

Mendocino County

Inland Water & Power Commission

P.O. Box 1247 • Ukiah, CA 95482

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

A G E N D A
Regular Meeting

Place: County UCCE Farm Advisor/Ag building meeting room
890 N. Bush St., Ukiah

Date: April 13, 2023 Thursday

Time: 6:00 pm—Hybrid meeting Zoom Link

Join Zoom Meeting at-

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89431875090>

Meeting ID: 89431875090

Dial in by phone: 669 900-6833

6:00 pm Open Session

1. Roll Call

- 2. Public Expression** - The Commission meeting will be held in person and by video/teleconference. The public may observe and comment in person or by Zoom webinar. See end of agenda for additional information on public expression.

3. Minutes

- a. Approval/Correction of minutes of the meetings of March 9 and special meeting March 23, 2023

4. Consent Calendar

- a. Approve expenses on billing statement for March 2023
b. Update on financial accounts

- 5. Commissioner Reports** — Reports by Commissioners/Staff on meetings attended or actions taken by their agencies as well as informational items. Each Commissioner will be given an opportunity to speak on any activities of interest regarding drought response, groundwater updates, committee meetings etc. that are relevant to the IWPC members.

- 6. Update on the Russian River Water Forum**

- 7. Potter Valley Project**
 - a. Status report and discussion on the Potter Valley Project
 - b. Consideration of sending letter to FERC regarding Lake Pillsbury gates
 - c. Continued discussion of funding ongoing PVP negotiations between MCIWPC, FERC and PG&E

- 8. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study for Raising Coyote Dam**
 - a. Update on Federal funding for the Feasibility Study

- 9. NMFS Listing of the Coho Salmon and Steelhead as Threatened**
 - a. Public Policy Facilitating Committee Reports
 - b. Biological Opinion Implementation Update

- 10. 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.)

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draft
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
March 9, 2023

Open Session

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. in the County Ag conference room by Chair Janet Pauli.

The following Commissioners were present:

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

The following individuals were participants:

Chris Watt—Alternate Commissioner RRFCD
Elizabeth Salomone—RRFCD Manager
Sean White-- City of Ukiah Director of Water & Sewer
Bree Klotter—Alternate to RVCWD
Nancy Todd—Public member

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 Vice-Chair Reardan, seconded by Schoeneman, the minutes of the meeting of February 9, 2023, were unanimously approved.

Consent Calendar

On a motion by Vice-Chair Reardan, seconded by McGourty, the consent calendar items for February 2023 were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Reports

- Reardan reported that the USGS website states that most of the water coming from Lake Pillsbury is mostly diverted through the PVP. Reardan sent them an email and had them change the wording which still needs some revisions, but it is much better than the previous version.
- Schoeneman reported that there was another Ad Hoc meeting regarding the water district and City of Ukiah consolidation but there is still a lot to hammer out.

- Rodin mentioned that the County Planning Commission approved a development south of town that Willow water is going to serve. She was concerned that in times of drought there might not be enough water to serve them. McGourty stated that he is going to request that purple pipe be put into the subdivision to allow for irrigating landscaping.
- McGourty reported that the BOS appointed Bree Klotter to the RVCWD. The GSA met and they are submitting their second water report that is very different from the first report because we are currently out of the drought. Pauli asked if it is known what Lake Mendocino is contributing to the groundwater levels as we have never seen what would happen to the groundwater supply if Lake Mendocino went dry, which it is predicted to do 2 out of 10 years if PVP is shut down. White reported on a study that was done during the preparing their GSP, by their consultants and it showed that even in critically dry years, with no discharge from Lake Mendocino there is still water in the Russian River. Also, the aquifer isn't being drawn down significantly by groundwater use. The groundwater aquifer is filled this year due to significant rain, the number of tributaries and the narrowness of the valley.

Report from the Ad Hoc Committee

Horsley relayed that the website is being updated to better suit the needs of the public and stay in step with the Russian River Water Forum (RRWF). Watt was concerned about some of the statements that are being prepared may be misleading and asked to be able to comment on the verbiage.

Potter Valley Project

- a. Status report and discussion of the Potter Valley Project and Funding efforts—Pauli reported that NMFS had asked that the license be reopened as the license is now on a year to year basis, and FERC sent the request out for comment. Many of the comments stated that the license is still in place and that all the reasonable and prudent alternates there were required during the last Section 7 process are still in place and nothing has changed, so the license should not be opened. There will be discussion on this during the license surrender process and PG&E didn't want to do it twice. FERC has not ruled one way or another.
- b. PG&E has indicated that they will allow access to their facilities for the RRWF Facility Assessment group, but they are requiring non-disclosure agreements before the engineers are allowed onsite to assess the facilities condition and how they currently operate.
- c. The Water Storage Study group is reviewing access and staging points for well drilling and equipment staging. They will be determining potential sites for above ground water reservoirs and groundwater availability upstream of Lake Mendocino. They are looking for 11-12,000 AF of water storage. The group thinks they have enough funding for this project through 2024, but that is also when the FERC/PG&E timeline for filing of the final license surrender plan ends.
- d. The third area of the DWR grant is the formation of the Russian River Water Forum which is a regional two-basin effort to hear from the stakeholders in the Eel and Russian river watersheds. The interim Steering Committee is charged with forming a Planning Committee which will discuss future operations of the diversion. The Planning Committee will not vote on a final decision but will be a forum for the different groups to express their concerns. MCIWPC is the logical entity to convene a caucus of Mendocino County Russian River water supplier and agricultural interests to determine who will be representing Mendocino County on the Planning Committee and in the Work Groups.

One of the problems Pauli sees is timing. It is good that there will be a collaborative approach that will be used by decision makers, but it will need to make decisions ahead of the FERC/PG&E timelines. Salomone relayed that the Water Forum will be the voice of the public that can provide feedback to the Regional Entity that will own, run, and charge for the water coming through the Eel River diversion.

Additional funding is needed to complete the Water Forum work so Sonoma Water has put in an application for \$2 million to continue the process. DWR has told them that they may need to contribute towards the grant in the form of matching funds. SW is looking at \$600,000 as a match and they are asking Mendocino County to come up with \$150,000, which would be \$30,000 per MCIWPC agency. The Commissioners indicated that there needs to be an overall budget prepared for MCIWPC including the needs for the next 5 years so that the individual agencies can plan their budgets in advance. Pauli stated that our outside consultant Tom Johnson is preparing a draft budget for the various project plans for review in May. An Ad Hoc Committee of MCIWPC including Pauli, Watt and staff was approved to review the data and prepare the information needed for a Board Budget Workshop.

b. Continued discussion of funding ongoing PVP negotiations between MCIWPC, FERC and PG&E—No report.

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

Congressman Huffman had promised us that there would be money in the Federal allocations for the Feasibility Study this year. However, there were no funds allocated towards this project. Pauli wrote an email to Huffman's representative as to why this has not been funded once again. They sent us an email offering the opportunity to apply for Huffman's Community Project Funding grants which Horsley will work on in the next few days as the timeframe is very short.

NMFS Listing of the Coho Salmon and Steelhead as Threatened

a. Executive Committee and/or Public Policy Facilitating Committee Reports—No report.

b. Biological Opinion Implementation Update—No report.

Adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Candace Horsley
IWPC Staff

Mendocino County

Inland Water & Power Commission

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draft
MINUTES
Special Meeting
March 23, 2023

Open Session

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. in the County Ag conference room by Chair Janet Pauli.

The following Commissioners were present:

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--Alternate Commissioner City of Ukiah

The following Commissioners were absent:

Tom Schoeneman—Commissioner (Redwood Valley County Water District)
Mari Rodin—Commissioner (City of Ukiah)

The following Alternates and Staff were participants. Others were in the audience:

Chris Watt—Alternate Commissioner RRFCD
Mo Mulhern—Alternate Commissioner County of Mendocino
Elizabeth Salomone—RRFCD Manager
Sean White-- City of Ukiah Director of Water & Sewer
Bree Klotter—Alternate to RVCWD
Guinness McFadden —Alternate PVID

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.

Pauli reported that because of 3 years of simplistic seismic studies at Scott Dam PG&E has released a statement that while there is no imminent threat, there is an increased risk of the dam having an uncontrolled spill during a seismic event and they are not going to close the gates this spring. This would decrease the storage capacity of Lake Pillsbury by 20,000 acre feet which is needed to provide water for license required fishery flows and diverted water for beneficial use in the Russian River.

Additionally, PG&E has decided not to fix the transformer at the PVP so even in the wintertime there will not be full flows through the tunnel.

Mendocino RRWF Caucus—Special Joint Meeting of Water Suppliers and Agricultural Interests

- a. Overview and update on the WF slideshow—Pauli went through the slide presentation.
- b. Explanation of the process to nominate representatives for the RRWF Planning Group.
- c. Committee—Kearns and West is the consultant facilitating formation of the Planning Group. Planning Group members will self-select their representatives. The timeframe for the Planning Committee meeting could be two years or for a much longer time depending on the need. They will meet at a minimum, until the end of 2024 when the final surrender plan is filed by PG&E to FERC. The Planning group will represent stakeholders in both the Eel and Russian Rivers including representatives from agriculture, local government, water suppliers, Tribes, NGOs and recreation. Consensus is the goal of these deliberations; however, no voting will occur. The Planning Group will be a forum for sharing concerns and information and will recommend alternatives to a Leadership Committee made up of elected local, state and federal representatives.
- d. Separate Working Groups will be formed to discuss existing information regarding Water Supply & Fisheries, Finance/Economics, Governance/Decommissioning, Water rights and negotiations with PG&E. These groups will review existing information, identify data gaps and report findings and recommendations to the Planning Group. The members need to be open to discussion of various alternatives.
- e. Discussion and nomination of representatives from Mendocino County to the RRWF Planning Committee—The first meeting of the Planning Group is tentatively planned for the 3rd week of April. Materials will be available in the next several weeks. The Ag group may wish to meet separately to select their committee members and alternates.

Various audience members indicated their interest in serving on the various groups and a list was compiled.

Adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Candace Horsley
IWPC Staff

IWPC Financial Accounts

April 2023

Savings Bank: IWPC account	\$ 825	As of 4/6/2023
Mendocino County Auditor's Office	\$172,880	As of Sept. end 2022

After March 2023 bills are paid, we will have \$85,640 in the PVP account.

MENDOCINO COUNTY INLAND WATER AND POWER COMMISSION

Billing Statement

March 2023

1. Staff Charges:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Hrs</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3/9	Meeting	2.50	\$18.00	\$ 45.00
3/10	Accounting & meeting follow-up	3.00	\$18.00	\$ 54.00
Mar/Apr.	2 Special meetings, mins, set up	8.00	\$18.00	\$144.00
4/4	Minutes	1.00	\$18.00	\$ 18.00
Mar.	Website main. & revisions	10.00	\$18.00	\$180.00
Mar.	Meetings, budget prep, state rep.	12.00	\$18.00	\$216.00
Mar.	Grant application	10.00	\$18.00	\$180.00
4/9	Agenda packet	4.00	\$18.00	<u>\$ 72.00</u>
	Subtotal			\$909.00

2. Miscellaneous:

Downey Brand for Feb. 2023	\$4,068.50
Tom Johnson, March 2023	\$2,467.50
Jendi Coursey, website changes, Feb/Mar. analytics	<u>\$ 546.25</u>
Subtotal	\$7,082.25

TOTAL **\$7,991.25**