



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



Minutes for Special Joint Meeting of  
HBMWD and Ruth Lake CSD Board of Directors  
July 22, 2016

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The HBMWD and RLCSD Board of Directors held a Joint Board Meeting to discuss issues and events regarding Ruth Lake and the buffer strip of mutual interest. President Hecathorn called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. HBMWD Directors Hecathorn, Rupp, and Woo were present. Directors Laird and Latt were not able to attend. General Manager Paul Helliker, Business Manager John Friedenbach, Board Secretary Sherrie Sobol and Customer Service and Accounting Assistant Corey Borghino were in attendance. Ruth Lake CSD Directors Johnson, Nicholson and Wise were present. Directors Gordon and Sellman were not able to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. Manager Steve Canale and Assistant Manager Margaret Kiser were in attendance. Guests from Trinity County Sheriff, Ruth Lake Leaseholders Association, Southern Trinity Volunteer Fire Department, Southern Trinity Health Services and STAR were also present. See attached sign-in sheet.

1. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

2. Introductions

Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves.

3. Updates from Guests

Southern Trinity Volunteer Fire Department and STAR

Bill German, Fire Chief, provided an update on activities in department. He stated his agency and STAR are appreciative of the District's assistance in getting the four helicopter Medical Evacuation landing sites.

Ruth Lake Leaseholders Association

Dave Saunderson stated things are going well for the leaseholders and there are no issues of concern. He also stated they haven't met in two years.

4. Ruth Lake CSD Topics

Aquatic Invasive Species

Mr. Canale provided an update on the boat inspections for Quagga mussels and other invasive species. He stated this is the seventh year of watercraft registrations and inspections and things are going smoothly. The impact of the drought and low lake levels in other areas of northern California was evident with the increase in boater registrations. This past season, 2,845 watercraft were inspected. This is an increase of over 600 watercraft inspections, compared to last season. The numbers would have been even higher, but due to the fires and road closures, the campground and lake were virtually shut down last August.

Dept. of Boating and Waterways Quagga Prevention Grant

Mr. Canale thanked HBMWD for procuring a \$10,000 grant from the Department of Boating and Waterways to help offset costs associated with the Quagga inspection process. Funds will be used to purchase much needed new equipment such as gate arms, computers to run them and annual stickers. He stated the next grant round is coming up and he would like the District to apply for a much larger grant this time to allow Old Ruth to be a secure launch site.



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Issues or areas of concern

Mr. Canale stated his office received a call from someone who wanted to put their houseboat on Ruth Lake. He recalled that houseboats are not permitted on the lake. He then checked with Buck Harbor at the Marina and HBMWD who all concurred. The issue is that documentation stating this could not be located. Mr. Helliker noted this would be on the agenda for the next District Board meeting.

Lease Lots-area of concern

Mr. Canale stated dead, dying and diseased trees are the biggest issue for the leaseholders currently. Mr. Helliker stated the trees can be removed as long as they are not sold or bartered.

Vehicle traffic on the buffer strip between Ruth Store and lease site 76

This has become an issue as there is increased unauthorized use of the site and it poses a traffic hazard as vehicles are exiting from a non-road. Mr. Canale has met with staff from Trinity County road department and they are willing to block off access. In order to facilitate this, they need a letter from HBMWD authorizing this action. President Hecathorn stated this is not a problem and the District would be happy to submit a letter.

Trinity County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mr. Friedenbach explained why a Hazard Mitigation Plan is important in terms of grant funding. He has been communicating with Donna Rupp of Trinity County to help move the process along. The draft Trinity County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HBMWD has an annex that is part of the plan) will go to the Trinity County Board of Supervisors for approval at the August meeting. This will also be on the agenda for approval at the HBMWD August 11 Board meeting.

5. HBMWD Topics

Water Resource Planning (WRP)

Mr. Helliker provided an update on the WRP process and discussed the three focus areas; local sales, transport and instream flow. Mr. Saunderson inquired if water is being released for transport and for instream flow, will there be enough for the Municipal Customers during drought. Director Rupp responded yes, the District has enough water for all options.

Humboldt County Dam Break Plan

Mr. Friedenbach stated the Board of Supervisors approved the Humboldt County Dam Break Plan. He shared the executive summary and table of contents. He thanked all agencies that contributed from Trinity County for their time and effort in helping with the R. W. Matthew Dam portion of the plan. He also stated the full plan is on the District website if anyone wished to see the entire document.

Timber Management

Mr. Helliker stated the District no longer has a Licensed Timber Operator. This means that until the District finds a new one, trees that are removed can't be sold or bartered.



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Marijuana Cultivation in the Mad River Watershed

Mr. Helliker shared the latest information regarding legislation and licensing requirements. He provided a written summary of these and noted that the Regional Water Board and the Department of Fish and Wildlife will be receiving additional personnel and funding to help enforce regulations related to medical marijuana and deal with the illegal grows. Mr. Compton of the Trinity County Sheriff's OES office shared his knowledge and perspective on the grows in Trinity County. There is a perception that they are not doing anything about the grows which is not true. They are understaffed, but have succeeded in eradicating over 100,000 plants, including a focus on grows run by the Cartel. There are at least twenty eight Cartel grows now where there used to be only two to three. There are so many grows in Trinity County and they do not have the staff to deal with prolific amounts of grows with 100 or fewer plants.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:15 pm.

Attest:

  
Barbara Hecathorn, President

  
J. Bruce Rupp, Secretary/Treasurer

