

*Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control &
Water Conservation Improvement District*

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item 5: Board Vacancy

Monday, July 1, 2024

The Strategic Plan relevant priority is **Administration** – engaged, diverse, and knowledgeable Board leadership.

Background

The District Board has a vacancy which became available June 4, 2024 upon the resignation of Alfred White. Government code Section 1780 sets forth the procedure for filling Board vacancies and provides that the District Board shall, within 60 days from the commencement of the vacancy, either fill the vacancy by appointment or call a special election to fill the vacancy. The procedure has been followed and multiple individuals submitted letters of interest by Friday, June 28, 2024. Applicants were asked to attend the Regular Board meeting of Monday, July 1, 2024 and invited to address the Board. Please note: if an applicant is selected for appointment, they may not act nor vote as a Trustee until the Oath of Office is performed and approved by the County Clerk-Recorder.

Discussion

The Board will hear and fully consider applications for the Board vacancy and all oral and written public comment on the matter.

The criteria by which the Board chooses an appointee to fill a vacancy is at the Board's discretion. The deliberation, consideration, and voting on an appointment to a vacant District Board seat must be done in open session. The Board can ask applicants to step out of the meeting during discussion with other applicants and/or during deliberation, however, they cannot require it. The appointment can only be made by majority vote of the remaining Board members.

Recommendation:

- Make a motion to fill the Board of Trustee vacancy by appointment.
And
- Make a motion to approve Resolution # 4-03 appointing [insert individual's name] to the Vacant District Board seat until the next District election in November 2024.

Attachments:

- Alfred White resignation letter
- Board vacancy notice (also found: <https://rffc.specialdistrict.org/notice-of-district-board-vacancy>)
- Letters of interest
- DRAFT Resolution # 24-03 appointing to the Vacant District Board seat until the next District election in November 2024.

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Prepared and submitted to the Board of Trustees by: *Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager*

June 3, 2024

To:
Board of Trustees of the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation
Improvement District

Copy:
Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager

This letter is my resignation from my position as Director on the RRFC board effective *June 4th, 2024*
It's been a long and winding road. I am confident that the District is in good hands.

Sincerely,



Alfred White

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

June 4, 2024

**Notice of Vacancy
on the
Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control
& Water Conservation Improvement District Board of Trustees**

Interested persons are hereby notified that, pursuant to Government Code §1780, there is a vacancy on the District Board of Trustees.

The position is to serve the remainder of a term up for election in November 2024. An appointee who wishes to continue in the seat after November 2024 will need to file for the seat in the 2024 Election with the County of Mendocino Clerk-Recorder by August 19, 2024.

Letters of interest and, if desired, a resume, should be submitted no later than Friday, June 28, 2024. Applicants are asked to attend the Regular Board meeting of Monday, July 1, 2024 at 5:30 pm and invited to address the Board. Email: DistrictManager@rrfc.net. Mail: PO Box 2104, Ukiah, CA 95482. 707-462-5278 www.rrfc.net for more information on the District.

Pursuant to Gov. Code §1780, this district board has 60 days from the date of notification of the vacancy or the effective date of the vacancy, whichever is later, to fill the vacancies by appointment in lieu or call a special election. This notice will be posted for at least 15 days in three (3) or more conspicuous locations within the district beginning June 4, 2024.

Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager
**Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control
& Water Conservation Improvement District**
PO Box 2104, Ukiah, CA 95482
Cell: 707-462-5278 www.RRFC.net

President
Christopher Watt

Vice President
Vacant

Treasurer
John Bailey

Trustee
Tyler Rodrigue

Trustee
John Reardan

June 26, 2024

Dear Russian River Flood Control District,

I have taken an interest in the open District Board Vacancy. I believe that it is my duty as a customer and advocate of resources to serve the community in which we flourish from. The board members are an important part of Russian River Flood Control. These are the people most do not know about and do the most good serving the district. As a customer of Russian River Flood Control, I have been able to witness how Russian River Flood Control (under the guidance of Elizabeth Salomone) has been able to help it's customers through some of the toughest situations such as a drought. Beth has been so helpful to all of her customers and as a customer would like to return the favor in the form of volunteering my time to Russian River Flood Control. If I am chosen, I look forward to working with all the board members to solve the toughest issues at hand.

 6/26/24
Christine Akin

June 4, 2024

To the Board of Trustees of the Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District:

This email is to serve as my letter of interest to serve on the Board of Directors for the Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District, filling Al White's recently vacated seat.

My interest in serving on the Board stems from my ownership of a vineyard adjacent to the Russian River that receives water from the District, as well as other sources of regulated and non-regulated water, and from my professional role as Senior Viticulturist for Atlas Vineyard Management where I oversee viticulture and water use compliance across our vineyards in Lake, Mendocino, and Sonoma Counties. Water is a precious resource to a farmer, and we need to do all that we can to protect our rights to use it. I have closely observed the excellent work of RRFCD over the years, and the important role this organization plays in securing our collective ability to use water in the basin, and would like to see that continue at the same high level.

I am a current member on the following organizations - Board of Directors of the California Land Stewardship Institute, the Mendocino County Farm Bureau Water Committee, and the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Vineyard Technical Group. I am a past member of the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District Board of Directors. I have presented multiple times to Regional and State Water Boards, and been active in local water issues for over a decade. I know many of the key participants in water issues in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties, and I believe that my experience, knowledge and connections would be an asset to the Board. I have been farming wine grapes professionally in Mendocino County since 1994, and so have plenty of perspective to offer!

I may have a conflict not enabling me to attend the July 1 Board meeting, but I will work to rectify that conflict so that I may attend.

Cheers!

Dave Koball

Resolution #24-03

of the

Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District

Appointing _____ to the Vacant District Board Seat Until the Next General District Election in November 2024

WHEREAS, the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the “Board of Trustees,” has a vacancy which became available June 4, 2024 upon the resignation of Alfred White; and

WHEREAS, Government code Section 1780 sets forth the procedure for filling Board vacancies and provides that the District Board shall, within 60 days from the commencement of the vacancy, either fill the vacancy by appointment or call a special election to fill the vacancy; and

WHEREAS, at its July 1, 2024 meeting, the Board of Trustees voted to fill the vacancy by appointment; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees heard and fully considered all oral and written public comment and General Manager’s report on the matter at a Regular Board Meeting on July 1, 2024;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

- (1) The District Board of Trustees finds that the recitals above are true and correct and incorporated into this Resolution by reference.
- (2) The District Board of Trustees hereby appoints _____ to fill the Board seat vacant as of June 4, 2024.
- (3) The person appointed as set forth in this Resolution shall serve on the District Board until the person who is elected by District voters at the November 5, 2024 general district election has been certified as the successor to serve on the Board of Trustees.
- (4) This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption, and the County Clerk-Recorder shall certify the adoption of this Resolution.

ADOPTED 1st day of July, 2024 by the Board of Trustees of the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District, by the following vote:

Christopher Watt	Yes/ No / Abstain / Absent
John Bailey	Yes/ No / Abstain / Absent
Tyler Rodrigue	Yes/ No / Abstain / Absent
John Reardan	Yes/ No / Abstain / Absent
(1 seat vacant)	

Signed:

Christopher Watt, Board of Trustees President

Date

Attest:

Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager

Date

A copy of this resolution, the agreement, and any attachments thereto shall be on file in the office of Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District, 304 N. State Street #2, Ukiah, CA 95482.