



HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
828 7th Street, Eureka



**Minutes for Special Joint Meeting of HBMWD Board of
Directors with the Ruth Lake Community Services District
Board of Directors
September 22, 2023**

The HBMWD and RLCSD Board of Directors held a Joint Board Meeting to discuss issues and events of mutual interest regarding Ruth Lake and the buffer strip. HBMWD President Latt, Directors Fuller, Woo, and Lindberg, were present. Director Rupp was absent. General Manager John Friedenbach, Superintendent Dale Davidsen, Business Manager Chris Harris, Regulatory Analyst Sherrie Sobol, Hydro-plant Operators Larry Raschein and Dave Perkins, Emergency Watershed Restoration Supervisor Adam Jager, and Board Secretary Contessa Dickson were present. RLCSD's General Manager Caitlin Canale, Chairman Jordan Emery, Vice Chair Ben Boak, Directors Debra Sellman, Ed Johnson, and Secretary Cindy Lofthouse were present. Guests from the Southern Trinity Volunteer Fire Department, Southern Trinity Area Rescue (STAR), US Forest Service, CHP, Sheriff's Department, and Ruth Lake's Leaseholders Association were also present. President Latt called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

2. Introductions

All attendees introduced themselves and their respective agencies.

3. Updates from Guests:

a) Trinity County – 5th District Supervisor and Staff

No attendees, therefore, no updates were reported.

b) Trinity River CHP Office

Ted Luna reported Trinity River CHP is currently looking to fill staffing positions. As of November 1, 2023, they will have 12. They are running 3 CHP Academies trying to fill vacancies. They are creating 3 social media accounts to provide information in real-time. The department is in the process of evaluating new Chevy trucks for their department.

c) US Forest Service

Kristen Lark reported their Mad River District is in the process of managing fire suppression repair for the South Fork Complex. There is an Admin fire camp set up on Highway 36. There is no lease agreement needed for their setup. The camp will maintain a presence for a few more weeks. There has been no negative feedback about the camp. They are hoping to move out of fire restrictions by September 25. There have been some staffing issues and are looking for help to fill staff vacancies. The big projects in August were hazardous tree removal and reforestation. Another project in the works is Rattlesnake Ridge. The District is waiting to hear what budget funding will be available for 2024.

d) Southern Trinity Volunteer Fire Department

Ms. Higgins reported for STVFD, stating there were not many updates. She discussed that last year they were in need of a water tender. Through funds earned and donations in conjunction with in-depth research for a good fit they purchased a 4-thousand-gallon



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water tender. Ms. Higgins stated they are still looking for a building and a grant writer. Recruitment has been up with the current busy fire season.

Brooke Entsminger with STAR discussed how they have been on the edge of closure for the past 5 years. Their department received some funding that will not be reoccurring but will keep them going through next year. She reported the two big events for them this past year were the separation of STAR from the Southern Trinity Health Clinic, which gives STAR their own Tax ID allowing opportunities for more grant funding, and they have been working with state representatives on how the state funds non-profit organizations. Ms. Higgins added they are still in search of EMTs to hire.

e) Trinity County Sheriff/OES

Trinity County Sheriff Tim Saxon reported their new jail has opened and is operating well. The department is dealing with short-staffing issues and budget cuts. The department tried to have a presence on Ruth Lake this summer, but the staffing issue made that difficult. Tim noted the department is continuously looking for grants and funding for the ongoing staffing issues.

Trinity County OES

Philip Simi discussed what Trinity OES is and what they do. Emergency sirens have been installed in Burnt Ranch, Northern Trinity, and at the Trinity Volunteer Fire Department. Staff is looking to buy more in the future, 2 or 3 are expected before the next fire season. Mr. Simi discussed the struggle with their communication infrastructure. They are trying to rebuild one repeater every grant cycle. The department is working on backup systems through HAM radio. A draft contract for their Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) has been received. That application is going for approval and public comment. Once approved, the LHMP contract will go to the State for approval and then be brought to their Board. The goal is to have the contract completely approved and in place by the first of 2024.

f) Ruth Lake Leaseholders Association

No updates were reported.

4. HBMWD Topics

4.1 Law Enforcement on Ruth Lake

Mr. Saxon reiterated the comments he made earlier regarding the understaffing issues that made Ruth Lake patrol difficult this summer. President Latt thanked him and stated his appreciation for their department's service.

Southern Trinity Volunteer Department commented on calls received regarding pilots of the fire scooping planes having issues with boat interference while planes attempted to retrieve water from the lake while fighting fires.

4.2 Healthy Forest grant

Mr. Friedenbach stated that HBMWD received a \$5 million Healthy Forest grant. The District has partnered with USFS and two local private property owners to plant seedlings. The first two planting seasons have occurred. There are two more planting seasons running through 2025.



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4.3 Cal Fire Fuel Reduction, Defensible Space

Adam Jager stated last year there were two phases of fuel reduction. Currently, they are preparing for a third phase. The third fuel reduction location is being determined.

4.4 Quagga Prevention Plan

a. Old Ruth Gate -restoration

Mr. Friedenbach reported on the Quagga prevention plan. Since HBMWD owns Ruth Lake, the District is able to apply for Quagga prevention grants. The last grant that was applied for was to restore power to the Old Ruth gate arm and card reader. That application was denied; however, an appeal has been filed and is in process.

b. Illegal lake access points, prevention efforts

Mr. Friedenbach stated bollards have been recently installed by HBMWD at illegal access points where boaters try to circumvent the Quagga inspection. Someone has pushed over some of the bollards located at the Blue Slide day use site. Boulders may be used to replace them.

4.5 Disposal options for waste tree stumps

Mr. Friedenbach discussed tree stump disposal options for lease lot holders. HBMWD is limiting stump removal to construction site locations. Currently, the option is to burn the stumps on lease lot sites with a burn permit or dispose of on HBMWD property. The issue is the stumps are not being disposed of properly. A location for the lease lot stump disposal is under discussion. One possibility is the flat upstream from the Blue Slide Creek. The approval process would work like a lease lot improvement request. Several questions were asked and discussed.

5. RLCSD Topics

5.1 Lease Lots: areas of concerns

Ms. Canale stated her main issue was also the disposal options for tree stumps, which was just discussed. She stated the ability to utilize and be able to dispose of stumps at a location would be very beneficial for HBMWD as well as RLCSD.

5.2 Other Topics

Director Woo thanked everyone for their services.


ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm

Attest:



Neal Latt, President



David Lindberg,
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer