

**Humboldt Bay Municipal Water
District 828 7th Street, Eureka**



**Minutes for Regular Meeting of the Board of
Directors
April 10, 2025
9:00 am**

1.1 ROLL CALL

President Fuller called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Director Rupp conducted the roll call. Directors Fuller, Lindberg, Rupp, Wheeler, and Woo were present. General Manager Michiko Mares, Superintendent Dale Davidsen, Business Manager Chris Harris, Board Secretary Contessa Dickson, and retiring General Manager John Friedenbach were present. District Engineer Nate Stevens was present for a portion of the meeting.

1.2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Fuller led the flag salute.

1.3 ACCEPT AGENDA

ACTION: Motion to accept Agenda

Maker: Director Lindberg Second: Director Woo Vote: 5-0 to approve

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

ACTION: Motion to approve Consent Calendar

Maker: Director Rupp Second: Director Lindberg Vote: 5-0 to approve less item 3.2

3.1 Draft Minutes of the Special Board Meeting on February 10, 2025

3.2 *Pulled from Consent - Draft Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 13, 2025*

3.3 RLCSO Policy 6040 Insurance Requirements

3.4 Joint Board Meeting with Ruth Lake Community Services District for September 26, 2025

3.5 Cal-Card Access and Signing Authority for New General Manager

3.6 Approve Updated Board Officers and Committee Assignments to include the recently formed Mad River (Baduwa't) Headwaters Ad-Hoc Committee

3.7 Informational Memo concerning City of Blue Lake Proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 No presentations.

5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

Director Woo recused herself due to a conflict of interest for item 5.1.

5.1 Informational Memo concerning the former McNamara and Peepe Mill Site

Non-action Item

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Ms. Mares reported on a joint meeting with President Fuller, staff from Mark McGuire's office, and the Department of Toxics and Substances Control (DTSC). DTSC staff stated there are currently no funds available to remediate the site, with potential funding being considered for 2026. President Fuller noted the ongoing lack of progress to establish whether the contamination plume is migrating towards Hall Creek. A thorough discussion followed. A Mad River Policy committee meeting is scheduled for April 23 to further address these issues.

5.2 Resolution 2025-03: City of Arcata Annie & Mary Connectivity Trail Project Donated Public Easement and Permit to Enter & Construct

ACTION: Motion to approve Resolution 2025-03

Maker: Director Rupp **Second:** Director Lindberg **Vote:** 5-0 to approve by roll call vote

Ayes: Directors Fuller, Lindberg, Rupp, Wheeler and Woo. **Nays:** 0

Emily Sinkhorn, City of Arcata, was present for this item. The resolution documents the District's donation of the public easement to the City of Arcata to support the Annie & Mary Connectivity Trail Project. Ms. Sinkhorn thanked the Board for its continued support of the project and responded to questions from the Board.

5.3 Resolution 2025-04: Concurring in Nomination to the Executive Committee for ACWA-JPIA

ACTION: Motion to approve Resolution 2025-04

Maker: Director Rupp **Second:** Director Lindberg **Vote:** 5-0 to approve

Ayes: Directors Fuller, Lindberg, Rupp, Wheeler and Woo. **Nays:** 0

Director Rupp provided a brief background on the concurring nomination, stating that he supports Randall Reed's candidacy for the Executive Committee of ACWA-JPIA. Director Rupp stated that Mr. Reed would do a good job in the role.

5.4 Voting Representative for upcoming 2025 ACWA Elections

ACTION: Motion to approve voting representative for upcoming 2025 ACWA Elections

Maker: Director Lindberg **Second:** Director Wheeler **Vote:** 5-0 to approve

Director Rupp, who currently serves as Chair of the ACWA Election Committee explained that this item is to appoint a District Board member to vote in the upcoming 2025 ACWA elections. Director Rupp was appointed as the voting representative, with General Manager, Michiko Mares, designated as the alternate.

5.5 Resolution 2025-05: Recognizing and Honoring the Outstanding Service and Achievements of John Friedenbach

ACTION: Motion to approve Resolution 2025-05 by roll call vote

Ayes: Directors Fuller, Lindberg, Rupp, Wheeler and Woo. **Nays:** 0

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Maker: Director Lindberg Second: Director Rupp Vote: 5-0 to approve

After 12 years of exceptional tenure with the District, General Manager John Friedenbach is Retiring on April 15, 2025.

