Central Valley, but it does give the

SWB some very broad, sweeping powers. The second is dropping the transparency of setting their rates which would basically give them the power to charge agencies whatever they want for whatever reason. There has been a lot of opposition to this, including RVCWD.

i. Coyote Valley Infrastructure

Two recent leaks have brought to light the fact that all of the infrastructure at Coyote Valley belongs to the Tribe. They paid for it and the installation. Basically, GM Koehler would like both sides to acknowledge the current situation and come to an understanding that RVWCD will continue to maintain their system with the standard meter fees, but are not responsible for catastrophic failure or capital improvements. Emily says that the Tribe is happy with that agreement. The Board agrees that this system has been fine so far, so let's keep it going.

j. Operations Contract

GM Koehler has included a copy in the Board packets. It's time to get moving on this. The first hang-up has been dealing with the rolling stock (trucks). With the dump truck or a backhoe, it's easy to bill the district that borrows said equipment, e.g. Willow borrows RVCWDs excavator to fix a leak in Hopland. The trucks are trickier. We have one good Ranger, one marginal, and two that are in very poor shape. One proposal is that Willow goes out and buys three new Ford F-150s and each district gets one truck and pays Willow a few based on use. Another option is that each district buys a truck (as a group to get a discount) and Willow charges the depreciation. Either way, we'll be paying for the use of a truck.

Basically, it will cost about \$38 per hour to have work done. That includes the cost per employee for insurance, retirement, salary, and all other costs. The Board agrees that a per employee basis is a good way to divide the costs. In response to a question, Dave Redding will be in charge of scheduling and prioritizing work loads.

Long term, Tim Bradley from Millview will be retiring by 2016. Most likely, GM Koehler will start to shadow Tim and take over as interim manager for Millview as well as RVCWD. Dave would take over GM Koehler's day-to-day operations. When Tim leaves, his salary will get divvied up and will be partially used to hire another bottom-rung employee.

There are no objections from the Board, but Dir Ricetti wants to make sure lawyers are involved. Dir Pool points out some grammatical and legal-language problems. GM Koehler says the goal is to get this document to a point where they're comfortable taking it to a lawyer. Dir Pool says we should also check to see if it needs to be reviewed by the County Counsel instead of our water rights attorney.

RVCWD employees will basically be terminated and signed up with Willow. Since they don't have much vacation or sick leave saved up, they won't take a hit on taxes. But it will require that they go down and sign up with Willow.

k. Millview/Masonite

The draft decision was produced and the Superior Court was extremely favorable to Millview. Last Tuesday, the judge issued the draft decision and allowed the parties to comment. The State Water Board claimed that the 1950 4,200 af water right to underflow was forfeited. The court says that the forfeiture was vacated. The judge said that since Sonoma and the SWB refused to negotiate with Millview before and tried to force them into an all or nothing deal, the judge is turning that in Millview's favor and saying that they get it all. Obviously, Sonoma and the SWB are arguing this. The next challenge Millview will face is a change of place of use and change of use from industrial to domestic. Since it's underflow, they're going to try to file a change of place of diversion so they can pull the water from the river instead of taking it from the actual well. Dir Todd points out that having 4,200 af will be a game changer for this valley.

l. Luhdorff and Scalmanini

They've going to put together a more complete proposal soon, including drilling another well and putting a well further into the Ukiah Valley and pumping the water under Highway 20. Dir Pool is rather unimpressed so far. GM Koehler tells Emily that while a 30-40 gpm well would be adequate for Coyote Valley, it's not enough to bother with for RVCWD.

An idea is brought up (which was the original vision for RVCWD) having multiple, smaller wells all over that supply the water needs. Ukiah currently has 3 production wells running. GM Koehler stressed the importance of coordination between agencies as more water is being used to keep one district from pushing out the others. Emily recommends talking to the water district manager over in Fresno for more information on multiple-well agencies.

Dir Todd mentions some 1,500-2,000 gpm wells down by Hopland, but they have high boron. GM Koehler says that's workable if you're willing to put out the cost for the expensive boron treatment.

m. IRWM Grant (monitoring well)

The latest correspondence says they're almost ready to start the procedure and it's been about 18 months. GM Koehler suggests pursuing the big items like the intertie and the well and forget about the toilet program and some of those other smaller uses of grant money. But there weren't any takers on the initial offer of toilet replacements. Also, plumbers aren't willing to take the jobs because of inconvenience of government programs like this. But it will be instituted if the money comes available.

n. Tank Repair

Work is expected to begin work in August. Speise is basically rebuilding the roof system instead of just jamming in more support pieces. And at the same price.

9. Financial Report

Dir Todd asks how the use and costs of supplies will work after the merge with Willow. GM Koehler says that it will be charged based on where it's used or if it's already at RVCWD and used on our project, it won't be charged to anyone.

Motion: Approve the June Financial Report

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Todd

In favor: Unanimous

Motion: Approve the July Financial Report

Motion by Dir Ricetti, second by Dir Todd

In favor: Unanimous

10. LAFCO

They have not had any water related issues on their agendas, so nobody has gone to their meetings.

11. Mendocino County IW&PC

Dir Ricetti reports that at their May meeting they mostly talked about Potter Valley and Lake Pillsbury. It was kind of a wait-and-see for what the water releases will be and things like that. It also seems that National Marine Fisheries (NMFS) doesn't seem to grasp the fact that flood-irrigated fields put water back into the stream system.

They are looking to the water agencies in this area to pitch in some money toward a cost-benefit study about the water supplies and uses that affect us all.

GM Koehler also reports that a study was co-funded with RRFCD and is currently being peer reviewed. It basically says that if Coyote Dam had been raised back in the 1950s, there would have been 80,000 af in the lake in the '77/'78 drought instead of 8,000 af. So a raised dam would greatly increase water security even with all the other problems there are.

Dir Ricetti asks, if the dam is raised and let's say that Mendocino County pays for the whole thing, does the ACOE still control that water? GM Koehler answers that they won't and RRFCD won't be able to control that extra water, either. But, if the County does help pay for the dam, they would also have to pay for water projects all over the County since they'd be using everyone's tax dollars.

12. Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control

Already discussed. Also, on their agenda they had something about Paul Zellman pushing for RRFCD to be involved in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. GM Koehler

says that letting RRFC be in charge is a conflict of interest since if they curtail groundwater use they will sell more surface water.

They also had an agenda item to talk about RVCWD's debt, though GM Koehler keeps saying that there's no point in talking about anything until the issue of permitting gets resolved.

13-18
Nothing to report.

Motion to adjourn.
Motion by Basili, second by Dir Ricetti
In favor: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by Jeanette Wise

Approved: Board of Directors
Date Approved: _____
Signed: _____