



**HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**  
828 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Eureka



**Minutes for Joint Meeting of Board of Directors for  
HBMWD and Ruth Lake CSD  
July 9, 2021**

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**1. Introductions and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm, and was conducted within all Brown Act requirements. All participants introduced themselves.

**HBMWD Board Members Present:**

Director Bruce Rupp  
Director David Lindberg  
Director Sheri Woo  
Director Neal Latt

**HBMWD Board Members Absent:**

Director Michelle Fuller

**HBMWD Staff:**

John Friedenbach, General Manager  
Dale Davidsen, Superintendent  
Chris Harris, Business Manager  
Heather Bitner, Board Secretary  
Sherrie Sobol, Regulatory and Program Analyst  
Dee Dee Simpson, Accounting and HR Assistant  
Larry Raschein, Ruth-Hydro Operator  
Adam Jager, Emergency Mad River Watershed Restoration Supervisor  
Dave Perkins, Ruth-Hydro Operator

**RLCSD Board Members Present:**

Director Susan Gordon  
Director Debra Sellman  
Director Brian Nicholson  
Director Jordan Emory

**RLCSD Staff:**

Caitlin Canale, General Manager  
Cindy Lofthous, Board Secretary

**Others Present:**

Tim Saxon, Trinity County Sheriff  
Bryan Ward, Trinity County Sheriff office  
Ed Prestley, Trinity County OES  
Dan Frasier, Trinity County Supervisor  
Brandon Lale, CHP Commander  
Kristen Lark, USFS Mad River Ranger District  
Lejon Hamann, USFS  
Darroll Meyer, Southern Trinity VFD  
Melody Higgins, Southern Trinity VFD  
Madison O'Ferrell, NVCSS  
Dave Saunderson, LHA  
Dean Petersen, public member  
Ed Johnston, public member  
Natalie Kiser, public member

**2. Public Comment**

A public comment regarding the easement between the Pachenco residence and the residence next door, noted that there are a number of people depositing potential hazardous debris who are not supposed to be there and the debris may pose a liability for the District.

**3. Updates from Guests:**

- a. Trinity County 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor, Dan Frasier, reported out that Environmental Health has reported that cyanobacterial toxin (blue green algae) levels at Ruth Lake, taken on July 2, 2021, were found to be lower than previously reported. Also, existing septic systems can be replaced during the rebuilding process provided the structure size remains unchanged.
- b. US Forest Service – Kristen Lark announced that the new chief of the USFS, Randy Moore, is the first African- American to hold the position and the first from the Six Rivers Forest. USFS has



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partnered with HBMWD to apply for a California Climate Initiatives-Healthy Forest grant. They have an open public comment period for the Environmental Assessment for work being done after the August Complex. Additional funding is being sought for fuels reduction efforts. The 2021 Capitol Christmas tree, which will be in Washington DC, will be from the Six Rivers National Forest, and they are requesting ornaments and tree skirts be donated.

- c. Trinity County Volunteer Fire Department and /or STAR – They are looking for a water tender, and to surplus the old trucks. Chief Higgins questioned whether there was an updated policy regarding water storage tanks for fire suppression, and if there might be grants for hydrants or water storage tanks.
- d. Trinity County Sheriff/OES – Sherriff Tim Saxon discussed the lack of personnel to patrol regularly around Ruth Lake. There are three new reserves who are patrolling the lake as they can. They may have a resident deputy candidate but it will be over a year before they are able to take a resident post. Allied agencies provide support as needed, and the volunteer Search and Rescue group has grown.

Ed Presley, OES manager, shared that Trinity County has been added to the Drought Conservation declaration. August Complex recovery has been ongoing. Citizenry are encouraged to report out any hint of a fire so it can be addressed immediately.

Madison O’Ferrell introduced that the North Valley Catholic Center is an organization that assists with resources needed for fire recovery.

