

Mendocino County

Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District

P.O. Box 2104, Ukiah, CA 95482 707.462.5278 Website: RRFC.net DistrictManager@rrfc.net

APPROVED MINUTES

Regular Meeting of July 6, 2026

At District Office: 304 N. State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482

1. Roll Call

President Watt called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Trustees Present: Christopher Watt, President
John Reardan, Vice President
Tyler Rodrigue, Treasurer (arrived 7 PM)
John Bailey, Trustee
Dave Koball, Trustee

Staff: Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager
Jeanne Zolezzi, Legal Counsel

2. Approval of Agenda

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

Ayes: 4 (Koball, Bailey, Reardan, Watt)
Absent: 1 (Rodrigue)

CLOSED SESSION

GM Salomone noted the Board was preparing to enter closed session.

Prior to entering Closed Session, member of the public Lee Howard was granted opportunity to address the Board. "I know you are going into closed session and I'm ready to leave but I have a dinner appointment this evening in half an hour and I'm not going to come back for you. I wanted to make sure that each and every one of you get our letter and we'll just let it go from there. Thank you for your time and good evening." Mr. Howard passed out paper copies of a public comment on Agenda Item 10 which had been emailed to the District on July 6, 2026 at 1:35 PM and 1:41 PM and forwarded to all Trustees and District's legal counsel.

3. Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Gov. Code § 54956.8)
Property: Potter Valley Project | *Agency negotiator:* General Manager, General Counsel, Board Members *Negotiating parties:* Agency, Inland Water & Power Agency, PG&E | *Under negotiation:* Purchasing Entity
4. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
(Paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Gov. Code § 54956.9) *Significant exposure to litigation:* Two Cases
5. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
Lee Howard et al. v. Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control Annexation of Redwood Valley County Water District et al. Mendocino County Superior Court, Case No. 25CV02914 (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Gov. Code § 54956.9)

The Board entered closed session with legal counsel at 5:33 PM. The Board returned to open public session at 6:55 PM. Reportable action: Staff was given direction.

(Continued...)

A break was held from 6:55 PM to 7:00 PM.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

6. Public Expression

No one showed an interest in commenting.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

7. Financial Report Review

The Board received a presentation from the District's Accountant on monthly financial reports.

8. Reserves Policy Review

GM Salomone presented the staff report.

Trustee Bailey asked the Board if it should consider committing to a goal of increasing reserves totals annually such as by 5-10% a year to generate a buffer for future expenses.

President Watt noted the envisioned water supply and storage projects are abstract and it is difficult to develop specific expenses amounts for the District. However, the District is not undertaking these efforts alone and therefore proposed seeking guidance from partners working on the same issue.

Trustee Koball suggested this work would be helpful with Inland Water & Power Commission budgeting, including member agency contribution amounts.

Vice President Reardan noted the envisioned projects are likely beyond the financial capability of local funding alone and outside funding sources would be required. He agreed with President Watt that the District's contribution would not be 0 nor would it be 100%.

Trustee Bailey suggested considering language such as 'the District will use its best knowledge to forecast expenses for the next ten years and to keep reserves adequate to meet that.'

President Watt stated the situation is dynamic and uncertainty is high. He suggested during the District's annual budget development process, the Board form an ad hoc committee to forecast future envisioned projects expenses from the best information available and make recommendations for reserve level planning, which is then updated annually, as needed. The Board agreed and direction was given to Staff and Treasurer.

9. Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) Updates

GM Salomone and President Watt introduced the item.

GM Salomone noted feedback was being sought from the Board regarding submission on the most recent Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) solicitation for comments.

(Continued...)

Background from the District Website:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) published a Notice of Scoping Meeting and Request for Comments on the Proposed Surrender, Decommissioning, and Non-Project use of Project Lands (NERF) dated May 22, 2026.

