



MANAGING RESOURCES FOR A BETTER FUTURE

DIRECTORS
NICK BRUNO, PRESIDENT
JEFFREY D. COULTHARD, VICE PRESIDENT
AMBER MENDOZA, TREASURER
ERIC BREAM
SHANNON SIMONIAN
MIKE DELAGUERRA

JULIA D. STORNETTA, GENERAL MANAGER
MIKE CUTTONE, ASSISTANT TREASURER
BRIAN EHLERS, DISTRICT ENGINEER
LAUREN D. LAYNE, LEGAL COUNSEL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Root Creek Water District
held on
March 13, 2023**

1. Call to Order

The board meeting for the Root Creek Water District (RCWD) was called to order at 11:08 a.m. by President Nick Bruno. Board members present were Nick Bruno, Jeff Coulthard, Amber Mendoza, Shannon Simonian, Mike DeLaGuerra & Brice Jones. Members absent: Eric Bream. Members of the public included Julia Stornetta, Jessica Johnson, Nicole Stornetta, and Heather Bashian.

2. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

3. Public Comment

The district received no public comment.

4. Potential Conflicts of interest

There were no potential conflicts of interest.

5. Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Director Jones, seconded by Director Coulthard to ratify the actions of the February 13, 2023 board meeting, approve the minutes from the December 12, 2022, and February 13, 2023, public board meetings, and accept the December 2022 and January 2023 financials. The motion carried.

6. Correspondence

The district received correspondence from the CA Division of Drinking Water that the reporting requirements have changed for Manganese. The threshold for additional reporting has been changed from a requirement of 5000 ppm to a lower threshold of 200 ppm. The wells in the Root Creek Water District range in measurement from 200 – 270 ppm.

7. Board Action Items

- a. Director Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Director Simonian to review to approve a change order relating to services at the wastewater plant in the amount of \$3,039. *Budget item 900.03d.03, 400,000 gpd WWTF.*

- b. Director Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Director DeLaGuerra to approve a change order relating to ICAD services in the amount of \$7,661.22. *Budget Item 900.03d.03, 400,000 gpd WWTF*. The motion carried.
- c. Director Jones made a motion, seconded by Director Coulthard to amend Root Creek Water District Standards and Specifications related to Public Works Improvements: Field Testing and Sterilization of Water Mains. The motion carried.
- d. Director Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Director Coulthard to accept the resignation of board member Brice Jones effective March 13, 2023. This also authorizes posting of vacancy. The motion carried.

8. District Engineers Report

District Engineer Ehlers stated over 800 acre feet of surface water have been diverted thus far; using the South basin to recharge water. Potentially, there is an additional 60 acres that may be accessed to spread water this year. The cost of water is currently \$60/AF. Section 215 water is currently priced at \$19/AF, and the Madera Irrigation District would wheel this water at a rate of an additional \$180/AF to deliver to Root Creek Water District.

Regarding the Ag Pipeline Expansion project, the pipe will arrive at the end of March or first part of April. The District will take the line down to make the connections and Ehlers stated it would probably only be down for one week. There is a 60-day construction schedule.

WWTF – Communications have improved with subcontractor, Claocina, and the blowers on the screens seem to be working to address issues with collection of debris in the treatment trains. The DryPAC equipment is scheduled to be installed May 1st.

9. Legal Counsel Report

- a. AB460 – Regarding State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) interim relief. The bill would allow for a 20-day notice to violators of multiple regulations based on a petition. Fines could range from \$10,000/day or \$5,000/AF, and would be issued for curtailments or in-stream use.
- b. AB676 – Amends 106 of the Water Code. Amends language regarding highest and best use of water from domestic to public health and safety, and narrows the definitions of highest and best use.
- c. AB1337 – Regarding water shortage enforcement by the SWRCB; SWRCB can impose permanent curtailments. Currently, only curtailments based on emergencies may be enforced without notice or public input. Fine could range from \$1,000/day violations or \$2,300/AF— currently it is \$500/day.
- d. Senate Bill 389 – SWRCB – The bill would change the rules so that water rights (Pre-1914 & riparian) may be evaluated, and the diverter must prove up rights. A motion was made by Director Bruno, seconded by Director DeLaGuerra to sign an opposition letter opposing all four legislative bills. Staff was directed to sign on the to letter prepared by ACWA. The motion carried.

10. General Manager's Report

Building Permits

January 32
February 117

GM Stornetta reported that municipal bonds are scheduled to be sold in April. The District continues to work with both Wathen Castanos and Woodside in an effort to connect their parcels to the water system after successful bacteriological testing. The district has received 3 customer complaints after the implementation of estimated volumetric water use. Julia has spoken with all of the homeowners. A letter was sent to RT Diversified regarding the loss of revenue to the District due to underbilling accounts without water meters. RT Diversified has yet to respond. The cost of all sizes of meters used in the Riverstone Development will be increasing in 2023, and the RCWD rate schedule will also increase to recoup the material costs for badger meters. Staff has completed the audit of additional facilities constructed in Riverstone Village B by Riverstone Development and will add the facilities costs to Exhibit B of the Restated Urban and Municipal agreement, adopted by the board in January 2022.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 12:03 pm.



Julia D. Stornetta, District Secretary