

REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
2370 Webb Ranch Road  
Redwood Valley CA 95470  
(707) 485-0679

MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting  
Thursday, April 17, 2014

Directors Present: Jeanette Hallman, Granville Pool, Pamela Ricetti, Ken Todd, Jeff Basili  
Directors Absent: None  
Staff Present: General Manager Bill Koehler  
Others Present: County Supervisor Carre Brown, RV Fire Chief Tom Hession, others

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL.

Jeanette Hallman, Board Vice-President  
Jeff Basili, Director  
Ken Todd, Director  
Pamela Ricetti, Director  
Granville Pool, Board President

2. HEARING OF COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FROM THE ATTENDING PUBLIC.

Nothing.

3. CONSIDER HEARING OF URGENT ITEMS RECEIVED SINCE THE AGENDA WAS POSTED.

GM Koehler informed the Board that Recording Secretary Linda Groth is retiring. Although she is not in attendance tonight due to illness, she will transcribe the recorded Meeting Minutes for tonight which is her last Meeting. Some potential names for Recording Secretary were mentioned and the Directors were encouraged to bring more information to the General Manager if they have other recommendations.

President Pool mentioned the Letter to the Editor written by Hal Voege and published in the Ukiah Daily Journal recently. President Pool would like to write a follow-up letter as the Board President to clarify some points, especially about the history of RV not having a contract with the Flood Control District and how the lawsuit came about and how it resulted in the Stipulated Judgment. He would plan to draft his letter, have the facts confirmed by the General Manager, and send it to the rest of the Directors for feedback. He feels there is benefit to submitting his letter in quick succession to Mr. Voege's published letter.

Director Todd stated that the RV Water District is being hammered from a lot of different directions that really have him upset. The Board of Directors is doing everything it can to bring water to the public here, the growers and the domestic side in a reasonable, efficient, and affordable as possible way. We come up with ideas; we get shot down because somebody just doesn't seem to want to see Redwood get water. He is getting very tired of that negativity and he feels Redwood should continue to be looking at positive solutions. He is 100% in favor of a letter expressing that outlook. GM Koehler reminded the Board that all dialog needs to pass through his desk in order to avoid any perception of a serial meeting.

**MOTION: Discuss the letter of clarification President Pool wishes to write, with Action to be taken at the Meeting this evening.**

Ricetti/Todd Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Unanimous

ABSENT: None

This topic will be Heard under Agenda Item No. 7.d.

GM Koehler informed the Board that because RVCWD is one of the 17 most At-Risk Water Systems in California, he has been contacted by some news reporters. He did conduct an interview with former UDJ reporter Glenda Anderson now with the Santa Rosa Press Democrat. He did not conduct an interview with Fox News out of Los Angeles.

Director Todd said he was contacted by an NBC reporter last month and he was interviewed.

#### 4. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA.

The Minutes for the March Meeting were not included in the Board Packets and were not emailed to the Directors until a few days before the Meeting. Since all of the Directors haven't read the Minutes yet, consensus was to not include Approval of Minutes in the Agenda tonight.

With the deletion of Agenda Item 6 and the addition of Agenda Item 7.d., the Agenda was presented.

**MOTION: Accept the Agenda with elimination of Item 6 and the addition of Item 7.d.**

Ricetti/Basili Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Unanimous

ABSENT: None

#### 5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR.

- a. Financial Statement.
- b.-1. Bills Paid since those approved at last Meeting.
- b.-2. Bills Paid as approved at previous Meeting.
- c. Bills Payable.
- d. District Activity.

The Consent Calendar for April 2014 was reviewed.

The Directors suggested some changes to make some of the reports more clearly defined.

**MOTION: Approve the Consent Calendar as presented.**

Todd/Basili Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Unanimous  
ABSENT: None

6. DIRECTORS AND STAFF REPORTS AND DISCUSSION OF NON-ACTION TOPICS. (Agenda Item 7)

a. Personnel Committee Report. (Agenda Item 7a)

The Personnel Committee is planning to meet soon.

b. Ad Hoc/Consolidation Committee Report. (Agenda Item 7b)

Director Ricetti said she has some concerns regarding the merger. The FCD was quite willing to cut off Redwood Valley. If there is to be a merger, we are keeping our debt but what happens to RVCWD's money? What happens to our ad valorem tax money? How much are we going to be paying for water for ag and domestic users in RV once we really don't have any say about it? She is concerned because the FCD is not answering these questions.

Director Todd mentioned the FCD push to get the merger documents completed by July when Bruce Baracco retires. Well, given the feedback that we're getting from the FCD regarding our efforts to get water through the Eel River Diversion, how somebody threw a big negative blanket on that, what happens if the merger takes place? Do we get 75% of our ag water thru the FCD like the rest of their contractors or do we stay at zero for the rest of the summer like they're trying to do to us now?