- e. Ruth Lake Leaseholders Association – The Association is again active after seven years of not meeting. Mr. Saunderson complimented the efforts by Adam Jager, and provided the website address for the group. They are in the process of updating their bylaws.
- f. Any other guests- CHP Commander, Brandon Lale shared that there is mutual aid with other agencies to assist when coverage is thin. CHP operational responsibilities are in a huge territory and they may have a response time of up to two hours. There isn’t a scheduled patrol routine for the Mad River area. If the community can specify a time frame with the biggest issues, they can allocate resources to that area. CHP have lost a large amount of personnel in CA this year, with staffing levels estimated to be that of the 1970’s. They are hiring qualified applicants. A member of the public requested a lower speed zone with patrols to enforce consequences in the vicinity of the entrance to the Ruth Lake Marina.

**4. HBMWD Topics**

**4.1 Amended License Agreement with North Coast Rail Authority for Collector 2 Communication Project**

On motion by Director Rupp, seconded by Director Lindberg, the Board Approved the Amended License Agreement with North Coast Rail Authority for Collector 2 Communication Project, by the following Roll Call Vote:

Director Michelle Fuller	ABSENT
Director Neal Latt	AYE
Director David Lindberg	AYE
Director Bruce Rupp	AYE
Director Sheri Woo	AYE



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There was no public comment.

**4.2 Aquatic Invasive Species:**

**a. Dept. of Boating and Waterways Quagga Prevention Grants –**

Since Fiscal Year 2015-16, the District has received \$104,000 in grants for Quagga Prevention at the lake. Funding has been used for improvements, communication equipment, keycard and stickers, etc. RLCSO implements the plan on behalf of the District and provides documentation for reimbursement from the grant.

**b. Any issues or areas of concern**

District staff was questioned about access to the lake once salvage logging has been completed. Larger granite boulders will be installed. RLCSO was asked to provide a list of known access points where needed. Signage for educational purposes was requested for the campgrounds by the Forest Service. District staff was asked whether cable and K-Rails would be a feasible solution for limiting access points.

**4.3 Disaster Recovery**

Adam Jager provided an update of the properties that are being salvage logged. Regarding lease lot sign off, soil sampling is delayed for all the state which is delaying the process. If the footprint hasn't changed for rebuilding, permitting will likely be fast-tracked. Changes in rebuilding requests will cause delays. A public member questioned which trees will be removed. OES has a list of about 80,000 trees that still need to be removed.

The District has applied for a \$5 million Healthy Forest grant to reforest Ruth Lake. It will take decades to recover from the fire. Concerns about the level of cleanup by the loggers was discussed.

**4.4 Law Enforcement on Ruth Lake -This topic was discussed during the Trinity County Sheriff's, and CHP Commander's report out.**

**4.5 Cannabis Cultivation in the Mad River Watershed**

The fires have exposed activities around the lake including illegal cannabis grows. Any cultivation is prohibited on District property and water siphoning for that purpose is requested to be reported.

**5. Ruth Lake CSD Topics**

**5.1 Lease Lots: area of concern**

Caitlin Canale reported that there was a lot of concern over rebuilding. Septic systems are a concern, as is cleanup after the salvage logging.

A request was made to provide a single list that included all requirements for rebuilding from RLCSO, HBMWD and the county; and to develop a policy with standards for privacy screening for lease lots that have no vegetation due to fire.

RLCSO posed the question of who would be responsible for damage to property during salvage logging. Depending on who was responsible, let the party who hired the logger or other contractor know of the problem.



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**5.2 Discussion of a long-term maintenance plan for the Quagga Mussel Prevention Plan**

RLCSD requested financial support from HBMWD for the implementation of the Quagga Prevention Plan. As Quagga Prevention is a risk assumed with recreation, the Trinity County Master Lease Agreement required RLCSD to assume all responsibility. HBMWD has assisted by finding Quagga Program grant funding. RLCSD could also apply for grant funding. RLCSD is able to generate its own revenue and allocate accordingly.

A public comment was read into the record and is attached to the Minutes.

HBMWD noted that specific requests can be presented to the District so that they can be considered for action at a Board meeting

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:48pm.

Attest:

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Sheri Woo, President

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J. Bruce Rupp, Secretary/Treasurer