



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 23, 2022**

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 Directors: Fuller, Latt, Lindberg, and President Woo were present. 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-Interim Angela Smart were also present. Ruth Lake CSD's Directors: Jordon Emery, Sue Gordon, Ed Johnson, and Brian Nicholson were present. Manager Caitlin Canale and Office Manager Cindy Lofthouse were also present. Guests from Southern Trinity Volunteer Fire Department, STAR, US Forest Service, CHP, Sheriff's department and Ruth Lake's Leaseholders Association were also present. President Woo called the meeting to order at 1:25 pm.

1. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

2. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves and identified their respective agency.

3. Updates from Guests:

a) Trinity County – 5th District Supervisor and Staff

No one in attendance.

b) Trinity River CHP Office

Commander Brandon Lale provided a status update. He introduced Trinity River CHP Facebook page for current events, alerts, and communication with the public. Trinity River CHP is currently experiencing a staffing shortage.

c) US Forest Service

Kristen Lark, Mad River Ranger District, provided updates. USFS partnered with HBMWD and CalFire CI grant for Reforestation Project and removal of hazard trees in the upper watershed area. The specific focus is on the areas of deforestation. County roads and fire mitigation are additional funding concerns. Ms. Lark also expressed a staffing shortage. Later in the meeting, she also mentioned a willingness to help find solutions to some shared problems by pooling resources and working together on aspects of staffing, forestry concerns, and emergency services.

d) Southern Trinity Volunteer Fire Department (STVFD)

Ms. Higgins spoke briefly about the continuing cooperation with US Forest Service and other emergency services in the area. They recently received a grant for fuel reduction activities. Ms. Higgins said they recently added ten new volunteers. They are investigating the possibility of purchasing land for a new station. They are nearing the completion of their first water storage tank. She spoke about their new fire truck with pink flames. Currently, there are three battalions: Mad River, Ruth Lake, and Hettenshaw (Zenia) in operation.



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Southern Trinity Area Rescue (STAR)

Tracy Waid of Southern Trinity Health Services stated that Brooke Entsminger (EMS Coordinator) is teaching an EMT training class in November at Shasta College; the course can provide CE credit or transfer credits to continue their education. Trinity County helped with \$225k (\$75k and \$150k) in funding this year, allowing for the purchase of a new ambulance, arriving in October or sooner. STAR is working on separating from Southern Trinity Health Services and becoming an independent non-profit entity, which would require a Board of Directors. STAR is also looking for volunteers, staff, and per diem employees.

e) Trinity County Sheriff

Sheriff Tim Saxon happily announced his recent reelection. He indicated that the newly constructed jail would be opening soon, delayed because HVAC systems are being serviced. A new communication center within the jail is currently open, including an updated radio system that allows the Sheriff's department to provide backup dispatch for CHP, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife, BLM, Local Fire Departments, CalFire, and more. Sheriff Saxon talked about concerns with the budget through Trinity County. The Sheriff's office is the biggest consumer of general funds. He also spoke about a task force with multiple Sheriff Departments' uniting to combat drug, sex and human trafficking. Sheriff Saxon also expressed staffing concerns, and stated the department is always looking for qualified candidates.

Trinity County OES

Philip Simi stated that he is relatively new to the position of OES Manager and was immediately called to action with the Lightning Complex on day 5. He touched on grants received from Homeland Security and Emergency Management. They are allocated and reimbursed with percentages distributed to specific aspects; the remaining funds go to entities needing funds. He spoke briefly about HAM radio licensing for community members regarding emergency communication. He also touched on Code Red and Fire Zone readiness requirements and improvements and the ability to assist the public in those areas. He spoke about the communication needed from the public regarding water tanks, filling existing tanks, well repair, and the possibility of modifying existing residential wells for connective access by area fire departments to aid in firefight and mitigation.

f) Ruth Lake Leaseholders Association (RLLA)

Dave Saunderson provided updates. Many leaseholders are in the middle of rebuild/restore efforts. There has been some turnover in owners and some undecided about future rebuilding. In July, the Leaseholders Association held a meet-and-greet luncheon at Journey's End with a raffle and gave the proceeds to STVFD & STAR. Next year's event will occur in the same month and location as this year's festivities.

