

Mendocino County

Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District

151 Laws Avenue Suite D, Ukiah, CA 95482 707.462.5278 Website: RRFC.net DistrictManager@rrfc.net

APPROVED MINUTES
Special Meeting of May 9, 2022

IN COMPLIANCE WITH ASSEMBLY BILL 361, THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM.

1. Roll Call

President Watt called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

Trustees Present: Christopher Watt, President
Alfred White, Vice President
Matthew Froneberger, Treasurer
Tyler Rodrigue, Trustee
John Reardan, Trustee

Staff: Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager

2. Public Expression –

Pamela Ricetti, Katrina Frey, and Maria Martinson, customers of Redwood Valley County Water District (RVCWD), addressed the Board asking for information on the water supply relationship between the District (RRFC) and RVCWD. An appeal was made to add an item to the agenda for the speakers to request surplus water be made available for a frost event expected within the next 24 hours.

3. Approval of Agenda

Trustee Reardan moved to approve the agenda adding an urgent item action to Item 4 to consider taking action on the water supply request of RVCWD customers. Trustee Rodrigue seconded the motion.

Treasurer Froneberger noted that the request could be handled through Board direction to staff on an operational level rather than making proclamations or decisions at the Board level.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

4. Water Supply Conditions Update and District Response

ADDED: and Consideration of the Water Supply Request of RVCWD Customers

GM Salomone presented the item, reviewing the staff report and noting the variables involved in establishing the direct diversion and redirection of stored water available for 2022. Stored water availability is pending further analysis by Sonoma Water Agency by approximate July 1st. Direct diversion water availability is pending on PG&E Eel River water transfers from the Eel to the Russian River as well as the possible approval and implementation of the Voluntary Water Sharing Program. Timelines for these determinations are dependent on PG&E providing more information on the variance.

(Continued...)

Trustee Rodrigue asked if RRFC has an ability to address the request of RVCWD customers, considering the unknowns described by GM Salomone. President Watt and GM Salomone provided background on the process by which RRFC makes surplus water available to RVCWD through a Stipulated Judgement. President Watt and Treasurer Froneberger asked for information on any requests made by RVCWD for surplus water in 2022. GM Salomone noted emails, texts, and phone calls between RVCWD & RRFC General Managers, and that both GMs participate in the weekly meetings with the State Water Resources Control Board and stakeholders that provides up to date water supply availability. [Note: RRFC is currently under Declaration #21-03: Water Shortage Emergency which declares no surplus water is available.]

Trustee Reardan noted that there is a process by which surplus water availability is determined and made available to RVCWD that is defined by law. Vice President White noted that while the reservoir is holding water, RRFC is not the only legal claimant of the stored water and therefore RRFC cannot arbitrarily determine surplus is available at this time.

GM Salomone provided further information on the reservoir conditions and how it impacts current water supply availability to RRFC and other legal claimants. Treasurer Froneberger reviewed the recent history of efforts to explore water supply reliability for RVCWD including annexation of RVCWD boundary into RRFC boundary. GM Salomone & Treasurer Froneberger explained that RRFC does not make the determination of how surplus water made available to RVCWD is used or distributed.

Adam Gaska, Board Member of RVCWD, addressed the Board and public. He reviewed the limitations of the physical and legal process to distribute RVCWD agriculture water to customers, concluding that “even if water is allocated [by RRFC], it is not happening tonight; we are not turning on the taps tonight.”

Pam Ricetti, RVCWD customer, asked clarifying questions. Katrina Frey, RVCWD customer and member of the Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council, thanked GM Salomone for her current and past efforts and encouraged continued cordial relations between RRFC and RVCWD. Sally Tollini, RVCWD customer, noted that RVCWD agriculture customers have made multiple requests to RVCWD for water and hopes that RVCWD will formally request surplus water supply from RRFC. Maria Martinson, RVCWD customer, asked clarifying questions, mostly to RVCWD Board Member Adam Gaska.

Trustee Rodrigue asked and GM Salomone confirmed that RVCWD GM Walker has been in frequent communication with GM Salomone to keep apprised of the potential surplus water supply availability. Trustee Reardan noted the commitment to find a solution that does not compromise RRFC constituents and encouraged RVCWD customers to work with the RVCWD Board to address long term water supply reliability.

No action was taken by the Board to provide water to RVCWD as per the RVCWD customers.

5. Water Resiliency Planning

GM Salomone presented the item, noting a presentation on the Water Supply Analysis is expected at the June 9, 2022 Regular Board meeting.

6. Preliminary Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Operating Budget and Annual Project Water Price Per Acre Foot Determination

GM Salomone presented the item and reviewed the staff report. The Board directed GM to finalize the budget and present for approval at the June 9, 2022 Board meeting.

(Continued...)

REGULAR BUSINESS, INFORMATION, AND REPORT ITEMS

7. Consent Calendar

- a) Acceptance of the April 2022 Financial Report
- b) Approval of Minutes for the April 4, 2022 Regular Meeting
- c) State of Emergency
Board to reconsider the circumstances of the state of emergency and determine by majority vote that (i) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person; and/or (ii) State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing as previously passed in Board Resolution #21-04.
- d) Ratification of Lease Agreement for new office location

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

Ayes: 5 (Froneberger Reardan, Rodrigue, White, Watt)

8. Board Member & Committee Reports

Treasurer Froneberger provided an update from the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)

Vice President White provided an update on the Upper Russian River Water Agency.

Public comment was offered by Sean White, City of Ukiah Director of Water/Sewer Utilities.

9. General Manager Report & Correspondence

GM presented the written report.

10. Direction on Future Agenda Items

*Closed Session on IWPC property negotiations, Proposed FY 2022-23 budget approval. *Water supply for Redwood Valley County Water District, particularly agricultural customers. *Revisit Declaration of Drought. *Presentation on water supply analysis.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Reardan moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM. Trustee Rodrigue seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following unanimous vote:

Ayes: 5 (Froneberger Reardan, Rodrigue, White, Watt)

APPROVED by Board of Trustees on June 6, 2022



President of the Board of Trustees



Secretary of the Board of Trustees

President
Christopher Watt

Vice President
Alfred White

Treasurer
Matthew Froneberger

Trustee
Tyler Rodrigue

Trustee
John Reardan