GM Koehler said he did ask GM Sean White that very question. GM Koehler did some rough math which shows that normally during the rest of the year we use 1,000 ac-ft; so 75% of that is 750 ac-ft. We have roughly 300 ac-ft left from the original 355 ac-ft. We didn't get anything through the tunnel; that means we need to be receiving an additional 450 ac-ft from Flood Control. I was told, We have the water; it's just parked.

President Pool stated, So, it is political. Another thought I've had over time recently is that they claim to more or less put us on equal footing with other Districts, and yet now they are not willing to risk putting us on such a footing, presumably to avoid alienating the other Districts. If the merger goes ahead and we're absorbed, then when people from RV run for the new Board what chance would someone from RV get to be elected if the other District's have all been alienated by our coming in?

Director Todd recalled the FCD alluding to RV being seated on the Board as part of the merger.

GM Koehler said that all these concerns need to be nailed down. Also there was discussion that the transition should be as close to an election as possible to insure opportunity for broader representation. But now it's that we're supposed to get everything done by July.

Director Hallman added, I would like to say, though, that as far as them notifying us that there is no surplus water, it's not a personal thing. According to the Stipulated Judgment they have to notify us if there is no surplus water. As far as them supposedly attacking us and cutting the water off, I don't think that is the case. They have a formula, they look at what they have and if it says no surplus, then they have to tell us that.

Director Todd said, I understand that. I'm talking also about a dozen agencies that were working together to get water for Redwood Valley delivered into the Lake through Potter Valley during a very specific brief window of time. Efforts were denied at the last minute and it was extremely disappointing.

GM Koehler stated that Dick Butler from NMFS which is part of NOAA, was fully supporting it, but the legal staff killed it and now the river flow dropped to 20 so the window of opportunity is closed.

Director Ricetti commented that the water went into the ocean instead of the lake.

Director Todd said the thing that upsets him is that there is water. We attempted to make some solutions and we didn't get it done. We need to get the rules changed so that some of the water is allowed to flow into Lake Mendocino.

GM Koehler said the one really positive thing that came out of that discussion is that there is a really pretty strong consensus that the water system in Lake Pillsbury and Lake Mendocino is broken. He added, There is tremendous focus right now, such as Congressman Jared Huffman's Forecast Act and the fact that Lake Mendocino has been designated as the first Army COE lake to have its re-operation examined.

Director Todd stated, Things can get done. Look at the Reservation in Hopland. They were able to get 200 acre-feet of water in 30 days from the State Water Resources Board. How can they get that when we are starving for water and we can't get any, not for years.

Director Ricetti added, I'm not taking this personally from Russian River Flood Control, I'm looking at it as a business deal and I don't think it's a great looking deal right now. I need some answers before I sell.

President Pool asked, If the FCD really wants us to merge and we are in favor of the concept of merger and of consolidation of all the districts as a long term goal, why will the FCD not give RV a contract to be on an equal footing with the other districts or else an amount that is to be worked out to meet basic needs and then for, if possible, surplus? They could give us a couple of years to work out things in the whole political landscape, with the proviso that we are on board to try to do everything we can to make the marriage work and proceed to a merger and to pave the way with the other districts.

Director Hallman said she hears what he is saying, but we still have the Places of Use that are outside of the FCD Places of Use. The FCD can't just contract water with us, and we ship it to places outside of their Place of Use. That's problematic.

GM Koehler stated, We've been doing that for years. It doesn't seem to be a problem with the State Water Board.

Director Ricetti asked for clarification of the water from FCD to RV not being in their Place of Use.

GM Koehler stated, It is their Place of Use, Water Right 7915.

President Pool added that RV has five annexed areas.

Director Hallman explained that it is those annexations that are not within the Place of Use.

Director Todd asked where the annexations are located.

GM Koehler itemized, The western half of the Gabrielli property; the western 2/3rds of the original Fetzer property; the small piece of land at H&W; the RV Rancheria and also the site of the southwest tank. GM Koehler explained, All of this was approved into our Service Area which was a function of LAFCO but whoever did it failed to submit it to the Water Board to get it into our Place of Use. The paperwork is complete and was submitted many years ago. We pay \$1000 per year to the State Water Board to have that paperwork sit in somebody's in-basket. We submitted two Petitions, one for Extension of Time to put that water to Beneficial Use, which we have not been able to Perfect. That is a minimum of 2900 acre-feet

that goes into storage. The second Petition was the Change of Place of Use. There are separate numbers, separate dates, separate fees, however after a few years, the State conjoined them and now the State is saying they will not act on only one or the other; they will only act on both of them. So, if we want to get the Place of Use issue dealt with, we abandon the Petition for putting the water to Beneficial Use.

