

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



**Minutes for Regular Meeting of the Board of
Directors**

March 13, 2025

9:00 am

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 John Friedenbach, Assistant General Manager Michiko Mares, Superintendent Dale Davidsen, Business Manager Chris Harris, and Board Secretary Contessa Dickson were present. District Engineer Nate Stevens was present for a portion of the meeting.

2. FLAG SALUTE

President Fuller led the flag salute.

3. ACCEPT AGENDA

ACTION: Motion to accept Agenda

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was received from concerned citizen Elliot Linn regarding the battery bank installation in the City of Blue Lake. He is concerned that if a fire occurs the nearby water will be polluted. He suggested changing the location down river somewhere away from the water source. He would like HBMWD Board to not support this project. He expressed his concern about industrial pollution. He asked our Board if the District conducts herbicide testing. Ms. Mares responded the District does every test that is required by the state. He also expressed he would like more water released during the summer months.

5. MINUTES

a. February 10, 2025, Special Board Meeting Minutes

ACTION: No action taken

The February 10th special meeting minutes required revision and were not approved. The special meeting minutes will be revised and presented at the April Board meeting for approval.

b. February 13, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

ACTION: Motion to approve February 13, 2025, Regular Board meeting minutes

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

Public comment was received from Elaine Weinreb. She suggested the District provide video recordings of the Board meetings on the District's website.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION: Motion to approve Consent Agenda

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

Director Wheeler pulled item 6.g, "Blue Lake council hashes out power plant deal" for discussion. He proposed inviting the City of Blue Lake to a future Board meeting for a presentation on this project. Director Woo suggested Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) to also present on this

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project. The Board directed staff to prepare a memo updating them on the battery bank installation in the City of Blue Lake for next month's Board meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

a. DHHS CA Accidental Release Prevention Program (CalARP) inspection

Non-Action Item

Mr. Friedenbach reported the results of the CalARP inspection of the Essex chlorine facility. There were no deficiencies observed during the audit/inspection. He complimented the operations and maintenance staff on their safe handling of the chlorine gas used in our disinfection process.

8. CONTINUING BUSINESS

8.1 General

a. Ordinance 25 – Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies Procedure for Ratepayer Objections to Proposed Water Fees Public Hearing

ACTION: Motion to approve Ordinance 25

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

Staff brought forth Ordinance 25, Director Rupp read the ordinance. Public hearing was opened, no public comment was received. Public hearing was closed.

b. Ruth Lake Community Services District (RLCSD) Policy 6000.26 Recreational Lease Site Standards

ACTION: Motion to approve RLCSD Policy 6000.26

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

Staff recommended the Board approve RLCSD's revision to policy 6000.26, recreational lease site standards.

c. Ruth Lake Community Services District (RLCSD) Policy 6550 Public Bidding & Sublease Procedures

ACTION: Motion to approve RLCSD Policy 6550

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

District Counsel reviewed policy 6550 with no comments. Staff recommended the Board approve RLCSD's new policy 6550, public bidding & sublease procedures.

d. Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) Garbage Bin & Bicycle Rack update

Non-Action Item

Staff reported the Bicycle rack has been installed adjacent to the access road to the Samoa Booster Station and the garbage bin will be located outside the District's right-of-way.

e. Corebridge 457b Plan

ACTION: Approve Corebridge 457b Plan

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

Mr. Friedenbach presented a brief history on this item. Staff recommended the Board approve the HBMWD 457b Plan Amendment and direct the General Manager to execute the plan

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amendment with Corebridge Financial.

8.2 Water Resource Planning (WRP)

Non-Action Item

Ms. Mares summarized updates for water resource planning activities for the preceding month.

a. Local Sales

- i. Nordic Aquafarms. No recent update regarding the planned Nordic Aquafarms development on the Samoa Peninsula. Press release shared regarding Nordic Aquafarms development abandoned in Belfast, Maine due to legal challenges.
- ii. Trinidad Rancheria mainline extension. Staff met with Trinidad Rancheria to review the draft mainline extension alternative route analysis.
- iii. Blue Lake Rancheria mainline extension. Staff consulting with District counsel to determine customer type, retail (Ordinance 13) versus wholesale (Ordinance 16).
- iv. Offshore Wind Heavy Lift Multipurpose Marine Terminal Project. Staff met with Harbor District staff. The status of the offshore wind heavy lift multipurpose marine terminal project was discussed with no updates regarding potential commercial and industrial customers.

b. Transport. No update.

c. In-Stream Flow Dedication. Staff await a response from the State of California Water Board on the District's most recent data submission.