FERC will prepare a document discussing the environmental impacts of both the decommissioning and the building of the New Eel Russian Facility (NERF.) FERC will use this document in its decision-making process to identify potential adverse and beneficial impacts of the proposed project surrender and reasonable alternatives. The scoping process gathers input regarding the environmental impacts of the proposal. Specifically, FERC staff request comments on potential alternatives and impacts, as well as identification of any relevant information, studies, or analyses concerning effects on the quality of the human environment.

President Watt clarified that it is not the scope of the decommissioning but the scope of the analysis of the environmental effect of the decommissioning. He asked the Board to consider if there are any resources that the District feels inclined to make sure FERC reviews regarding the proposed decommissioning, such as agricultural lands, hydrology, biology, economic impacts that affect environmental resources. The Board discussed specific topics that may or may not be included in this scoping process.

Vice President Reardan noted this will be a topic at the Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) meeting later in the week and the District representatives to IWPC (Reardan and Koball) will know more about IWPC recommendations on developing comments to FERC by the member agencies.

President Watt noted there are multiple steps in the public process in which the District will have opportunity to submit comment.

Direction was given to Staff and IWPC representatives to consider a comment letter after receiving feedback at the IWPC meeting.

10. Redwood Valley Annexation

GM Salomone noted that written comment was submitted on this item from the law offices of John E. Sharpe. [Note: this comment letter is now available on the District's webpage for this meeting and available directly from the District upon request.] All Board members received a copy as did the member of public in attendance at the meeting.

GM Salomone presented the staff report, reviewing the recommended action to consider adoption of a Resolution Approving a Zero Tax Sharing Agreement with the County of Mendocino for the Annexation of the Complete Redwood Valley County Water District Service Area (LAFCo Application File No. A-2025-05.) GM Salomone noted the County of Mendocino is considering an item to approve a comparable resolution at its meeting on July 7, 2026.

GM Salomone noted that if the County of Mendocino adopts its resolution approving a zero tax sharing agreement, the Local Agency Formation Commission will likely hold a public hearing on the annexation application at its meeting on September 14, 2026.

Vice President Reardan moved to approve adoption of Resolution #26-04 Approving a Zero Tax Sharing Agreement with the County of Mendocino for the Annexation of the Complete Redwood Valley County Water District Service Area (LAFCo Application File No. A-2025-05.) Trustee Bailey seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 (Koball, Bailey, Rodrigue, Reardan, Watt)

(Continued...)

REGULAR BUSINESS, INFORMATION, AND REPORT ITEMS

11. General Manager Report & Correspondence

GM Salomone presented the report, sharing the District held a successful Customer Meeting. The District also held a Customer Advisory Meeting to receive input on Article 12 of the Uniform Water Supply & Purchase Agreement, receiving feedback from both customers in attendance and others. The application to the Sonoma County LAFCo to form the Alexander Valley Water District was denied and sponsors have requested support letters for an appeal process. RRFC has submitted a support letter and there was Board consensus to continue supporting the effort. A possible new office rental opportunity was introduced and briefly discussed.

12. Water Supply Conditions Update

GM Salomone presented the report and a few comments were made.

13. Consent Calendar

- a) Acceptance of the June 2026 Financial Reports
- b) Approval of June 1, 2026 Regular Board Meeting minutes
- c) Adopting the Resolution of Intention to Approve an Amendment to the Contract Between the Board of Administration California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) and the Board of Trustees of the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District

Trustee Bailey moved to approve the consent calendar. Trustee Koball seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 (Koball, Bailey, Rodrigue, Reardan, Watt)

14. Trustee & Committee Reports

Trustees Bailey & Watt reported on the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), noting a joint Board and Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled. Both Trustees praised the new GSA General Manager, Maya Simerson, and provided information on specifics.

15. Direction on Future Agenda Items – none noted.

ADJOURNMENT

President Watt adjourned the meeting at 8:01 PM.

APPROVED by Board of Trustees on August 3, 2026



Christopher Watt
President of the Board of Trustees



Elizabeth Salomone
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

President
Christopher Watt

Vice President
John Reardan

Treasurer
Tyler Rodrigue

Trustee
John Bailey

Trustee
Dave Koball