GM Koehler continued, Right now there may be some value to the 2900 acre-feet to storage, if we change the Point of Diversion and jump through some hoops. The reason we drilled a useless well here at the treatment plant was because during the first three years I worked here I received a CDO from the State Water Board saying to go cut off service to the RV Rancheria. Then they said we have to go find another source of water and I offered to go drill a well down by the river but they said no, that would be underflow, can't do that. So, we drilled a well at the water treatment plant for \$50,000. It tested out at 2-1/2 gallons per minute; and we no longer receive CDO's from the State.

GM Koehler stated that he has realized by attending Board Meetings of various Districts and speaking with their Managers and also during separate conversations with some individual Board Members, that they want nothing to do with any agency involved with the FCD. In fact, they will probably withdraw the offer of a contract to operate RV if it is associated with FCD.

GM Koehler said that there is another option that has been floating around, to form a JPA with Willow, Millview, Calpella and Redwood. The JPA would be set up to operate Districts, each with its own Board and one member from each Board would be selected to serve on the JPA Board. Therefore each representative agency is on equal footing, each with one vote. The potential future end game would be to merge into one large District with sharing of water that would be purchased in a single block. So, it would be operated as one District but the finances and Boards and Regulations would be kept separate. There is language in the Stipulated Judgment that recommends forming a JPA and these Agencies would be perfectly willing to accept the FCD into this JPA.

GM Koehler spoke about the aquifer the City of Ukiah is tapped into. The City of Ukiah is drilling other wells that will be on-line in July of this year. The California Department of Public Health and Millview CWD have provided GM Koehler with topo maps and overlays and Google maps to aid in tracking down the extent of that aquifer and it shows that the H&W property sits on top of a portion of that aquifer. It is 600'-700' deep and it is groundwater. All the best producing wells in the valley are around 600' deep. A 6" exploratory well would eventually become a monitoring well. A production well would cost about \$1,500,000.

President Pool asked if there is funding available for a project like this.

GM Koehler said the Emergency Drought Fund is providing grant monies for numerous wells being drilled throughout the State. The RV District has been told to find an additional source of water and we can certainly demonstrate we need more water.

President Pool mentioned that the recent exercise we went through with PG&E and FERC and NMFS, etc., certainly reinforces the desperate nature of our situation.

Director Ricetti asked how we would go about applying for these grant funds.

GM Koehler said that right now we don't have a grant writer however the California Dept. of Public Health has offered to send a grant writer to work with us.

He also noted, The Water Board has put out a statement that the Russian River between here and Healdsburg is expected to be impaired by May. If it's bad enough, everything post-'14 gets yanked and essentially it becomes an adjudicated river.

A member of the public offered a history of some of the well drilling by the City of Ukiah.

GM Koehler said the FCD will hold a Special Meeting on Monday, April 17 at 4:00 p.m. with the 1<sup>st</sup> discussion being the contract with their water purchasers and then a 2<sup>nd</sup> discussion of the LAFCO narrative.

He added, An additional complicating factor of the dissolution/annexation process is that, if it goes ahead, Redwood Valley's Permit to produce drinking water goes away along with Redwood Valley CWD. The new entity would have to apply for a new Permit and undergo a process called Technical, Managerial and Financial Evaluation. They would look long and hard at how the finances will work, how the management works, what's the technical ability; in other words, it would be like permitting a brand new treatment plant. The CDPH District Engineer is clearly in favor of mergers of any kind, but they will insist upon a full TMF Evaluation before issuing a Permit.

Director Ricetti asked, What the next step in looking at the aquifer location within District boundaries and is that our water?

GM Koehler said, Yes. The District would probably spend \$7,500 to go drill a test hole. If it proves to have good production, 600-1,000 gpm, it most likely would be drinking water. (The Calpella intertie production test resulted in about 100 gpm). We will need to bring in a licensed hydrogeologist. GM Koehler will look at the CDPH maps and will also hope to have a chance to look at the City maps.

President Pool said he wants the District to develop a strategy of using the well water in conjunction with surface water, not exclusive of it. All options are on the table. If we are able to develop this water, it would put us in a stronger position going in to any sort of JPA or other arrangement, especially if we had the ability to share that water in times of need. The intertie would accommodate that fairly well since it could be gravity-flow the other direction.

GM Koehler will plan to go to the City of Ukiah and to the CDPH and also obtain some other information, and bring his findings back to the Board.

c. Discussion of Rates. (Agenda Item 7c)  
Nothing submitted.

d. Letter. (Agenda Item 7d)

The Board realized this should be heard under an Action Item.