4. HBMWD Topics

4.1 Disaster Recovery

Mr. Jager advised that the next phase of fire recovery will be as the lake recedes allowing access to clean-up of the fallen logs drifting in the lake to avoid problems created by hitting the log boom.



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4.2 Law Enforcement on Ruth Lake

The Sheriff's department has a boat at the Marina and use it as staffing permits to patrol the lake.

4.3 Healthy Forest grant

Mr. Friedenbach stated, as Ms. Lark had mentioned earlier, that the District partnered with the US Forest Service to receive a \$5 million partnership grant from CalFire for reforestation funding focused on District property, Forest Service property, and two of the property owners upstream.

Ordering seedlings to reforest is required a year or more in advance. The District was fortunate to receive approximately 60,000 surplus seedlings from another grant project; however, those planted are experiencing a higher than anticipated mortality rate and new planting will be in the early winter instead of spring. Unfortunately, nurseries are currently experiencing a shortage of seedlings. Mr. Friedenbach stated that native and indigenous trees are required. The grant expires in March 2025, and upon an expenditure of 50% we can apply for additional funds; intentions are to apply as able.

Mr. Friedenbach has received feedback from local lease lot holders regarding their trees that perished due to fire and salvage logging. They inquired if they could plant their own trees. He said that they would be able to plant any of the trees native/indigenous to the Ruth Lake area: Doug fir, River Maple, Incense Cedar, Black Oak, and Ponderosa Pine.

4.4 Cal Fire Fuel Reduction, defensible space

Ms. Harris advised that the RFP is in the final stages of approval and will be released shortly. The District efforts focus on unburned areas, helping leaseholders with defensible space. Mr. Jager, Mr. Raschein, who are onsite or Ms. Harris can answer any questions. Ms. Lark also mentioned she had authorized hazard tree removal on Forest Service land that is immediately adjacent to private land. She asks that the public reach out and contact her office if they are concerned about trees that will fall on an improvement or Forest Service trees that are leaning toward their property would like them removed. She can authorize the felling of those trees.

4.5 Quagga Prevention Plan

a. Old Ruth Gate -restoration

The District placed boulders separating the gate and public area, with more ordered. When all arrive, an excavator will place them to prevent unauthorized access. RLCSD staff indicated they are hoping to get the gate functional as quickly as possible. Mr. Friedenbach asked about the possibility of solar power for the gate. Ms. Canale indicated that she did consider that but was informed that solar would probably not be a viable option.

b. Sea Planes on Ruth Lake

Mr. Friedenbach stated that the District is concerned about the landing of sea planes on the lake again after hearing about recent plane landings. Both the physical safety of those who may be in the water, and Quagga/invasive species are concerns.

4.6 Lease Lot compliance with RLCSD policies

Mr. Friedenbach shared a few examples of leaseholders who are blatantly not complying with policies. Mr. Friedenbach stated he would like to work with RLCSD regarding possible penalties for leaseholders that do not comply with policies. RLCSD directors and staff



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concurring that they are concerned about this issue and welcomed a collaborative approach to resolve.

4.7 Master Lease Extension

RLCSD has been working on their sublease language update in anticipation of the renewal option early next year. Mr. Friedenbach suggests that the motivation for the leaseholders who are reluctant to comply with RLCSD policies is a penalty clause written into the lease. Naming the top 5, or so, violations and creating a series of progressive consequences that correlate with documented egregious violations. RLCSD staff concurred with the concept.

5. RLCSD Topics

Lease Lots: areas of concerns

Tree removal concerns weigh heavily on the minds of boat accessed leaseholders. Thankful for the updates given during the meeting. RLCSD will continue to search for solutions and funding to alleviate the issue.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 pm

Attest:



Sheri Woo, President



Michelle Fuller, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer