

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

December 6, 2021

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

1. Roll Call

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

Trustees Present: Christopher Watt, President
Alfred White, Vice President
John Reardan, Trustee
Tyler Rodrigue, Trustee
Trustees Absent: Matthew Froneberger, Treasurer
Staff: Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager

2. Action Item: State of Emergency

Vice President White moved to reaffirm previously adopted Resolution #21-04 Making Findings and Determinations under Assembly Bill 361 for Continued Virtual Meetings, determining 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. Trustee Rodrigue seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

3. Public Expression – No one from the public indicated interest in public expression

4. Approval of Agenda

Vice President White moved to approve the agenda as presented. Trustee Rodrigue seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

5. Water Supply Conditions Update and District Response

GM Salomone presented the item. An update was requested on the status of Eel River water transfers through the Potter Valley Project now that PG&E's power generation is offline. GM Salomone noted there was not an official update from PG&E, though representatives from the relicensing Partnership, which includes Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) and Sonoma Water Agency and others, were coordinating efforts to gain support from Eel River stakeholders to divert high winter flows from the Eel River to the Russian River watershed.

Bree Klotter, Board member of Redwood Valley County Water District, asked if support had been requested from Legislative representatives.

(Continued...)

6. Water Resiliency Planning

GM Salomone presented the item, reviewing the staff report.

Grant Funding Application: Vice President White voiced concerns regarding the District rather than the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) applying for and implementing this project. Discussion was held in which the governance and workload of the GSA was considered. It was noted this proposed project specifically concerns RRFC by using District customers and water available under the District license to determine how the system behaves under various conditions. Additionally, the funding is available now; the District is in a position to meet the application deadline whereas the GSA is not.

Trustee Reardan moved to approve

- (1) the Service Agreement with LACO Associates for Funding Analysis and Grant Writing, including the ratification of Exhibit A to develop funding opportunity recommendations and the approval of Amendment No. 1 to include services in development of the application;
- (2) the Resolution #21-05 Authorizing the Grant Application, Acceptance, and Execution for the On-Farm Groundwater Recharge Multi-Benefit Demonstration Project and direct GM Salomone to finalize and submit the grant application; and
- (3) direction to GM Salomone, in consultation with Legal Counsel, to file for a temporary water recharge permit from the State Water Board for the proposed On-Farm Groundwater Recharge Multi-Benefit Demonstration Project.

Trustee Rodrigue seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

Water Storage Project: GM Salomone, President Watt, and Trustee Reardan presented the item, providing an update on the ad hoc committee work, including a meeting with CA Fish and Wildlife representatives on the impacts to fisheries, the environment, and Tribal interests. Comments and questions were offered. There was Board consensus to proceed with the fisheries habitat evaluation and to develop a plan for water availability analysis that will also benefit the water right applications. A revised project description was presented that expands on the fisheries habitat enhancement (changes shown in grey highlight below.)

Trustee Reardan moved to approve the revised Preliminary Feasibility Study for Water Storage Project:

In the 1990's the RRFC commissioned a feasibility study for developing an approximately 5,000 – 12,000 acre foot reservoir within the larger of two forks of Hensley Creek, a tributary of the Upper Russian River. Water to be stored in the reservoir would originate as run-off within its watershed and wet-season releases from Lake Mendocino. The value of this project is to create a strategic reserve during wet periods to release during dry periods and enhance fisheries within the lower reach of Hensley Creek. RRFC is reviewing this potential project and considering the retention of a Special Projects Manager to oversee a consulting team charged with preparing an updated Preliminary Feasibility Study for the project. Initial focus will be on regulatory limitations/requirements, fisheries habitat evaluation, water availability, funding, water rights, and property acquisition.

Trustee Rodrigue seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

7. Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Adjustment

Vice President White moved to approve Resolution #21-07 Adopting the Adjusted Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Trustee Reardan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following unanimous vote:

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

(Continued...)

REGULAR BUSINESS, INFORMATION, AND REPORT ITEMS

8. Consent Calendar

- a) Acceptance of the November 2021 Financial Report
- b) Approval of Minutes for the November 1, 2021 Regular Meeting
- c) Acceptance of the fiscal year-end reports for FY 2020-2021
- d) Approval of the Regular Meeting Calendar for 2022

Vice President White moved to approve Consent Calendar Items a-d. Trustee Reardan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following unanimous vote:

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

9. Board Member & Committee Reports

President Watt reported an anomaly in the West Fork stream flow gage that was reported to the US Geological Survey staff, who addressed it.

President Watt also noted that Willow County Water District held a Special Meeting to approve their contribution to the Upper Russian River Water Agency for the Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

Trustee Reardan noted he filed a request for Sonoma Water Agency to provide more information on Lake Pillsbury storage levels.

10. General Manager Report & Correspondence

GM Salomone presented the written report and asked the Board for direction on Board Officers for 2022. Consensus was to keep the slate as is and approval will be on the January consent calendar.

11. Direction on Future Agenda Items

General Manager evaluation, Board Officers for 2022, Mid Year Budget Review & rate review.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President White moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 PM. Trustee Reardan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following unanimous vote:

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

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