

5 **DRAFT MINUTES**

6 **Regular Meeting of May 4, 2026**

7 **At District Office: 304 N. State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482 and on Zoom**

8 **1. Roll Call**

9 President Watt called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

10 Trustees Present: Christopher Watt, President
11 John Reardan, Vice President
12 Tyler Rodrigue, Treasurer
13 John Bailey, Trustee
14 Dave Koball, Trustee

15 Staff: Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager
16 Jeanne Zolezzi, Legal Counsel (departed 7:00 PM)

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20 **2. Approval of Agenda**

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

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

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26 **CLOSED SESSION**

27 **3. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation**
28 *Lee Howard et al. v. Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control Annexation of Redwood Valley County Water District*
29 *et al. Mendocino County Superior Court, Case No. 25CV02914 (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Gov.*
30 *Code § 54956.9)*

31 **4. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation**
32 (Paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Gov. Code § 54956.9) *Significant exposure to litigation:* Two Cases

33 **5. Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Gov. Code § 54956.8)**
34 *Property:* Potter Valley Project | *Agency negotiator:* General Manager, General Counsel, Board Members *Negotiating parties:*
35 *Agency, Inland Water & Power Agency, PG&E | Under negotiation:* Purchasing Entity

36 The Board entered closed session with legal counsel at 5:32 PM. The Board returned to open public session
37 at 7:00 PM. There was no reportable action from Closed Session.

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39 **AUDIENCE COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

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41 **6. Public Expression**

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43 No public expression was offered.
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(Continued...)

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ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

7. Draft of Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget

GM Salomone presented the staff report. The Board provided feedback and directed GM to prepare the Final Proposed Fiscal year 2026-2027 Budget Public Hearing for the June 1, 2026 Board Meeting.

GM noted changes from the April 2026 Preliminary Budget materials were highlighted in green and the “change from previous year budget in \$” for the Water Supply Expenses Total of \$195,740 is incorrect due to a formula error; the correct total is \$98,000. The District’s accountant reviewed the proposed changes and use of reserves allocation.

The Board discussed the Reserve Policy and reaffirmed a thorough review and consideration of expanding the policy to address the water supply reliability reserve. GM Salomone will bring that to the Board at a future meeting.

It was noted that this year, the District proposes paying for increased expenses not only through raising water rates but also by using reserves. In the future, the strategic use of reserves to offset increased rates may continue but this will then deplete reserve amounts.

The budget increases the water rate by \$6.00 per acre foot (af), from \$66 per af to \$72 per af.

GM Salomone also noted that \$250,000 was transferred from the SBMC checking account to the CLASS operations account on May 1, 2026 which will show on the next month’s financial reports.

8. Ukiah Valley Water Authority: Consideration of Combining Member Agency Uniform Water Supply & Purchase Agreements

GM Salomone presented the staff report, noting this is a briefing item only. No formal request has been made by the Water Authority to combine contracts. Staff of the Water Authority have asked GM Salomone about process.

GM Salomone noted combining contracts could in theory allow the Water Authority to consider reducing the buffer carried in individual contracts, reducing the contract total of 2,178 acre feet. It was confirmed by Legal Counsel this is an administrative process, and the proposed action does not qualify as a relinquishment of contract quantity.

This briefing is intended to offer a public opportunity for questions about the process due to the scale of the action and the involvement of the Redwood Valley County Water District prior to potential annexation by the District.

Bree Klotter, member of the public, asked how the service to Redwood Valley would be handled. GM Salomone pointed to the staff report that notes “prior to a LAFCo approved annexation of the Redwood Valley Water service area to RRFC, surplus water would be provided to Redwood Valley Water as it is now, under terms of the Stipulated Judgement.” Additionally, post-annexation, Redwood Valley Water District would be able to use Ukiah Valley Water Authority contract quantity anywhere within the service area that is also in the RRFC boundary. The Water Authority would allocate its contract quantity among its member agencies as an internal exercise and report to RRFC the total use, as all Customers do.

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102 **9. Strategic Planning and 2026 Annual Operations Plan**
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104 GM Salomone presented the staff report, noting that a version discrepancy was identified. The Board is asked to
105 adopt this as the final version.

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107 The Board provided feedback, requesting the following changes:

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109 1. In strategic plan Priority 2, Goal 3: Change from “Promote clarity on shared goals and initiatives with our
110 strategic partners” to “Collaborate with strategic partners to enhance accountability and transparency.”
111 2. In Operations Plan Priority 2, Goal 3: add a performance metric: “Continue customer engagement on
112 District policy development and updates.”
113 3. In Operations Plan Priority 2, Goal 3: Add in the Approach “Advocate for and” to read “Advocate for
114 and support development of written policies and resolutions as action items at IWPC and GSA.”
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116 Bree Klotter, member of the public, offered comment.

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118 Trustee Bailey moved to approve the updated 2026-2027 Strategic Plan and 2026 Annual Operations Plan
119 with the three (3) changes stated above. Vice President Reardan seconded the motion. The motion was
120 approved by the following vote:

121
122 Ayes: 5 (Koball, Bailey, Rodrigue, Reardan, Watt)
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124 **REGULAR BUSINESS, INFORMATION, AND REPORT ITEMS**
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126 **10. General Manager Report & Correspondence**

127 GM Salomone presented the report, noting the addition of a support letter for Sonoma Water’s work in mussel
128 prevention at the Russian River reservoirs.
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130 **11. Water Supply Conditions Update**

131 GM Salomone presented the report, noting the water storage this year is notable lower than 2024 and 2025.
132 Timing of precipitation is important to fully benefit from maximizing storage at Lake Mendocino, even under
133 Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) which is greatly beneficial.
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135 **12. Consent Calendar**

- 136 a) Acceptance of the April 2026 Financial Reports
137 b) Approval of March 23, 2026 Special Board Meeting minutes
138 c) Approval of April 6, 2026 Regular Board Meeting minutes
139 d) Adoption of updated Surplus Water Service Agreement
140 e) Adoption of updated General Manager Evaluation Policy #3200
141 f) Adoption of updated General Manager Evaluation Form.
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143 GM Salomone noted approximately \$4,000 of fraudulent charges on the District credit card which are being
144 resolved.
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146 Vice President Reardan moved to approve the consent calendar. Trustee Bailey seconded the motion. The
147 motion was approved by the following vote:
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149 Ayes: 5 (Koball, Bailey, Rodrigue, Reardan, Watt)
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13. Trustee & Committee Reports

Redwood Valley Annexation Ad Hoc: GM reported the County continues to work on the tax sharing agreement in order for LAFCo to proceed with hearing the item.

Trustee Bailey reported on the recent Groundwater Sustainability Agency Ad Hoc Committee meeting on budget development, praising new General Manager Maya Simerson’s professionalism.

President Watt noted a Groundwater Sustainability Agency Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled and as the Chair of the Committee, he helped to develop the draft agenda.

14. Direction on Future Agenda Items

Updated Reserves Policy including a target minimum for the Water Supply Reliability Reserve.

ADJOURNMENT

President Watt adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM.

APPROVED by Board of Trustees on May 4, 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