**MOTION: Move this topic to General Manager's Report and Action Items, Item 8.i.**

Ricetti/Basili Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Unanimous

ABSENT: None

## 7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT AND ACTION ITEMS. (Agenda Item No. 8)

### 7-a. District Operations. (Agenda Item 8-a)

Steven and Scott are completely modifying the chemical injection vault area. There is no longer a vault and the chemical alarms will be installed above ground. They have also corrected the flow of all sample water so that it is recycled back to the raw water intake instead of going into, and filling up, the septic tank. They have completed some other prep work on related projects and are doing a great job.

7-b) Intertie. (Agenda Item 8-b)

Brelje & Race is working on the final design of the intertie. Wipf Construction has started to pot-hole to B&R exact locations for design. The County DOT and Planning & Building are being kept informed. The wind and seismic specs might allow DOT to waive the need for a permit. We have an agreement from Millview CWD, we have a wheeling agreement from Calpella CWD. Tim Erickson has assured us that he has this matter on the City Council Agenda and he has further assured us that if Redwood is flat out of water, they will pull their weight; we should receive this in writing within the next few days.

Vice-President Hallman asked for clarification on the Masonite well #6 as she was told the well is not capped.

GM Koehler said, That statement is untrue.

GM Koehler continued, The engineer thinks it would be better to introduce water from both sides of the valley. He recommended that we take 100 gallons from the existing intertie and then we have to make up 100 gallons from the other side. The existing Millview-Calpella intertie has to be upgraded to not only get whatever we need, calculated at basically around a total of 300 gallons, so that would be 100 gallons from here and 200 gallons over there. We calculate that backwards (reverse engineer) and that goes directly into our distribution system. It bypasses the ag distribution system. Ernie Wipf thinks he can get this done within three months and he also thinks it will cost less than the engineer's estimate. The building is cement block with a secure metal door and a fireproof metal roof and it is approved by CDPH.

7-c) Credit Card. (Agenda Item 8-c)

We get about a dozen requests per year asking to pay via credit card. If we provide that service it is most likely that many customers would use it. Research shows the process of getting set up is more complicated than a PayPal business account since it has to mesh with our billing program.

Vice-President Hallman shared her experiences with her customers and not only are extra fees involved, there are other things such as training to dispose of all the information properly, and changing the password regularly. She doesn't think the District needs this complexity at this time.

Director Ricetti agreed.

A member of the public stated that she has a business and she has three different ways that she takes credit cards right now because the business is sort of in a transition. None of these are complicated or expensive and they don't require any special education. She feels that the District should be aware of the needs of customers that might be suffering financially right now, and if the way they can pay their water bill is to put it on their credit card, we have a responsibility to consider that.

President Pool asked for more details from GM Koehler regarding our Core Billing program.

After further discussion, the Directors agreed to have GM Koehler look into the option of, after paying a set up charge and the \$20 per month charge, the cost would be 10-cents per transaction. He will bring that information back to the Board. He will also look at the procedure used by the County.

7-d) Conservation. (Agenda Item 8-d)

Our customers are doing a great job so far. March average use was ~ 45 gallons per person per day.

The Sonoma County Water Agency would like to form a partnership with Upper Russian water districts to apply for some State grant funding for conservation. Mendocino County would need to contribute \$100,000 from the combined districts. SCWA will contribute \$300,000 then use that total to leverage some matching funds. The first project would be super high-efficiency, low-flow toilets to replace the old model toilets. This includes the seat, the bowl wax, installation by a licensed plumber, disposal, for approximately \$300.

As discussion continued, Director Hallman expressed concern for the District funds because we are already facing so many major expenses in the immediate future, the water main relocations at the County Bridge, the intertie, possibly a well, the barge at Lake Mendocino for example.

President Pool expressed his strong sense that it is pretty important to SCWA to see Mendocino County participate in this. SCWA is putting this out there and doing all the legwork on it. He would not like to send a message that we are not interested in participating, especially when we can get a 3-to-1 leverage.

Supervisor Carre Brown added, It's also something the State Board really wants to see. With the Change Petition, Sonoma County has to show that they've worked toward water conservation.

Director Hallman stated that her comments were not due to a lack of interest, it's that we see our customers down to 45 gallons per person a day, and the real matter of fact is she doesn't know if we have the cash for this.

President Pool remarked that he totally hears that and a part of him feels the same way. However, from the insight that he has obtained in all that's going on regionally, he is very reluctant to not be shown as stepping forward in some way.

GM Koehler added that this isn't just for the toilets, but optionally it also includes the newer urinals that could be used at the schools and would be a significant water savings. He also mentioned that he volunteered a space as one of the county locations to store the new fixtures and make them available to the plumbers as needed.

President Pool asked Supervisor Brown if the BOS has taken any position on the grant participation. Supervisor Brown said the full Board has not met due to illness, but last Monday they advocated to vote for it, however, the BOS hasn't taken a position as a full Board.

Director Ricetti stated, If we put up \$7,500 and multiply by 4, that is \$30,000, that's 100 toilets, that sounds reasonable.

Director Todd supports President Pool's insight to the value of a show of cooperation with SCWA.

GM Koehler added that we have a very good relationship with SCWA. The reason they could not give us water is because of existing regulations.

Director Hallman offered to make a Motion even though she's not sure it will be passed:

**MOTION: Write SCWA a letter telling them we are very interested in their project but due to budget issues right now, we would have to pass until maybe next time.**

Hallman/

Director Basili said he understands the financial difficulty we are in right now, but he thinks this goodwill outweighs that, down the road.

Director Ricetti mentioned our customers that are really struggling with their daily allocations and this is one area that would definitely help.

President Pool agreed that this would send a really good message to our customers that we are participating in a program, at no cost to them, that considerably enhances their ability to comply with our conservation restrictions.

There was no Second to the above proposed Motion.

President Pool called for a new Motion.

**MOTION: Spend \$7,500, which is equivalent to 100 toilets, for the benefit of our customers.**

Ricetti/Basili Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Ricetti, Basili, Todd, Pool

NOES: Hallman

ABSTAIN: None

7-e) Well Letter. (Agenda Item 8-e)

Director Hallman will have a letter to submit for Board Approval at the next Meeting.

7-f) Emergency water.(Agenda Item 8-f)

GM Koehler reported on efforts jointly with PVID requesting increased flows through the Potter Valley Project under Term E Five of the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative.

Even though this was allowed under the RPA, the attorney for NOAA did not feel that the loss of grape crops constituted an emergency and, they felt there have been enough exceptions made in the overall system, and they said No.

Dick Butler pushed very hard for this.

We have no more options for our ag growers.

Fire Chief Tom Hession asked if this will affect the fire hydrants set on the ag mains. Answer: The hydrants continue to be usable.

GM Koehler continued, We have 300 acre-feet left, to be used for human health and safety. If it rains, which is a long-shot, or if we have water coming into our system besides the 355 ac-ft from FCD which is to be used for human health and safety and we can prove it's from another source, we have the right to enter into a dialog with FCD and CDPH.

Director Todd stated, We don't have the water, the vote is simple from that standpoint, I do have a problem with charging for something I do not get.

Director Ricetti added, Ag customers are still being billed for the meter fee and the 2-acre-feet of water.

GM Koehler said the fees must be charged. The District is still continuing to maintain the infrastructure.

Director Todd suggested, How about ag continuing to be charged \$90 per month without any water and when we do get water turned back on, we get credit for any of the 2-acre-feet minimum we haven't used yet.

Director Basili said he just doesn't know if he can make the Motion to cut off the ag community, the results would be devastating.

Director Todd said he knows the Motion needs to be made.

GM Koehler added, If this Masonite effort is successful and if we get the intertie done by June, there is hope.

President Pool stated, It is our responsibility as a Board to take actions and to protect and serve our District. The actions we have to take are not always palatable, but that's why we're here.

**MOTION: We make a decision to cut off the ag water on Monday, April 21, 2014. When we shut the water off this year and if they have unused allocations to date, that unused portion may be delivered to the customer next year at no additional cost because they will have already paid for it this year. The next year annual fees and allocations remain unchanged at this time.**

Basili/

Discussion:

Director Hallman mentioned that we had done something with ag sometime in past history.

GM Koehler said we did cut off ag in 2009. It was later in the year, not during frost season, and it was for a shorter time but it was still painful.

Director Hallman asked what will happen next year if we are still in drought.

GM Koehler said if that is the case, he will be bringing the matter back to the Board.

Director Hallman said, Rosalind, you have your hand raised.

Member of the public Rosalind Peterson said that the domestic customers are paying \$1400 an acre-foot for water. If we have gardens we're paying a big hit all the time. We're on rationing because of the drought, that means the District income is already in decline; so then you take the income decline and give the ag people what they want, the special interests, and then all of us are going to have our rates raised because the domestic customers are the only ones that are going to be purchasing any water at this rate.

Director Ricetti stated, It is not a concession. The ag customers are already paying for that water. Why shouldn't we get it?

Rosalind Peterson said, What I'm saying though, is that if the District has got financial difficulties, so all of a sudden we are going to be having our rates raised, in other words rationing, but we are going to have to pay higher rates for water to support the District, it's a combination of things that are going on.

President Pool stated, Ultimately that may be true, and it may impact the rates for ag users as well because we have to pay for the District with whatever water we sell however we sell it. But the situation for the ag users here is different from the domestic users in the sense that the domestic users just pay for whatever water they use. The domestic customers do not have to prepay for any pre-set amount.

