

**AGENDA**  
**Regular Meeting**

**Date:**       **March 11, 2021    Thursday**

**Time:**       **6:00 pm – Open Session...Zoom link**

Join Zoom Meeting at--

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82479607193>

Meeting ID: 824 7960 7193

Dial in by phone only: 669 900-6833

**6:05 – Closed Session**

The Public may stay online during this time if they choose

**7:00 pm – Rejoin Open Session (time approximate)**

Same information as above for 6:00 pm

The Commission meeting will be held via video/teleconference. The public may observe and comment by phone or by Zoom webinar. If the public wishes to provide comment before the meeting on any of the agendized items, please email [mcwpc@mendoiwpc.com](mailto:mcwpc@mendoiwpc.com) by 5:00 pm Thursday, March 11, 2021.

6:00 pm        Open Session

6:05 pm        CLOSED SESSION: Conference with Real Property Negotiators

(Gov't Code §54956.8)

Property: PG&E Potter Valley Project

Agency Negotiators: Janet Pauli & Scott Shapiro

Negotiating Parties: IWPC and FERC

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

7:00 pm        Open Session—approximate time

1. Roll Call
2. Public Expression - See information above for information on public expression
3. Minutes
  - a. Approval/Correction of minutes of the meeting of February 11, 2021
4. Consent Calendar
  - a. Approve expenses on billing statements for February 2021
  - b. Update on financial accounts
5. Commissioner Reports — Reports by Commissioners on meetings attended or actions taken by their agencies as well as informational items, including:
  - a. Report from the Upper Russian River Stewardship Alliance regarding frost water use
  - b. Eel/Russian River Commission meeting update
  - c. North Coast Quagga/Zebra Mussel Prevention Consortium update and approval of letter to continue funding of Mussel Inspection Station at Lake Mendocino
  - d. Update regarding actions and discussion of the state water bond issues
  - e. Report on Upper Russian River Water Agency JPA
  - f. Report on the Upper Russian River Water Manager's meeting

- g. Discussion of ground water rights & Sustainable Groundwater Mgmt. Act (SGMA)
  - h. Update on the City of Ukiah recycled water purple pipe project
  - i. CalCannabis regulation update and related issues
  - j. Discussion of individual water agency plans for water conservation efforts
6. Potter Valley Project
    - a. Status report and discussion of the Two-Basin Partnership efforts to license the Potter Valley Project
      1. Continued discussion of Funding Needs for 2021
      2. Discussion and possible action regarding the development of an RFP for a consultant to lead the public PVP funding campaign for inclusion as a measure on the 2022 ballot
    - b. Update on current Lake Pillsbury releases to the Eel & Russian Rivers and related issues
    - c. Update on the Sandoval Study: Hydrologic Characterization and Modeling for Evaluating Human and Environmental Water Supply Tradeoffs on the Upper Eel and Upper Russian River - Potter Valley Project proposal
  7. Update on the IWPC Communication Program and Website
  8. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study on Coyote Dam – Update on Corps’ activities and input from Participating Members
    - a. Report on Lake Mendocino water levels and conditions at Coyote Valley Dam
    - b. Update on new General Investigation Study & possible funding
    - c. Progress on Congressman Huffman’s ‘Forecast Informed Reservoir Operation’s bill
  9. NMFS Listing of the Coho Salmon and Steelhead as Threatened
    - a. Executive Committee and/or Public Policy Facilitating Committee Reports
    - b. Biological Opinion Implementation Update
  10. Discussions and reports of additional water supply sources and storage sites
  11. State Water Resources Control Board - Updates on various activities from the SWRCB
    - a. AB2121
    - b. D1610
  12. Discussion of possible expansion of the IWPC membership
  13. Adjournment

**PUBLIC EXPRESSION**

The Commission welcomes participation in their meetings. Comments shall be limited so that everyone may be heard. This item is limited to matters under the jurisdiction of the Commission which are not on the posted agenda and items which have not already been considered by the Commission. The Commission limits testimony on matters not on the agenda to three (3) minutes per person. No action will be taken. Individuals wishing to address the Commission under Public Expression are welcome to do so throughout the meeting day. To best facilitate these items, please notify either the Chairman of the Commission or the Secretary of the Commission.

**CLOSED SESSION**

If agendized, the Commission may adjourn to a closed session to consider litigation, personnel matters, or real estate negotiations. Discussion of real estate negotiations may be held in closed session - Authority: Government Code Section 54956.8. Discussion of litigation or pending litigation may be held in closed session -- Authority: Government Code Section 54956.9. Discussion of personnel matters may be held in closed session -- Authority: Government Code Section 54957.

**ADDITION TO THE AGENDA**

(If any) in accordance with Section 54954.2 (b)(2) of the Government Code (Brown Act) Two-thirds Vote Required for Action Items. (Upon determination by a two-thirds vote of the legislative body, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, unanimous vote of those members present, that the need to take action arose after the Agenda was posted.)

