

Russian River Property Owners Board of Directors Meeting

Date: July 12, 2022

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: 5515 Hwy. 128 Geyserville, CA

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Vice President Harry Black called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Board Members Brett Munselle, Brad Petersen, Harry Black, Richard Rued, David Fannuchi, Justin Miller, Rickie Pina, Carolyn Wasem, and Pat Burns were present. Chair Petersen joined the meeting ten minutes late. Advisors Water Keiser, Adriane Garyalde, GinaLisa Tamayo and Mike Martini were also Present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEEETING

Vice President Harry Black asked for approval of the Minutes from the June 8, 2022, meeting.

Board member Pat Burns made a motion to approve the Minutes. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

3. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Rickie Pina reported that the RRPOA bank account as of July 12th 2022 was: \$ 29,777.55.

Treasurer Pina noted increased revenues of \$1.73 in interest. Total membership dues received thus far for this year: \$3,175. 00 Expenses for this year, thus far: \$5,738.85.

Board member Pat Burns made a motion to approve the Financials. Board member Carolyn Wasem seconded the motion for approval. The Financials were unanimously approved.

Board member Burns ask if the membership invoices had been sent out? Advisor Gina Lisa Tamayo shared that only people who signed up on the website had received an invoice. President Brad Petersen commented that he would send a letter in the September timeframe soliciting dues payment.

Board member Burns shared that the RRPOA has historically solicited dues payments in March.

President Petersen moved reiterated that invoices would go out shortly. He further suggested that invoices should hard mailed as many members do not get email. For 2023 membership dues, invoices will be mailed in January of 2023.

Advisor Garayalde asked if there is a spot on the invoice to opt into email billing? She suggested that the RRPOA send out an update along with the invoice. President Petersen agreed and shared that he would provide the update to accompany the invoices.

4. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Item 1. Update from Water Governance Committee (Walter Keiser)

The last Board meeting we mentioned that County would provide some money for formation of the district. Originally Gore suggested \$75K, however too many red tape issues associated with that dollar amount. With \$50K we can produce a scope of work for District and Governance Committee and bill the County for that amount. The \$50K ask allows us to maneuver around other complications associated with securing dollars for this purpose.

The Outline of the Scope of Work includes:

Task 1. Consultation and Coordination with Affected Agencies

Task 2. Prepare Plan of Service – Key Services will Include:

- Participation in basin-wide water supply planning, management and investment
- Groundwater management including aquifer & well monitoring
- Agriculture irrigation and recycled water supply programs
- Drought response and resiliency programs
- Sponsoring and participating in restoration of ecological and habitat values
- Regulatory permitting and environmental review
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Task 3: District Formation Options – Key efforts will include:

- LAFCO process
- Special legislation through State legislators

Task 4: Identify and Evaluate Funding Options

- Assessments
- Special Taxes
- Utility Rates
- Service Charges
- Regulatory Fees
- Others

Task 5: Pro Forma Budget Forecast

- Develop a 5-year revenue needs forecast for the Water District
- Develop a 5-year budget for the Water District

Task 6. Plan of Service and Feasibility Report

- Document the plan of service, operation and capital estimates, funding sources, and a conclusion regarding the feasibility of the Water District

Board member Brent Munselle suggested that those that signed up with the Water Sharing Program will likely support funding for a District and wanted to understand how many signed up. There was general consensus that those individuals would be the “best” options for initial conversations.

Advisor Keiser shared that the Board could proceed with the scope of work discussed, on a provisional basis. But unless the RRPOA take steps now, the effort will go nowhere. He shared that he did not see a huge risk re: the County to assert control. There are steps along the way where the RRPOA can opt out.

Board member Burns asked: At this point what are the costs?

Advisor Keiser responded that to the RRPOA, at this point there are not costs. However, once the \$50K is secured from the County, we should expect to see costs that extend beyond that amount.

Board member Fanucchi suggested that landowner monitoring would be a good idea before we got involved with LAFCO.

Advisor Keiser suggested that other tasks will run simultaneously with District formation.

Board member Fanucchi asked if all landowners would be required to pay for people who are pumping and reducing ground water levels?

Advisor Keiser responded that this group is trying to answer that question using the County’s funds that are available for these purposes. It is my understanding is that if we are placed in the GSA, and we have an approved landowner-based District, agriculture users in the Alexander Valley will have a seat at the table. We will also have a seat at the table as Potter Valley decisions are made.

Board member Munselle asked why there is a consensus that the Alexander Valley will be designated a priority basin?

Board member Burns responded that the Valley was lucky the last time basins were designated. With the assistance of Sonoma Water regional representatives were able to argue that the basin's health was sufficient to avoid being designated as a priority basin.

A motion to move forward with the Scoping program proposed by Advisor Keiser was made by Board member Munselle. Board member Pat Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed, with opposition from Board member Rued.

Item 2. Regional Climate Collaboratives Grant (Adriane Garayalde)

Advisor Adriane Garayalde discussed the upcoming *Collaborative Climate* grant. This Strategic Growth Council grant supports capacity-building opportunities and may be an opportunity for this group. She shared that she has looked at what the RRPOA would need to do to put together an application. It is important to note that dollars are available under this grant for monitoring activities. The grant, should the RRPOA choose to move forward with the application, is due in October.

Advisor Garayalde further shared that even if the RRPOA is not awarded this grant, the work associated with its application could serve as a template for future grants. She then asked for the formation of a water committee and a funding committee.

Board member Rued asked where the money came from?

Advisor Garayalde responded that the program is State sponsored.

Board member Munselle asked what the cost would be associated with putting together the application?

Advisor Garayalde responded that she was unsure.

Sentiment from many of the Board members was that they would prefer to secure dollars through the grant process to taking money from the County.

5. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Advisor GinaLisa Tamayo shared that communication activities over the last month included drafting a Newsletter, Facebook posts, and continuing to develop Facebook strategy. The purpose of the efforts is to inform as to the values of the RRPOA and to increase membership in the RRPOA.

Advisor Tamayo shared that when the postcards were mailed to garner interest in the Annual Meeting, there were a large number of views on the website.

Advisor Tamayo suggested that she could also come present snail mail strategies. There is an opportunity to solicit membership from the individuals who attended the Annual Meeting, via letter.

Advisor Tamayo suggested that a RRPOA website post on the Water Sharing Agreement with the State Water Board and Russian River water users would be a story worth sharing.

Board Member Harry Black thanked Advisor Tamayo for all of her efforts and suggested we want to develop more content to drive additional agriculture producers in the Valley, and beyond, to the RRPOA website.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Chair Petersen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board member Wasem made a motion to adjourn. Board member Burns seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting is August 10, 2022, at 4:00 pm.