

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
Regular Meeting of June 6, 2022

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

1. Roll Call

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

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

Trustees Absent: John Reardan, Trustee

Staff: Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager

2. Public Expression

Several members of the public introduced themselves including Ed Ballman and Johnny Casper from Balance Hydrologics, presenters for Item 4: East Fork Russian River Water Availability Analysis Presentation.

3. Approval of Agenda

Treasurer Froneberger moved to approve the agenda. Vice President White seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

4. East Fork Russian River Water Availability Analysis Presentation

GM Salomone introduced Balance Hydrologics, engaged by the District to conduct an analysis of potential surplus flows related to the District's existing water right on the East Fork Russian River and available flows to support existing water right applications.

Ed Ballman presented the Review of Preliminary Analysis and Modeling report. Comments and questions were offered by Trustees and the public including Todd Schram, Stephen Maples, and Pam Jeanne from Sonoma Water, Chris Shutes from California Sportfishing Protection Alliance.

5. Water Supply Conditions Update and District Response

PG&E's Operation of Potter Valley Project

GM Salomone reported that on May 13, 2022, PG&E unexpectedly filed a variance application to FERC requesting a reclassification of water year type to Critically Dry, setting East Fork Russian River flows to 5 cfs with no buffer, rather than the 25 cfs target flow anticipated by current conditions. If approved without modification, water availability in the Russian River will be drastically reduced and curtailments will extend into the Pre 1914 water right priority dates. Staff recommended the Board approve a filing of a Motion to Intervene on the temporary variance as it did in 2021.

(Continued...)

Vice President White moved approval of the proposed Motion to Intervene and comments in response to the May 13, 2022 Application for Temporary Variance of Flow Requirements filing by Pacific Gas and Electric Company for FERC Project No. 77-306 (“Potter Valley Project”) by the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District. Treasurer Froneberger seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following unanimous vote:

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

Upper Russian Voluntary Water Sharing Program

GM Salomone reported on the locally driven voluntary water sharing agreement in the Upper Russian River. Participants in the program may be eligible for an exception to curtailments that would otherwise be applicable pursuant to an emergency regulation adopted by the State Water Board on May 10, 2022. The State Water Board approval of the agreement is required for the agreement to take effect. The agreement will be considered by the State Water Board at their meeting on June 7, 2022.

If PG&E’s variance is approved as filed, the Program will not go into effect until sufficient water supply is available to support it. However, enrollment is still encouraged to position water right holders to benefit as soon as possible. FERC could issue the variance with modifications to the requests.

Staff recommended the District enroll in the Program in the event regulatory decisions are made that allow its implementation. The benefit would be a reduction but not full curtailment of the District’s direct diversion right and a decrease in stored water dependence.

Vice President White moved approval of District enrollment in the Upper Russian River Voluntary Water Sharing Program. Treasurer Froneberger seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following unanimous vote:

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

6. Redwood Valley County Water District request for Water Supply

GM Salomone presented the item. Redwood Valley County Water District submitted a formal request for surplus water. GM Salomone noted that the (RRFC) District must provide Redwood Valley County Water District surplus water under the terms of the Stipulated Judgement. Public comments were offered by Redwood Valley County Water District Board Member Bree Klotter and General Manager Jared Walker, asking for clarification on future notice of surplus water. GM Walker brought up the situation of emergency water supply for human health and safety, including fire suppression and President Watt requested that be addressed as a separate item as needed in the future.

The Board reached consensus on issuing the draft response to Redwood Valley County Water District.

7. Proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget

GM Salomone presented the item which had no changes from the preliminary budget presented at a previous meeting.

Vice President White moved approval of Resolutions #22-01 Adopting the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 including Exhibit A. Treasurer Froneberger seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following unanimous vote:

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

(Continued...)

REGULAR BUSINESS, INFORMATION, AND REPORT ITEMS

8. Consent Calendar

- a) Acceptance of the May 2022 Financial Report
- b) Approval of Minutes for the May 9, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c) Approval of Nomination of Trustee Matthew Froneberger for Special District Seat on Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo.)
- d) Authorize GM Salomone to engage consultant for Meter Management Contract.
- e) 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.

[Note: Approval of the Minutes of the May 9, 2022 Regular Board Meeting was mislabeled on the Agenda as April 9, 2022.]

One edit to Item 8b Approval of May 9, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes was offered: Line 11 should read “Watt” not “Wat.” Line 84 date should be June 6, not June 9.

Vice President White moved to approve the Consent Calendar with the two corrections to the minutes noted above. Treasurer Froneberger seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following unanimous vote:

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

9. Trustee & Committee Reports

None.

10. General Manager Report & Correspondence

GM presented the written report.

CLOSED SESSION

11. Conference with Real Property Negotiations (Government Code § 54956.8)

The Board entered Closed Session at 6:54 PM and returned to Public Session at 7:14 PM. The Board gave direction to the Ad Hoc Committee.

12. Direction on Future Agenda Items – None

(Continued...)

ADJOURNMENT

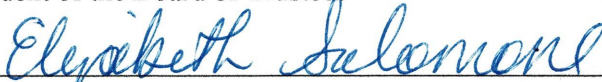
Vice President White moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 PM. Treasurer Froneberger seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following unanimous vote:

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

APPROVED by Board of Trustees on August 8, 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