**Inland Water & Power Commission**

P.O. Box 1247 • Ukiah, CA 95482

Phone (707) 391-7574 • Email: mciwpc@mendoiwpc.com

draft

**MINUTES**

Regular Meeting

February 11, 2021

**Open Session**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. via video conference by Chair Janet Pauli.

The following Commissioners were present on the call:

- Janet Pauli—Chair (Potter Valley Irrigation District)
- John Reardan—Vice-Chair (Russian River Flood Control District)
- Glenn McGourty—Commissioner (County of Mendocino Water Agency)
- Juan Orozco—Commissioner (City of Ukiah)
- Tom Schoeneman—Commissioner (Redwood Valley County Water District)

The following individuals were participants:

- Maureen Mulheren—Alternate County of Mendocino Water Agency
- Elizabeth Salomone—RRFCD General Manager
- Chris Watt—NCRWQB
- Gregg Young—Potter Valley Tribes
- James Green—Public member
- Matt Froneberger—Alternate RRFCD
- Sean White—City of Ukiah water staff
- Devon Jones—MCFB Manager

**Public Expression**

Chair Pauli explained that anything not currently on the agenda may be discussed at this time, however no action could be taken. She further advised that comments would be welcome throughout the meeting.

**Minutes**

**On a motion by Commissioner Schoeneman, seconded by Orozco, the minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2020 were unanimously approved.**

**Consent Calendar**

**On a motion by Vice-Chair Reardan, seconded by Orozco the consent calendar items for January 2020 were unanimously approved.**

**Commissioner Reports**

- a. Report from the Upper Russian River Stewardship Alliance regarding frost water use—The initial request for reporting information has been distributed by CLSI and Fish Friendly Farming.
- b. Eel/Russian River Commission meeting update—No report.
- c. North Coast Quagga/Zebra Mussel Prevention Consortium update— No report.
- d. Update regarding actions and discussion of the state water bond issues—No report.

e. Report on the Upper Russian River Water Agency JPA—Pauli spoke to the JPA at their last meeting regarding the PVP and funding needs for the IWPC efforts. Salomone reported that Willow approved \$22,5000 at their last meeting and Jared Walker will be presenting a similar request at several other water districts. Pauli will also be speaking to Millview water district and the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District.

f. Report on Upper Russian River Water Manager's meeting—The next meeting is tentatively set for March 17, 3 to 5 pm.

g. Discussion of ground water rights & Sustainable Groundwater Mgmt Act (SGMA)—McGourty reported that they are making progress on putting together the Plan while trying to understand the surface/ground water interface and the monitoring system needed to be in compliance. In summary, the Ukiah Valley groundwater basin seems to be in pretty good shape, with many tributaries contributing to it. It is believed that there are a couple of a hundred thousand acre feet in the basin.

h. City of Ukiah purple pipe recycled water program—White reported that they are in the process of tabulating the metered Ag and domestic use for water rights reporting. The City supplied over 700 AF to the Ag community this past year.

i. CalCannabis regulation and related issues—No report.

j. Discussion of individual water agency plans for water conservation efforts—Salomone reported that a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) was submitted by Sonoma County Water to change the outflows from Lake Mendocino and it was approved. White expressed concern over some of the provisions in the TUCP that touch on water rights and other issues. Salomone and Chris Watt will be talking with Sonoma Water on some of these terms. They are putting together a focus group to talk about the Redwood Valley water supply and to develop a plan of action.

### **Potter Valley Project**

a. Status report and discussion of the Two-Basin Partnership efforts to license the Potter Valley Project—Chair Pauli reported that the Partners still have not heard from FERC with their determination on the Study Plans which were filed in mid-December. This is about a month overdue so there is some concern as to what could be holding up the response. If there are major revisions it could change the funding needs, which might present a significant problem. They are continuing to look at outside funding efforts and the needs of a Regional Entity to operate the plant. Congressman Huffman is very anxious to move the process forward as quickly as possible and is looking into possible Federal funds to assist the group.

So far, the PVID, County of Mendocino, City of Ukiah and RRFCD have approved the \$50,000 requested at the last meeting. Other agencies may be interested in becoming members of IWPC and the Commissioners should discuss whether they would be interested in that prospect. Pauli will add a discussion item to the agenda to explore the possibility of additional board membership.

b. Update on current Lake Pillsbury releases to the Eel & Russian rivers—As of yesterday, the inflow is looking good and there is 27,956 AF in the lake, which is 10,000 AF higher than the same date in 2014, a low-level benchmark. She expects that there will be an early gate closure. It will not be easy to make up the lack of water in Lake Mendocino so the more that can be stored in Lake Pillsbury, the better. So far, PG&E has not requested a variance to reduce the outflows.

c. Update on the Sandoval Study and possible approval of the Discussion of Hydrologic Characterization and Modeling for Evaluating Human and Environmental Water Supply Tradeoffs on the Upper Eel and Upper Russian River - Potter Valley Project proposal—No report.

### **Update on the IWPC Communication Program**

a. Website—The website is being updated with lake level data, graphs and the most current information on the Partners and FERC process.

### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study on Coyote Dam**

a. Report on Lake Mendocino water levels and conditions at Coyote Valley Dam—Discussed above.

b. Discussion of Feasibility Study (FS)—The Corps of Engineers has requested a new and updated Letter of Intent for Coyote Valley Dam expressing our desire to initiate a General Investigation study which will get us in the queue for Federal fiscal year 2022/23 funding. A draft has been given to the Commissioners for review and comment. Additional usable water from raising the dam by 36 feet would be around 25,000 AF. **A motion by Commissioner McGourty, seconded by Reardan to send the Letter of Intent as written to the Corps was unanimously approved.**

c. Discussion of grant funding for the FS—No report.

d. Progress on Huffman's Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations bill—No report.

### **NMFS Listing of the Coho Salmon and Steelhead as Threatened**

a. Executive Committee and/or Public Policy Facilitating Committee Reports—There will be a PPFC meeting on March 9.

b. Biological Opinion Implementation Update—No report.

### **Discussions and Reports of Additional Water Supply Sources and Storage Sites**

No report.

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**State Water Resources Control Board Items**

AB2121—No report.

D1610—No report.

Adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Candace Horsley, IWPC staff

## **IWPC Financial Accounts**

March 2021

|  |           |               |
|--|-----------|---------------|
| Savings Bank: IWPC account<br>(Quarterly statements) | \$ 1,382  | As of 3/5/21  |
| Mendocino County Auditor's Office                    | \$ 29,984 | As of 1/2021* |

\*Revenue of \$185,000 has been deposited as listed below but will not show up on the county's report until March:

Willow \$22,500, Calpella \$7,500, City of Ukiah \$50,000, Millview \$30,000, RVCWD \$25,000 and PVID \$50,000 have all submitted payments as of 3/5.

**MENDOCINO COUNTY INLAND WATER AND POWER COMMISSION**

**Billing Statement**

February 2021

***1. Staff Charges:***

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Description</u>          | <u>Hrs</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Amount</u>   |
|-------------|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1/11        | Meeting                     | 1.50       | \$18.00     | \$ 27.00        |
| 1/12        | Accounting                  | 4.00       | \$18.00     | \$ 72.00        |
| 3/5         | Minutes                     | 1.00       | \$18.00     | \$ 18.00        |
| Feb.        | Website maint.              | 4.00       | \$18.00     | \$ 72.00        |
| Feb.        | Billing, SDRMA, PayPal, LOI | 7.00       | \$18.00     | \$126.00        |
| 3/6         | Agenda packet               | 1.50       | \$18.00     | <u>\$ 27.00</u> |
|             | Subtotal                    |            |             | \$342.00        |

***2. Miscellaneous:***

|                                      |                 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| G Suite monthly billing              | \$ 12.00        |
| Downey Brand billing for Jan. 2021   | \$ 5,776.00     |
| Thomas Johnson billing for Feb. 2021 | \$ 8,085.00     |
| Jendi Coursey, analytics             | <u>\$ 93.75</u> |
| Subtotal                             | \$13,966.75     |

**TOTAL**

**\$14,308.75**

Separate, personalized letters to Senators and House Members:

Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Alex Padilla  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Mike Thompson  
268 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Jared Huffman  
1527 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Lakes Sonoma and Mendocino (at Warm Springs and Coyote Valley Dams, respectively) are susceptible to becoming infested with quagga and zebra mussels, among the most devastating and invasive species to invade North American fresh waters. Such infestation at the dams could create severe ecological and economic impacts because once established, they could lead to:

- Infestation of hydropower infrastructure at both lakes
- Clogged water intake and delivery pipes that supply drinking water to more than 650,000 residents in portions of Sonoma, Mendocino and Marin Counties
- Damage of the Russian River Coho Captive Broodstock Program's regional recovery hatchery
- The spread of mussels when fish are transported by the Program to various locations throughout the watershed
- Clogged water intake pipes at the Don Clausen Fish Hatchery, and
- Millions of dollars in costs to repair infrastructure and remove the infestation.

With your leadership, Section 505 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 added the Russian River Basin to the short list of waterways authorized to receive funding for watercraft inspection stations to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species at reservoirs operated and maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers.

We hope that you will work to assure that \$3 million is made available in FY '22 for the operation of such facilities at Lakes Sonoma and Mendocino and would look forward to working with you toward this end.

Sincerely