

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

General Manager's Report for August 2022
Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, September 12, 2022

Priority 1, Secure: Ensure reliable and available sources of water. (Water rights license, Reservoirs, PVP)

See also: Agenda Items on Water Supply Conditions and Water Resiliency Planning

Potter Valley Project Decommissioning: Comments of support and opposition to FERC on the approved 30 month period for PG&E to develop a decommissioning plan were submitted by stakeholders.

Priority 2, Use: Ensure water is managed to its highest and best use as a public resource.

(Contracts & water sales, monitor & respond to regional water issues)

(See last page of this report for updates on all community partner meetings attended this month.)

Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA): The GSA Board met twice in early September and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) once in August.

At the TAC meeting on August 31, 2022, an update was provided on the process for reviewing well permits as required by the Governor's Executive Order. TAC members provided updates on projects underway or being planned and a lengthy discussion was held regarding the GSA's development of a grant application for the DWR Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation funding. It was noted all GSA Board and TAC member representatives need to be reaffirmed for January 2022.

At the September 1, 2022 GSA Board meeting, the legal counsel contract with Kronick Legal Counsel Services was approved. The Board discussed and approved the final Communication and Engagement Plan update for inclusion in the already submitted Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

At the August 8, 2022 Board meeting, the GM gave a 6 month update on successes and provided a summary of the GSA priorities feedback from members and stakeholders. Projects and Management Actions (PMAs) for grant applications were discussed, particularly the DWR Round 2 SGMA Implementation Grant. The Board voted to direct staff to prepare the application and set up an ad hoc committee to work with Staff on the grant application. The Rate and Fee Study was discussed, and staff directed to move forward on the Request for Proposal. Compliance with Governor's Executive Order requiring GSAs to sign off on well permits was discussed with a representative from the County well permitting department and GSA new legal counsel present. GSA staff, legal, and County will work further on finalizing process and paperwork. It was agreed that GSA Chair will have authority to sign off on well permitting issues with engineer consultation.

Priority 3, Advocate: Participate as an active stakeholder in the security and use of water beyond our direct authority. (Stakeholder positions, participation with community partners, website, legislation)

Nothing to note.

Priority 4: Administer: Foster sustainable leadership and management of agency resources.

(GM, Trustees, systems, financial)

Board of Trustees: Three candidates filed to run for the three seats becoming vacant on the Board: John Reardan (incumbent,) Christopher Watt (incumbent,) and John Bailey. Matthew Froneberger announced at a previous Board meeting he would not be seeking re-election. Reardan and Watt will continue serving uninterrupted and Bailey will take seat January 2023.

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Community Meetings Attended This Month

Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) (8/3/22): *Staff provided operational updates of member agencies: Millview's Well 35 filtration commissioned and removing 100% of the manganese. Expect to be supplying water to the system this week. 90 gpm. * On the topic of proposed consolidation of URRWA members and potentially the City of Ukiah, GM Walker reported that the overview of the consolidation project included in this meeting's packet was sent to the State Water Resources Control Board, who is working with the agencies on this effort. The report was written by City of Ukiah Director of Water & Wastewater Sean White and edited by GM Walker. The Calpella CWD representative reported that Calpella wants to get things moving on consolidation, including hiring a consultant. GM Walker responded that things are moving slowly and the consultant part will be happening later. Funding is the big issue to be resolved at this time. *Once again, no representative for the Ukiah Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board seat was appointed so the URRWA seat on the GSA remains vacant. It was proposed that GM Walker take the Technical Advisory Committee position and Ken Todd would leave the TAC and serve on the GSA Board, but no action was taken.

City of Ukiah (8/3/22): Nothing water related to note.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) (8/1/22): Meeting cancelled.

Willow County Water District (8/12/22): Updates were provided on operations, consolidation, and drought.

Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council (8/10/22): City of Ukiah Director of Water & Wastewater presented on the proposed consolidation, the inter-basin transfer, and answered various questions. The MAC voted to write a letter to RVCWD asking for a joint public meeting of all the potentially consolidating agencies to provide an overview and update.

Inland Water & Power Commission (8/11/22): The Potter Valley Project ballot measure did not receive enough votes from the Board of Supervisors to move forward. The Russian River Water Users Forum needs to be successful in leading to a regional entity. IWPC will need additional funds to support IWPC consultants and attorney in the regional entity formation and assessment of future operation and maintenance costs of PVP.

Hopland PUD (8/11/22): No one from the District attended.

Mendocino County Drought Task Force (8/15/22): What was formally called the Drought Task Force and met Thursdays at 4 PM was changed by the County to the Public Health, Safety, & Resource Committee being held monthly at 9 AM on a Monday morning. Several public commenters opposed the change and subsequently the schedule has reverted. Supervisors McGourty and Haschak, who make up the Committee, discussed the Mendocino County Water Agency.

Resource Conservation District (8/16/22): The Board received an update from water resources staff noting that most, if not all, of the Mendocino County Water Agency mandated work is contracted out to the RCD.

Millview County Water District (8/16/22): *Staff provided an update on operations. Well 35 is online and running - no complaints on water quality from customers. Some water theft found and corrected in Calpella and Redwood Valley. Millview Apartments will be online after backflow tests which were completed. There will be a multi-district, city and DWR joint meeting on September 6 to discuss who will be the receiver of the grant for the consolidation effort: City, URRWA, new JPA or something else. Another extension to November for the date for a public hearing regarding the Masonite annexation due to the lack of sufficient information from Masonite. The two newest Board Members will be the only ones remaining after this year. They are actively looking for new members to file for election.

Calpella CWD (8/17/22): Cancelled.

(Continued...)

City of Ukiah (8/17/22): Nothing to note.

Redwood Valley County Water District (8/18/22): The Board received a second solar program presentation from Energea. It was suggested the Board consider the future of the treatment plant over the next 10-20 years and if any continued solar power investment would be worth the financial investment. GM Walker reported that a meeting is being scheduled for September 6, 2022 with 2 Board Members/Council Members from each of the proposed consolidating entities and the State Water Resources Control Board to explore options for moving forward. One issue is what entity will receive the grant funding – an existing one or a new one. Chair Schoeneman and Board Member Todd were selected by the Chair to attend the meeting. Next steps: GM Walker and City Director of Water & Wastewater Sean White will meet to finalize the plans for the September 6th meeting. It was noted that there may be significant turnover in the participating entity Boards and keeping momentum on the consolidation effort is vital. A survey to agricultural customers was proposed that would provide insight to upcoming District decisions. The recent Grand Jury report on Redwood Valley was discussed. The recommendations were discussed including ideas for negotiation and/or repayment of the US Dept of Interior Bureau of Reclamation debt. During the agenda item regarding finding a new attorney, a discussion was held regarding potential annexation into RRFC and why it may or may not be worth the resources needed to complete the annexation. Eventually, the discussion came back to the issue of finding new legal counsel. Two Board members opposed and two supported, so staff suggested a closed session briefing with the current legal counsel after the September 6th meeting.

Redwood Valley County Water District Special Mtg (9/6/22): During the well-attended meeting the Board discussed the proposed Emergency Water Supply Agreement with RRFC and once approved, how to allocate the 400 acre feet. Some will go to domestic, some to agriculture, and some held in the pond for fire suppression and emergency.

Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) (9/7/22): GM Walker reported on issues created by the heat wave. No updates were available for the Potter Valley Project and the Groundwater Sustainability Agency. GM Walker and Board Members reviewed the September 6, 2022 consolidation effort meeting involving Willow, Millview, Calpella, Redwood Valley, and the City of Ukiah which was reported as having gone well. Now the nature of an agreement among the participants must be worked out and further meetings will be held. Once again, no representative for the Groundwater Sustainability Agency was appointed. Redwood Valley's receipt of an unexpected 400 acre feet was discussed.

Inland Water & Power Commission (9/8/22): Updates were provided on the regular topics, including the progress on Sonoma Water Agency's DWR Grant projects and Potter Valley Project.

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Prepared and submitted to the Board of Trustees by: *Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager*