

***Mendocino County***

***Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District***

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**APPROVED MINUTES**

**Special Meeting**

**March 29, 2021**

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE DIRECTIVES OF THE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER, STATE AND CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC), THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM.

**1. Roll Call**

President Watt called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

Trustees Present: Christopher Watt, President  
Alfred White, Vice President  
John Reardan, Trustee

Absent: Matthew Froneberger, Treasurer  
Tyler Rodrigue, Trustee

Staff: Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager

**2. Public Expression**

No one from the public indicated an interest in speaking.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Vice President White moved to approve the agenda. Trustee Reardan seconded. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 (Reardan, White, Watt)  
Absent: 2 (Rodrigue, Froneberger)

**4. Consent Calendar (1:05 pm)**

**a. Letter to Sonoma Water Agency with comments on Temporary Urgency Change Order Terms**

It was noted that final technical feedback from Sonoma Water Agency may alter the draft letter slightly and that the incomplete bulleted point under Term 10 is lacking the correct title for the variance and these edits will be completed by GM.

Trustee Reardan moved to approve the consent calendar. Vice President White seconded. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 (Reardan, White, Watt)  
Absent: 2 (Rodrigue, Froneberger)

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**5. Water Supply Conditions Update & District Response**

GM Salomone thanked the Trustees and public for attending this late scheduled special meeting to provide an update on the conditions and reviewed the staff report. Comments and questions were offered by

***President***  
*Christopher Watt*

***Vice President***  
*Alfred White*

***Treasurer***  
*Matthew Froneberger*

***Trustee***  
*Tyler Rodrigue*

***Trustee***  
*John Reardan*

Vice President White suggested focusing on what elements can be controlled, such as reduction of the operational buffers that protect against falling below the minimum instream flow requirements. He urged consideration of required forecasted diversions to assist in advanced notice for enhanced operation.

Trustee Reardan asked for comment on the results of a recent survey issued from the Water Resiliency Task Force. GM Salomone noted the survey was developed as a preliminary measure of interest in participation in a regional voluntary agreement focused primarily on those water rights junior to the District's. The response was minimal and did not provide a firm result.

President Watt noted demand and diversion management can potentially improve the effort to control demand on the water supply. He suggested consideration that in an effort to address the supply conditions, petitioning the SWRCB, through a temporary urgency change petition, to reduce the minimum instream flow requirements [as required in Sonoma Water Agency's license and Decision 1610.] This would help to reduce the non-consumptive uses such as riparian vegetation and fisheries. Vice President White supported President Watt's suggestion and shared that in 1977 Fish and Wildlife recognized flows were extremely low on the Navarro and it would be particularly damaging to maintain bypass flows and suspended them for the season, which may have set a precedent worth exploring.

GM Salomone responded by sharing that Sonoma Water Agency is considering the filing of an additional Temporary Urgency Change Petition that would supersede the current Order. She recommended further communication with Sonoma Water to determine the terms being requested and the District's support of efforts to reduce the minimum instream flow requirements. GM Salomone noted a more useful tool is meeting the minimum instream flow requirements on a 5 day moving average of minimum instream flow measurements rather than an instantaneous basis as currently required in Decision 1610 and Sonoma Water's right. She also encouraged the Board to consider supporting the use of available groundwater supplies to offset municipal demand on surface water through coordination between the City of Ukiah and regional suppliers.

Trustee Reardan suggested petitioning the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to release additional water through the Potter Valley Project diversion. Comments and questions were offered on the current and future diversions from the Eel River to the East Fork Russian River through the Potter Valley Project.

GM Salomone noted the development of a voluntary agreement on the District's water right will be conducted over a period of weeks with workshops conducted and updates provided regularly at Board meetings.

Comments and questions were offered by (1) James Green, Millview County Water District Board member, (2) Pam Jeane, Assistant General Manager at Sonoma Water Agency, (3) Frost Pauli, Mendocino County Farm Bureau Water Committee Chair and District Customer, (4) Bree Klotter, Redwood Valley County Water District Board.

Vice President White moved to direct the General Manager to (1) notify the State Water Resources Control Board of the District's intent to proactively manage the available water supply and mitigate drought condition impacts through the development of a voluntary agreement, (2) coordinate with Sonoma Water Agency regarding the opportunities for reducing minimum instream flows in a draft Temporary Urgency Change Petition, and (3) prepare a Water Warning Declaration for Board consideration at the next Board meeting. Trustee Reardan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 (Reardan, White, Watt)  
Absent: 2 (Rodrigue, Froneberger)

<b>President</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Trustee</b>
<i>Christopher Watt</i>	<i>Alfred White</i>	<i>Matthew Froneberger</i>	<i>Tyler Rodrigue</i>	<i>John Reardan</i>

**6. Consideration of Temporary Urgency Change Petition Filing**

GM Salomone presented the item, and comments and questions were offered by the Board

Vice President White moved to direct the GM to issue formal notice to District customers of the intent to consider the filing of a Temporary Urgency Change Petition to temporarily add points of diversion/ rediversion to District License and prepare an agenda item for discussion and possible action at the April 5, 2021 Regular Board meeting including consultation with legal counsel regarding environmental review requirements for the proposed action. Trustee Reardan seconded. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 (Reardan, White, Watt)  
Absent: 2 (Rodrigue, Froneberger)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President White moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:11 pm. Trustee Reardan seconded the motion.

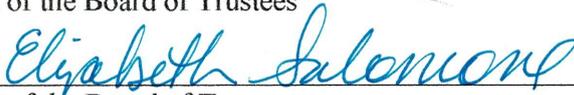
The motion was approved by the following unanimous vote:

Ayes: 4 (Reardan, Rodrigue, White, Watt)  
Absent: 1 (Froneberger)

***APPROVED by Board of Trustees on July 6, 2022***



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President of the Board of Trustees



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Secretary of the Board of Trustees

**President**  
*Christopher Watt*

**Vice President**  
*Alfred White*

**Treasurer**  
*Matthew Froneberger*

**Trustee**  
*Tyler Rodrigue*

**Trustee**  
*John Reardan*