5.6 Budget Timeline for FY26 Budget Presentations

ACTION: Motion to approve budget timeline for FY26 budget presentations

Maker: Director Rupp Second: Director Lindberg Vote: 5-0 to approve

Ms. Harris presented the outline for the upcoming FY26 budget presentation. Staff recommended that the Board select and approve a date for both the project budget presentation and the annual District BBQ. The Board asked clarifying questions and discussed potential options. Following discussion, the Board agreed to hold a special meeting on May 20, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. for the budget presentation and tentatively scheduled the District BBQ for May 30, 2025.

5.7 Audit Firm Selection

ACTION: Motion to approve audit firm selection

Maker: Director Rupp Second: Director Lindberg Vote: 5-0 to approve

Ms. Harris provided a brief background on the selection of the past audit firm. She reported that the Audit Committee met on March 24th and reviewed options. Staff recommended that the Board follow the Audit Committee's recommendation to reengage O'Connor & Company for audit services for FY 25/26 and 27.

5.8 Approval of March 2025 Financial Statement & Vendor Detail Report

ACTION: Motion to approve March 2025 Financial statement & Vendor Detail Report in the amount of \$1,158,329.17

Maker: Director Rupp Second: Director Lindberg Vote: 5-0 to approve

Ms. Harris presented the March financial statement & vendor detail report. The General Account balance is \$1.1 million. The various investments balance is \$14 million. The advanced charges are \$5.5 million with a general reserve of \$5.1 million.

5.9 Increase to Match Commitment for Collector Mainline Redundancy Pipeline Project

ACTION: Motion to approve increase to match commitment for Collector Mainline Redundancy Pipeline project

Maker: Director Woo Second: Director Lindberg Vote: 5-0 to approve

Staff reported the cost of the Collector Mainline Redundancy Pipeline Project has increased and recommended that the Board approve an increase to the District's match commitment for the

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project.

5.10 Increase to Match Commitment for R.W. Matthews Dam Seismic Stability Project

ACTION: Motion to approve increase to match commitment for R.W. Matthews Dam Seismic Stability project

Maker: Director Rupp Second: Director Woo Vote: 5-0 to approve

Staff recommended that the Board approve an increase to the District's match commitment for the Matthews Dam Advance Assistance Project to CalOES.

Items Pulled from Consent

5.11 Draft Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 13, 2025

ACTION: Motion to approve items pulled from consent item 3.2 as amended

Maker: Director Rupp Second: Director Lindberg Vote: 5-0 to approve

President Fuller noted two edits to Items 4 and 6 of the March meeting minutes. She requested that the word "proposed" be added in reference to the Blue Lake battery bank installation.

Reports

6.1 Staff Reports

6.1.a Engineering Report

6.1.a.1 TRF Generator

Non-action Item

A pre-construction meeting was held with the contractor, Wahlund construction April 3rd.

6.1.a.2 Samoa Peninsula Waterline Right-of-Way Maintenance Project EIR

Non-action Item

Additional environmental studies have been conducted for this project along the access road, in addition to the surveys previously completed within the pipeline easement. The Board asked some clarifying questions.

6.1.a.3 Reservoirs Seismic Retrofit Project

Non-action Item

Paso Robles now has a new project manager overseeing this project. The majority of the foundations at both the Korblex and Samoa tank sites have been poured. At the Korblex tank site, all anchor chairs have been successfully installed. Additionally, an extra shell ring has been added to the tank at the Samoa site.

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6.1.a.4 Essex Onsite Sodium Hypochlorite Generation Project

Non-action Item

Mr. Davidsen reported that all three tanks have been installed, with two currently in trial status. As of the date of this Board meeting, staff are conducting trial runs of the new system. Deconstruction of the old system will begin once the new system is fully operational.

6.1.a.5 Collector Mainline Redundancy

Non-action Item

Aside from Item 5.9—the match commitment letter that has been approved—this project remains under FEMA review.