8.3 McNamara & Peepe

Director Woo recused herself due to a conflict of interest.

a. Correspondence Department of Toxic Substances (DTSC)-Royal Gold Soil & Groundwater Management Plan

Non-Action Item

Staff provided a response to DTSC's Royal Gold Soil and Groundwater Management Plan approved by DTSC in January 2025. DTSC is reviewing comments and preparing a response.

b. Status update

i. February Monthly Summary & Meeting Report

Non-Action Item

No update was received.

c. Site maps & historical sampling results

Non-Action Item

These are included for informational purposes.

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9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Voting Member Presidents and General Managers
ACTION: No action taken

The CSDA Elections and Bylaws Committee is looking for independent special District Board members or their general managers who are interested in leading the direction of the CSDA for the 2026-2028 term. No one expressed interest at this time.

- b. New Ad-Hoc Committee Charter - Mad River (Baduwa't) Headwaters

ACTION: Motion to Approve New Ad-Hoc Committee Charter –Mad River (Baduwa't) Headwaters as Amended

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

At the February Board meeting, the Board requested a new Ad-Hoc Committee for the Mad River (Baduwa't) Headwaters. The Board had an in-depth discussion and requested edits to the charter, including addition of "climate change" to first sentence of fifth paragraph and consistency of "Mad River (Baduwa't)" throughout document. The Board appointed Directors Wheeler and Rupp to this committee.

- c. TRF Generator – Construction Contract

ACTION: Motion to Approve Construction Contract for TRF Generator Project to Wahlund Construction, Inc. for \$1,193,600

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

The TRF Generator project was advertised for bid in January and bids were opened March, 5, 2025. The District received 5 bids and the apparent low bidder was reviewed in detail and determined to be responsive and responsible. Staff recommended the Board authorize a contract not to exceed \$1,193,600 with Wahlund Construction, Inc. in accordance with the contract documents. The Board approved the General Manager to prepare and execute the construction contract.

- d. Status Update Annie & Mary Trail Connectivity Project – City of Arcata Presentation

Non-Action Item

Emily Sinkhorn, Director of Environmental Services with City of Arcata, attended in person and presented a project status update including the history, timeline, and next steps for this project. Currently, staff are reviewing the 90% Design and easement requirements. Emily requested a resolution to donate a public access easement be prepared for the April Board meeting for approval. The final easement agreement and record-of-survey will be prepared prior to commencement of construction. The Board asked some clarifying questions.

10. STAFF REPORTS

10.1 Engineering

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c. Association of California Water Agencies Video-F.I.R.E. Fix - Association of California Water Agencies

Non-Action Item

Staff played the F.I.R.E. Fix video provided by ACWA. It is available to watch on their website, <https://www.acwa.com/f-i-r-e-fix/>

11 DIRECTOR REPORTS & DISCUSSION

11.1 General – Comments or Reports from Directors

Director Rupp requested more Director comments be added to the Board Meeting Minutes to better reflect requests of staff.

Director Rupp asked for an update on developing an information system security policy. Staff responded they have requested a proposal from a cyber security consultant to conduct a vulnerability assessment for the Eureka office and to support development of a Cyber Security Policy. A cyber security vulnerability assessment has already been completed for Operations. At the May Board meeting, Legal Counsel will brief the Board on recent changes to the Brown Act, including cyber security related topics. The Board requested to be included in future cyber security training.

Director Rupp requested the District explore Artificial Intelligence (AI) and whether the District should develop an AI policy regarding use as part of general business.

11.2 Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)

Director Rupp asked if staff have done the ergonomic training he suggested in the past; all staff have completed this training.

Director Rupp serves on the ACWA Election committee and a call for candidates for elections are due on April 21st. Region 1 elections will also occur at the same time. If there is interest to participate with Region 1, Board Director Rupp said this is the time to get involved. There are many committees that can be served on. The Board thanked Director Rupp for his continued participation in ACWA.

11.3 Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA JPIA)

a. March 26 – Trenching, Excavation and Fall Protection Training at HBMWD

Non-Action Item

HBMWD is the host agency for the upcoming trenching, excavation and fall protection training. Staff have invited other local agencies to attend the training at the Eureka office.

11.4 Organizations on which HBMWD Serves

a. Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA):

Non-Action Item

Directors did not attend the February RCEA meeting; no report provided.

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b. Redwood Region Economic Development Commission (RREDC):

Non-Action Item

Director Lindberg reported on his attendance of the February 24th RREDC meeting. The Building and Construction Trades of California presented on recent publicly funded projects. At the meeting, board members were appointed to various committees. He was appointed to the Loan and Executive Committees.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 pm.

Attest:


Michelle Fuller, President


Bruce Rupp, Secretary Treasurer