

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 7, 2025

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

1. Roll Call

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

Trustees Present: Tyler Rodrigue, Vice President
John Reardan, Trustee
Dave Koball, Trustee

Trustees Absent: Christopher Watt, President
John Bailey, Treasurer

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

2. Approval of Agenda

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

Ayes: 3 (Koball, Reardan, and Rodrigue)
Absent: 2 (Bailey and Watt)

3. Public Expression

None.

CLOSED SESSION

4. 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

The Board entered closed session with legal counsel at 5:22 PM. The Board returned to open public session at 5:50 PM. No reportable action was taken.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

5. Proposed Annexation of the Redwood Valley County Water District Complete Service Area

GM Salomone opened the item, noting it was informational only and no action would be taken. At the June 2, 2025 Regular Board meeting, two members of the public attended and provided public comment on the proposed annexation. The District will respond to these comments at the August 4, 2025 Board meeting.

Public Notice of Intent to Adopt Negative Declaration for Redwood Valley Annexation was published on June 29, 2025 and is open until July 29, 2025. GM reported the Notice was also sent to Redwood Valley County Water District, Ukiah Valley Water Authority, Mendocino County, and seven local Tribes. No comments have been received to date.

(Continued...)

GM Salomone provided an update on the next steps. At the August 4, 2025 RRFC Board Meeting, the Board will be updated and consider approval of some of the required documents. Consideration for approval of the final annexation application to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) is scheduled for September 8, 2025. GM is coordinating closely with LAFCo for submission and processing of the application.

It was noted that there is a frequently updated page on the RRFC website (www.rrfc.net) for the proposed annexation.

Public comment was made by Redwood Valley County Water District Board Member Bree Klotter.

The Board directed GM Salomone to issue a press release on the proposed annexation and support local journalists to report on the matter noting its support for public engagement and transparency.

6. Petition for Change to the State Water Board on District License 13898

GM Salomone presented the staff report, noting the main points being requested in the change petition:

- (1) Remove the acreage cap on the place of use within the District for irrigation purposes to authorize use anywhere within Petitioner's service area.
- (1) Remove the acreage cap on the place of use within the Redwood Valley County Water District (RVCWD) for irrigation purposes to authorize use anywhere within the service area of RVCWD.
- (2) Expand the licensed place of use to make the boundaries of the District's place of use coterminous with the boundaries of water suppliers to which the District supplies water and to meet existing agricultural demands;
- (3) Remove the condition that only surplus water be supplied to RVCWD on satisfaction of the condition that RVCWD be annexed into the District.
- (5) Add additional points of diversion, abandon existing licensed points of diversion, and update existing licensed points of diversion.

GM Salomone addressed questions and comments regarding the development and process.

Public comment was made by Redwood Valley County Water District Board Member Bree Klotter.

Trustee Reardan moved to approve Resolution #25-05 approving the Petition for Change Application Package for Submittal to State Water Resources Control Board. Trustee Koball seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 (Koball, Reardan, and Rodrigue)

Absent: 2 (Bailey and Watt)

The Board directed the General Manager and Legal Counsel to submit the complete petition to change the application package to the State Water Board with the required fees, allowing for minor edits to the points of diversion and place of use by GM Salomone and Legal Counsel.

(Continued...)

7. State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Telemetry Pilot

GM Salomone presented the staff report and addressed questions and comments regarding the development and implementation of the Telemetry Pilot. Trustee Koball asked who will be responsible if any infrastructure upgrades are needed for installation of pilot equipment? GM Salomone will consult with the SWRCB for a clarifying answer.

Trustee Reardan moved to approve District participation in the State Water Board Russian River Telemetry Pilot by directing General Manger to sign and submit the Equipment Access and Project Participation Agreement and the Russian River Telemetry Study Alternative Compliance Plan. Trustee Koball seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 (Koball, Reardan, and Rodrigue)
Absent: 2 (Bailey and Watt)

The Board directed GM Salomone to coordinate with the State Water Board to identify specific points of diversion and coordinate with Customers to complete the Land Access and Project Participation Agreement for participation in the Russian River Telemetry Study.

8. Potter Valley Water Supply Reliability Study

GM Salomone presented the staff report and addressed questions and comments. IWPC Chair Pauli requested all IWPC member agencies consider an additional contribution toward a cost share on the Potter Valley Water Supply Reliability Study. While the staff report explores the District's ability to financially contribute, it should be noted that IWPC project expenses are expected to increase dramatically, based on presentations made by IWPC legal counsel and consultants at the IWPC All Members Joint Meeting on May 29, 2025. (<https://ukiahca.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2298/overview>) It is not known what member contribution amount IWPC will request next, nor when that request will be received.

GM Salomone also clarified that while Potter Valley Irrigation District (PVID) has been contributing to IWPC financially, it is unknown to what degree PVID has committed to continuing financial contributions in the future or PVID's position on contributions being allocated to the Coyote Valley Dam Study.

The Board discussed what information and processes it requires from IWPC to sufficiently plan for current and future financial contributions. The RRFC Board would prefer in the future that IWPC preapprove any proposed service agreements, execute the agreements, include project costs within the annual budget, and issue annual contribution invoices at the beginning of each fiscal year based on the approved budget. Additionally, if IWPC contracts for services, RRFC would prefer the Commission be briefed on the work, including the benefits of the work to the IWPC constituency and how the work is promoting the mission of the IWPC membership. In the case of the Potter Valley Water Reliability Study, the RRFC Board requires the Cooperative Agreement to Provide Funding for Overhead Services for Water Supply Reliability Study (Agreement) between Sonoma Water and Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission drafted in November 2024 laying out terms for Sonoma Water to undertake the work and IWPC to pay Sonoma Water staff costs not covered by the funding be finalized and approved by IWPC prior to RRFC financially contributing to the Study. The Board emphasized that a publicly transparent process matters.

Board consensus was in agreement with the staff report that IWPC is a coalition working to safeguard regional water supply throughout the IWPC constituency and supporting IWPC member agencies is within the spirit of the Commission. The Board directed GM Salomone to draft a letter to IWPC outlining RRFC's requirements to continue financial contributions including toward the Potter Valley Water Reliability Study.

(Continued...)

REGULAR BUSINESS, INFORMATION, AND REPORT ITEMS

9. General Manager Report & Correspondence

GM presented the report and noted the opportunity to rent an office in the building recently purchased by the Mendocino County Farm Bureau. Board consensus supported the move.

10. Water Supply Conditions Update

GM presented the report. Trustee Koball remarked that mainstem Russian River water quality was very poor with significant turbidity. GM Salomone noted the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has not yet approved the PG&E filed flow variance which asks for a reduction in water being diverted from the Eel River to the Russian River. This results in more water available to divert under appropriative water rights on the mainstem Russian River. GM also noted that due to a recent public records request, seismic reports were made public on the Scott and Cape Horn Dams on the Eel River and can be found on the District's website.

11. Consent Calendar

- a) Acceptance of the June 2025 Financial Reports
- b) Approval of May 29, 2025 Special Board Meeting minutes
- c) Approval of June 2, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes
- d) Approval of Resolution 25-03 Adopting an Agreement for Surplus Water Service approved by the Board on June 2, 2025
- e) Approval of Resolution 25-04 Adopting a Temporary Addendum to the Uniform Water Sales & Purchase Agreement

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

Ayes: 3 (Koball, Reardan, and Rodrigue)
Absent: 2 (Bailey and Watt)

12. Trustee & Committee Reports

LAFCo MSR/SOI & Annexation Ad Hoc: no update outside of Item 5 of this meeting.

Change Petition Ad Hoc: GM Salomone reported that the Ad Hoc is no longer required with the approval of the change petition application and Vice President Rodrigue dissolved the Ad Hoc Committee with Board consensus.

Trustee Koball reported on the recently initiated United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Coyote Valley Dam General Investigation (GI) Study meetings. Representatives from IWPC have been attending the meetings as one of the non-Federal sponsors of the project. Meetings so far have focused on background including a presentation by IWPC on the Potter Valley Project history and projected changes. Trustee Koball noted a question was raised in one of the meetings regarding water rights to additional stored water if Coyote Valley Dam was raised in height and the Board discussed briefly.

13. Direction on Future Agenda Items

Proposed Redwood Valley Water District annexation, financial reports.

(Continued...)

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Koball moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 PM. Trustee Reardan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 (Koball, Reardan, and Rodrigue)

Absent: 2 (Bailey and Watt)

APPROVED by Board of Trustees on August 4, 2025



President of the Board of Trustees



Secretary of the Board of Trustees

President
Christopher Watt

Vice President
Tyler Rodrigue

Treasurer
John Bailey

Trustee
John Reardan

Trustee
Dave Koball