

HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
828 7th Street, Eureka



Agenda for Special Meeting of Board of Directors
October 28, 2020

1. **ROLL CALL**

President Woo called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm. Director Rupp conducted the roll call. Directors Fuller, Latt, Rupp and Woo were present. Director Lindberg was absent. General Manager John Friedenbach, Superintendent Dale Davidsen, Business Manager Chris Harris, Tech Manager Dee Dee Simpson-Glenn and Board Secretary Sherrie Sobol were also present.

2. **FLAG SALUTE**

President Woo led the flag salute.

3. **ACCEPT AGENDA**

On motion by Director Latt, seconded by Director Rupp, the Board voted 4-0 by roll call vote to accept the agenda.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was received.

5. **CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Disaster Recovery due to August Complex Fire

Mr. Friedenbach began by providing an update on District structures. First, there is no damage to the dam or Hydro Plant. Replacement water tanks that supply water to our buildings at District Headquarters are in place, the plumbing is complete and the buildings now have water again.

Director Rupp noted the District continues to provide high-quality drinking water, uninterrupted, the entire time to our Municipal customers. The District staff did an amazing job. The Board concurred.

Mr. Friedenbach shared photos of numerous lease lots (approx.52) that were burned and devastated. The good news is that Trinity County and the District will be eligible for FEMA funding. Also, the Marina, Ruth Rec and Journey's End survived the fire. The District's immediate concern at this point is chemicals from the lease lots getting into the lake via rainwater runoff. To help prevent this, District staff have installed wattles at many of the lease lots that slope towards the lake. The wattles were placed so as not to interfere with any debris removal or clean-up. He reviewed the parameters for wattle placement. There is a lot of additional wattle placement that still needs to occur. Other concerns include erosion, dead trees, and debris in the lake, all of which can affect not only water quality, but if debris gets through the log boom and to the spillway at the dam, it can cause serious issues.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

Temporary Disaster Recovery staff position

Mr. Friedenbach stated the scope of disaster recovery for the 3,000 acres of District owed property at Ruth Lake as well as the Mad River watershed headwaters area exceeds the capacity of our current staffing levels at the District to effectively implement our recovery efforts. Our emergency response will require interfacing with multiple agencies, lease lot holders, insurance companies and others. In addition, multiple vendors will be contacted for response supplies, timber removal and disposal, certified arborist for hazard tree removal (FEMA requirement) and others. Staff is proposing a temporary, part time Emergency Response Mad River Restoration Supervisor position at Ruth that would last approximately six-months with monthly updates at our Board meetings. The pay rate would be \$40.08 per hour which is Step 3 of the Assistant Supervisor position. No benefits would be paid as this a temporary part-time position. If the Board concurs with the new temporary position; legal counsel will draft an employment agreement to be brought to the November meeting for approval. Director Latt stated he is very impressed with the level of District response and staff is doing an excellent job. He is supportive of the new temporary position.

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After discussion, on motion by Director Latt, seconded by Director Rupp, the Board voted 4-0 by roll call vote to approve the new temporary position.

Lease Lot Defensible Space

Mr. Friedenbach stated that given the widespread wildfire devastation to Lease Lot holder structures at Ruth Lake from the August Complex fire, staff recommends the Board consider implementation of a fire defensible space policy of 100 feet around approved structures on the Buffer Strip. He shared the proposed new policy and stated that District Counsel has reviewed the policy.

Director Rupp stated he would like the leaseholders to review this prior to approving the policy and stated it does not seem as if needs to passed immediately. Mr. Friedenbach stated the urgency is that the District wants to qualify for FEMA tree removal and dovetail this into grant funding available. The long-term goal is defensible space, the short-term goal is removal of dead and/or hazardous trees. Director Rupp reiterated that he feels strongly that leaseholders should be aware of this as soon as possible. If it is urgent that the policy be approved tonight; he will be supportive.

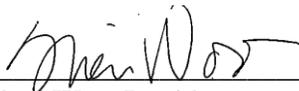
Ms. Caitlin Canale, General Manager of Ruth Lake CSD, stated she believes the new policy will be well accepted by the majority of lease holders. She appreciates Director Rupp wanting to ensure the lease holders are aware of the policy changes and she also appreciates the urgency given the possibility of grant funding to assist with this. President Woo thanked Ms. Canale for her participation in the meeting.

On motion by Director Rupp, seconded by Director Latt, the Board voted 4-0 by roll call vote to approve the new policy Fire Defensible Space for Buffer Strip Lease Lots.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm

Attest:



Sheri Woo, President



J. Bruce Rupp, Secretary/Treasurer