

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 27, 2024



The HBMWD and RLCSD Board of Directors held a Joint Board Meeting held at Journey's End located at 9001 Mad River Road, Mad River to discuss issues and events of mutual interest regarding Ruth Lake and the buffer strip. HBMWD Vice President Lindberg, Directors Rupp and Wheeler were present. Directors Fuller and Woo were absent. General Manager John Friedenbach, Superintendent Dale Davidsen, Business Manager Chris Harris, Regulatory Analyst Sherrie Sobol, Hydro-plant Operators Larry Raschein, Dave Perkins, Janet Bennett, and Board Secretary Contessa Dickson were present. RLCSD's General Manager Caitlin Canale, Chairman Jordan Emery, Vice Chair Ben Boak, Directors Debra Sellman, Ed Johnson, and Secretary Cindy Lofthouse were present. Guests from Southern Trinity Area Rescue (STAR), CHP, Sheriff's Department, and Ruth Lake's Leaseholders Association were also present. Vice President Lindberg called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. **Public Comment**

No public comment was received.

2. **Introductions**

All attendees introduced themselves and their respective agencies.

3. **Updates from Guests**

a) **Trinity County – 5th District Supervisor and Staff**

No attendees, therefore, no updates were reported.

b) **Trinity River CHP Office**

Officer Ted Luna reported there has been substantial employee changes, with more staffing changes to come in the near future. He stated the department is close to fully staffed.

c) **US Forest Service**

No attendees, therefore, no updates were reported.

d) **Southern Trinity Volunteer Fire Department/and or STAR**

Ms. Higgins reported for STAR. Sharing the department is in the process of separating from the WECare clinic and will be a 501c3 nonprofit on their own in the near future. Ms. Higgins also provided an update for the STVFD, noting that while there are not many immediate changes, the department continues to make steady progress on the goals they established five years ago. Currently the department is focusing on more local school education and community involvement. She highlighted during the July Pickett fire event Guy Fieri was visiting Ruth Lake. After discussions with the staff, he graciously donated a piece of needed equipment the department received within a month.

e) **Trinity County Sheriff/OES**

Trinity County Sheriff Tim Saxon reported that after five years of applications to the state, they have finally secured a grant for a jet boat, and hopes to have it operational by next summer. A few questions were asked, a short discussion followed.

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f. Ruth Lake Leaseholders Association
No updates were reported.

g. Any other Guests
No other guests reported.

4. HBMWD Topics

4.1 Law Enforcement on Ruth Lake

Mr. Friedenbach had no update on this topic. Stating Sheriff Saxon covered this topic.

4.2 Healthy Forest grant closes March 2025

The District has made significant strides in reforestation efforts following the devastation caused by the August Complex fire. Three rounds of seedling planting have occurred, with the final round scheduled within the next two months. The grant concludes in March 2025. Looking forward, staff intend to reapply for reforestation grants in 4-5 years. Mr. Friedenbach noted it will take decades for full forest recovery. A few questions were asked and discussed.

4.3 Cal Fire Fuel Reduction, Defensible Space completed

Ms. Harris reported on the \$500,000 Cal Fire grant funds allocated to the District for fuel reduction initiatives. She emphasized that the District was very successful in this project, spending all but 50 cents of grant funds. Ms. Harris also acknowledged the ongoing challenges that remain in the area of fuel management, adding the District is actively working on finding funding to ensure continued progress.

4.4 Quagga Prevention Plan

a. Old Ruth Gate -restoration

RLCSD plays a vital role in the implementation of the District/RLCSD Joint Quagga prevention plan. As the Lake owner HBMWD has taken the lead and applied for Dept. of Boating and Water Ways grant funding for quagga prevention. These grant funds are instrumental in financing essential resources, including key cards, boat stickers, gate arms, mechanical mechanisms, and ongoing maintenance. The power supply to the Old Ruth gate arm was compromised during the August Complex fire event. The District was notified last week the Quagga grant they applied for to restore power at Old Ruth was approved. These grant funds will facilitate the restoration of electrical power to the gate which will aid in quagga prevention plan implementation at controlled access points to the lake.

b. Ruth Rec gate relocation completed

Recently, significant improvements have been made to enhance security and accessibility at the boat launch at Ruth Rec. The installation of a new gate, along with bollards and boulders, has been successfully completed through DBW grant funding.

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c. Illegal lake access points prevention efforts

Mr. Friedenbach stated the management of Ruth Lake is a collaborative effort, with the HBMWD depending on RLCSO to monitor and report any incidents of unauthorized access, and assist in minimizing the risk of Quagga mussel infestation in Ruth Lake. He expressed gratitude for their continued efforts. A clarifying question was asked and thoroughly discussed.

5. RLCSO Topics

5.1 Lease Lots: areas of concerns

Ms. Canale reported that several lease lot developments are currently underway; however, she stated that some projects have reached a standstill due to insufficient funding.

5.2 Other Topics

No other topics were reported on. A question regarding dead tree removal on District owned land was asked. Director Rupp responded by stating that the District is proactively pursuing grant opportunities to facilitate the funding of dead tree removal. A few more questions were asked and discussed.

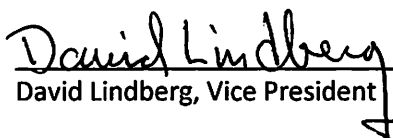
6. HBMWD Annex to Trinity County LHMP-public outreach

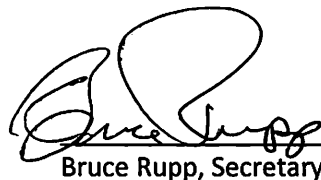
Mr. Friedenbach outlined a grant opportunity from FEMA through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. To qualify for this program, entities must participate in the Trinity County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). Given that Trinity County has an established LHMP, it is essential that HBMWD be integrated into this plan via an Annex. HBMWD was involved in the previous LHMP with Trinity County. These plans are updated every 5 years. Currently, Trinity County is in the process of updating their plan, and HBMWD is preparing to submit their Annex in the coming weeks. Additionally, participation in local public outreach is a key requirement for the program, as part of HBMWD's public outreach, a draft of the HBMWD Annex to Trinity County's LHMP was circulated to the public present at the meeting. Some clarifying questions were asked and discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm

Attest:


David Lindberg, Vice President


Bruce Rupp, Secretary/Treasurer