Director Todd explained that when ag rates changed the annual minimum allocations some years ago, it dropped their annual minimum from 6 acre-feet down to 2 acre-feet. That was a huge financial hit.

Director Ricetti added, We took a huge hit financially.

Director Hallman said that is when the District actually brought the ag customers up to the rate that they should have been paying for water. At the time, the domestic users had been subsidizing the ag.

Director Ricetti said that for farmers, this is their livelihood. This is their life. It isn't for having a tomato plant and a garden, it's how we live, by farming. When the water gets cut off to us, it's our livelihood.

Getting back to the Motion, President Pool asked Supervisor Brown if she has had this situation on the Board of Supervisors, being down to three people and the Chair cannot second a Motion.

Supervisor Brown said the Chair can pass the gavel and make a Second.  
President Pool said that is what he is asking.

**President Pool handed the gavel to Vice-President Hallman and then President Pool Seconded the Motion.**

President Pool stated that he is very supportive of doing everything we could to avoid this situation, trying our level best, and here we are.

Vice-President Hallman agreed, We have tried our level best. I don't want to do anything hasty. I would rather take this issue and look at our Drought Resolution next month.

GM Koehler stated, I can't let more ag water into the system.

Vice-President Hallman agreed. No more ag water into the system and figure out next month what we can do for the ag customers. I don't want to do anything hastily.

GM Koehler asked, You're talking about eliminating the adjustment?

Vice-President Hallman stated, Temporarily, until we have all the facts in front of us and can talk about it.

Director Ricetti added, The writing is on the wall. GM Koehler has done everything he can to avoid this outcome, but it is what it is.

President Pool said he thinks there is a good case that this could be put in the realm of 'financial benefit'.

Director Todd said, No, it's just the opposite, this is an agricultural water district.

President Pool called on a member of the public with his hand raised.

Member of the public began, I know that it was conceived by farming but you can't say that it's just a primarily agricultural district.

Director Todd said, I understand that.

Member of public continued, But in fact you stated that in the letter to your customers. It was like, 'and don't forget, this District was started by farmers'. But as I understand it, you couldn't get the District without the domestic water customers.

President Pool said, That's right.

Member of public continued, You can't say that without making people upset.

Director Todd stated, It's ag and domestic; that's who we are. We're both; both sides have a place here on the Board.

Member of the public continued, So why is it just an occasion now for giving them that water? I have an ag pond on my property. I also have domestic service. I don't want to be made to feel that the domestic customers are just the poor relatives that got dragged along.

GM Koehler said that his concern was this: he has a lot of people come into the office saying that ag is bad, wine is bad, wine is not food. Agriculture is a \$60,000,000 economy for this valley alone.

Member of the public continued, I'm not against ag. I just don't want to have it stated that ag gets the lions share. But it's a joint effort.

GM Koehler stated, I didn't say ag does that.

Director Todd said he doesn't think anybody says that.

Member of the public continued, I respect ranchers, there are no harder working people.

Returning to the **Motion**, Vice-President Hallman stated, We have a Motion and a Second. We will do a **Roll Call Vote**:

AYES: Todd, Pool, Basili

NAY: Hallman

ABSTAIN: Ricetti

ABSENT: None

Vice-President Hallman stated, The Motion Passed.

Vice-President Hallman handed the gavel back to President Pool.

7-g.Lake Level. (Agenda Item 8-g)

Lake Mendocino held 24,806 ac-ft at the end of January. On April 17, 2014 it held 48,186 ac-ft.

7-h. Cal-Rural Water. (Agenda Item 8-h)

There are two seats up for election on the Board of Directors of the California Rural Water Association. No action taken.

7-i) President Pool will draft a letter. (Agenda Item 8-i)

**MOTION: Discuss President Pool writing a letter to the Editor of the Ukiah Daily Journal in follow-up and clarification of Hal Voegel's letter published today.**

Ricetti/Todd Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Unanimous

ABSENT: None

President Pool stated he wishes to follow-up on Hal Voegel's letter to the Editor and clarify a few points. He intends to keep it brief because Hal's letter is fairly long and he doesn't want to overly assault the public. His draft letter would be emailed to GM Koehler who will review and/or make suggestions, then he would forward the draft to each of the Directors to review or make suggestions and they would return their remarks to GM Koehler.

**MOTION: President Pool will prepare his letter in response to Hal Voegel's letter to the Editor published in the Ukiah Daily Journal on April 17, 2014. It will be disseminated to the GM and individual Directors for comment before submittal to the newspaper.**

Ricetti/Todd Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Unanimous

ABSENT: None

9:20 P.M. Break

Supervisor Carre Brown and some other members of the public left the Meeting during the Break.  
9:40 P.M. Reconvene

8. FINANCIAL REPORT. (Agenda Item No. 9)

After a review of the Financial Report for April 17, 2014, a Motion was made.