6.1.a.6 Matthews Dam Advance Assistance Seismic Stability Project

Non-action Item

Aside from Item 5.10—the approved match commitment letter—GEI has initiated the geotechnical planning program for conducting borings in the dam and spillway areas. Staff are currently preparing applications to submit to Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) in order to carry out the drilling plan program this summer, as part of the ongoing investigative work.

6.1.a.7 Matthews Dam Part 12D Comprehensive Assessment

Non-action Item

The inspection plan for the Part 12D Comprehensive Assessment has been completed and was submitted to FERC on April 9th.

6.1.b Business Report

Non-action Item

No report was received.

6.1.c Operations Report

Non-action Item

Mr. Davidsen presented the March operations report, noting that the new motor was installed on the work boat. He also reported that on March 11th, operations staff held a Safety Day which included training on heat illness prevention, electrical safety, slips, trips and falls, scaffolding safety with a practical component, and man basket safety with hands-on training.

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6.1.d Management Report

Non-action Item

General Manager Mares provided an update on the progress of the District's various projects, grants and important topics.

6.2 Active Committee Reports

6.2.a Mad River (Baduwa't) Headwaters Ad-Hoc Committee

Non-action Item

Director Wheeler reported on the committee meeting held on March 21st, noting that the Ruth Lake Headwaters was identified as the primary focus of the committee. Ms. Mares is scheduled to meet with the District Ranger at Ruth Lake on April 30th. The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 16th.

6.3 Director Reports

6.3.a General Director Comments

- **Director Woo:**
Director Woo suggested that staff review how the Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) manages its strategic plan in coordination with the Repower Humboldt initiative.
- **Director Wheeler**
Director Wheeler expressed interest in continuing to consider adding the potential change of use of the name Mad River to Baduwa't to a future agenda.
- **Secretary/Treasurer Director Rupp:**
Director Rupp suggested dropping the Secretary Treasurer and there was discussion of adding the Vice President to the inactive agenda review committee.
- **Vice-President Lindberg**
No report was given.
- **President Fuller:**
President Fuller announced that she will be unable to attend the June Board meeting, and two additional Directors also noted they would be absent. In light of this, the Board discussed the possibility of moving the June meeting to June 10th. Staff will bring this item back for formal consideration at the May Board meeting.

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Director Fuller gave a presentation on environmental conflict resolution to students at Cal Poly.

6.3.b Organizations on which HBMWD Serves

- Association of CA Water Agencies (ACWA)

Non-action Item

Director Rupp shared that the District's new General Manager announcement was included in the January ACWA newsletter. He also added that the Region 1 event is scheduled to be held on September 12th in Windsor, California.

- Association of CA Water Agencies/Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA-JPIA)

Non-action Item

Director Rupp reported on attending the Association of Governmental Pooling meeting, highlighting that approximately three-quarters of the meeting focused on the growing impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the workforce. The discussion highlighted the rapid advancement of AI and its anticipated significant social and economic effects.

- Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA)

Non-action Item

Director Woo reported on the RCEA Board meeting she attended on March 27th. Next week she will be giving a talk on biomass and informing students about related policy standpoints. Director Woo expressed her gratitude to the Board for the opportunity to serve on the RCEA Board.

- Redwood Region Economic Development Commission (RREDC)

Non-action Item

Director Lindberg reported on the Board meeting he attended on March 24th, where they received their audit report and discussed the budget. He noted that a major topic of discussion was the loan for the Riverwood Inn.

6.4 Discussion of Future Agenda Items

6.4.a Cyber Security Policy

Non-action Item

Ms. Mares gave an update on the cyber security policy, noting that staff are preparing a contract to conduct a vulnerability assessment for the District.

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**6.4.b Artificial Intelligence Policy
Non-action Item**

CLOSED SESSION

1. Roll Call

2. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

3. Announcement of Closed Session Agenda:

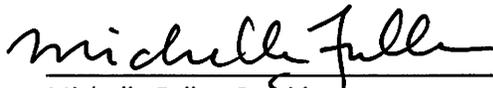
3.1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: (Two potential cases)

Closed session was conducted from 1:42 pm to 2:14 pm. The Board returned to open session. President Fuller announced there was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Attest:



Michelle Fuller, President



Bruce Rupp, Secretary Treasurer