**MOTION: Accept the Financial Report as presented.**

Ricetti/Todd Discussion CARRIED

AYES: Unanimous

ABSENT: None

9. LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION OF MENDOCINO COUNTY – LAFCO. (Agenda Item No. 10)

GM Koehler and GM Sean White will resume getting the paperwork completed and the Directors will receive a copy of their draft.

10. M. C. INLAND WATER & POWER COMMISSION. (Agenda Item No. 11)

GM Koehler reported that he and Director Ricetti attended the IW&PC Meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The Upper Russian Stewardship Association (URSA) feels their efforts have greatly reduced the instantaneous demand on the river during frost events. They are now looking at smoothing out the demand of irrigation water.

The very good news is that scientists have discovered a bacteria that interferes with the quagga ability to eat. Also, this bacteria attacks the quagga and the zebra and nothing else. Test trials performed in closed bodies of water have been successful. They are now headed to a test trial in an open body of water.

The final licensing package is done and ready for approval to submit.

Paige Poulos and Laurel Marcus are looking for grant funding for the Russian River Preservation Alliance. There has been tremendous amount of increased focus on Lake Mendocino and on the Upper Russian River Watershed. A large group of federal government agencies, including NOAA, National Water Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has chosen a pilot program to look at re-operation of the Army COE lakes. Lake Mendocino is the first lake in the United States chosen for this particular program. In the past, their analyses had looked at the value of drinking water only. Now they're promoting a new cost-benefit analysis for Lake Mendocino to include recreation, fish, agricultural, and esthetics. This will give us a better number.

Janet Pauli, Carre Brown, Sean White and GM Koehler met in Santa Rosa with an engineer who formerly worked for the COE. He now works for Black & Beach, a multinational engineering corporation. He has been asked to come up with a cost for developing a 50%-60% certainty of the cost of raising the dam so that we can find out, without spending a ton of money, whether the Army's \$300,000,000 estimate is even 'ballpark'.

11. MENDOCINO COUNTY RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION

IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT. (Agenda Item No. 12)

GM Koehler reported the City of Ukiah granted the transfer of 800 acre-feet to FCD, but because of the 25% mandatory reduction, that works out to 600 ac-ft, with a designation that the transfer goes to Willow, Millview and Redwood Valley.

GM Koehler reported that Lee Howard was very upset about the 355 ac-ft, saying he was concerned about precedent-setting and legality.

A 4 p.m. Special Meeting will be held to consult with an attorney about this.

Director Todd said he would hope that Lee or others who might be objecting to this, would have some idea where we are going to get water or are we going to dry up 1,350 houses?

The second topic of the Special Meeting is, Discussion of the LAFCO proposal for labor.

GM Koehler reported, As part of the LAFCO process, GM Sean White was directed to draw up an organizational chart of the combined districts, including identifying the voids and who-would-do-what. Trustee Shoemaker would like to require an economic analysis of RV, an important step in the process. Some of the issues that need to be addressed are: the zone of benefit, the labor force, the ad-valorem, converting property tax to the new agency.

12. SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY. (Agenda Item No. 13)

GM Koehler and President Pool attended the SCWA Conservation Meeting. GM Grant Davis is definitely very interested in having visible participation in the regional conservation programs.

13. REPORT OF ATTENDANCE AT AGENCY MEETINGS OF ANY OTHER ENTITY NOT LISTED SEPARATELY HEREIN. (Agenda Item No. 14)

Yesterday GM Koehler met with the General Managers of Willow and Millview along with Tim Erickson and an associate from the City of Ukiah. They shared a phone conference with Michelle Frederick of the California Department of Public Health to discuss possible grant funding and various projects. She is interested in a real intertie that would connect all the systems, including something permanent for the Rogina Water Company. Although this is a goal of the CDPH, Dan Rogina was not a part of this call because he has to clear up any CPUC issues before participating.

Director Hallman referred to the Masonite well #6 and asked if they will test for any industrial contaminants when they test that well?

GM Koehler replied, They did the full Title 22 barrage of tests. He added, The RVCWD, as a surface water facility, does this every year; wells typically do it every 3 years.

The Masonite well Title 22 test results showed a whole series of "ND's" which mean "Non-Detects".

Director Hallman asked if those test results are public.

GM Koehler said he has no qualms about showing his Title 22 results to anybody requesting it. The CDPH requires that water purveyors annually publish a Consumer Confidence Report. The CCR shortcuts the process of reading through pages and pages of Non-Detects and ends up with, "If it's there, you have to report it." This is the easiest way to deal with it. A few years ago when Millview was first pursuing the well,

they purchased the right of way and they did the Title 22 barrage on it and it came back clean. Undoubtedly the CDPH will require new tests. What happens is, RV becomes a consecutive system. What they have to do is to come in and get our Title 22 and they build their own CCR. What we would probably do is get their Title 22 and build our own CCR. There are a couple of things that could be impacted by aging chlorine or residual organics in older water. We would probably end up doing our own testing for that.

Director Hallman said this makes more sense to her now.

#### 14. STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD. (Agenda Item No. 15)

Director Hallman asked if the RVCWD received a letter from the SWRCB which still requires a response. GM Koehler stated that we don't have to respond to any more letters.

Director Hallman said she had asked President Pool, and now she's asking GM Koehler, If RV did not have drinking water, we probably would have gotten that water through PG&E, right? I mean, in theory.

GM Koehler stated, There is no guarantee.

Director Hallman said, No guarantee but it would be more likely, right?

GM Koehler responded, If we had zero water it may well have been possible that they would justify it as an emergency; however, the almost certain result of an 'we don't have drinking water' emergency would be that we would be getting our 355 ac-ft from them. That seems to be their position, that not having ag water is not an emergency. That's one of their core building blocks. So I think we would have sat down with them and made the same calculation and come out with somewhere around 355 ac-ft that would have come through the tunnel.

Director Hallman continued, So what I was wondering, in one of these letters she (the Complainant) asked, My question is how do we determine that the water gets from PG&E to the lake once it's been abandoned?

Director Todd stated, That's very simple. You place a gauge at each end. The PVID knows its customers, they know who is using water and when their ponds are full, they know they're not putting anything in the irrigation ditch so how can the water go upstream?

President Pool added, It wouldn't have gone into the canal, it would have gone into the tailwater straight into the river.

Director Todd added, If the irrigation ditches aren't running, then all the irrigation ponds are full. So where could the water go?

President Pool stated that there are no water rights holders between Potter Valley and the Lake, so anyone using that water would be diverting it illegally and would be doing so whether that water was put into the system or not.

Director Todd added, There could be someone pumping but they would be pumping it on PV's irrigation system; and to get that amount you are talking about, it could be seen when it's taken.

Director Hallman stated that she doesn't think the efforts we went through were a waste of time, even though we didn't get that water. If we ever really were in dire straits we could go back to them for that water.

Director Hallman then referred to the Complainant's questions and said she thinks it's a good thing to have these questions answered.

Director Todd stated that the PVID would be doing the monitoring, and that would be that.

GM Koehler added, A good 2/3rds of those questions, with all due respect or lack thereof, are ridiculous. Several Board Members spoke their agreement.

GM Koehler added, They are absurd. I answered the legitimate ones, but a lot of them are nonsense.

Director Hallman stated that if we ever have to go back to these agencies, it's nice to have these questions answered.

GM Koehler said that the vast majority of these questions would not be asked by anybody else.

Director Todd stated that there were a lot of assertions about grapes in the letter, and those assertions were incorrect also.

GM Koehler also added, The intertie project has nothing to do with the Moratorium. It never has, it never will. That was discussed with CDPH. The Grant will pay for an emergency intertie, but it won't pay for an upgrade. So, again, there was a huge amount of misinformation in the letter.

15. STATUS REPORT OF PLACE OF USE ISSUES. (Agenda Item No. 16).

Nothing to report.

16. STATUS REPORT OF 2800 ACRE-FEET STORAGE RIGHT. (Agenda Item No. 17)

Director Todd stated, I'm sure you've already done it, but, has it ever been proposed to the COE that we use their lake as a storage facility?

President Pool and GM Koehler both responded, Oh, Yes.

Director Todd continued, Even if you can't, have you offered to pay them money for storage?

GM Koehler said, To quote them, It's a Flood Control Structure.

Director Todd stated, I understand that, but storing 2800 acre-feet in that lake wouldn't even be noticed. From a realistic standpoint they could be able to store that 2800 acre-feet.

President Pool said, Try telling that to the Lieutenant Colonel.

Director Todd added, That is ridiculous. Having 2800 acre-feet in the lake would make such a difference to us. I think we should keep putting pressure on them any way we can and I think we should send that proposal again. We're willing to consider \$1,500,000 in a well, we should also keep hammering at this.

President Pool agreed that this is worth mentioning in the process of studying the re-operation of the lake. There were no objections.

The Meeting ended at 10:10 P.M.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 15, 2014 at the Water District Office, 2370 Webb Ranch Road, Redwood Valley, California.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Groth, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: Board of Directors

DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: Paula Berezay  
Secretary, Board of Directors