

Round Valley County Water District
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Board of Directors
Dane Downing, Chair
John Marshall, Vice Chair
Robert Wyre
Sandra Mullen
Bruce Hilbach-Barger
General Manager
Imil Ferrara
Project Manager
Lourance Hall

BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 25th, 2026:

Call to Order:

1. Chair called meeting to order at 6:33pm.
2. Directors Downing, Marshall, Wyre, Mullen and Hilbach-Barger, General Manager, and Project Manager were present.

Approval of the Agenda:

1. Mullen made a motion to approve the agenda, Marshall seconded, and all agreed.

Public Comment:

Consent Agenda:

1. Marshall made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Mullen seconded, and all agreed.

Correspondence:

1. It was reported that the County had contacted the District to inform the District there were DWR grant funds available to pay for purchase and delivery of domestic water tanks, and that the General Manager would be following up with the funder for more information and perhaps to request 25 tanks.

Discussion and Vote: Authorized Signers for Payment Authorizations

1. General Manager made a request that the District's Administrative Clerk be authorized to submit Authorizations for Payment to the County Auditor's Office.
2. Marshall made a motion to approve Catherine Towers as an authorized signer on Authorizations for Payment, Mullen seconded, and all agreed.
3. It was agreed that for financial reporting to the board in monthly board packets, Authorizations of Payment and supporting invoices should no longer be included, and QuickBooks-generated Balance Sheets, Profit and Loss Statements, and Check Registers should be included instead.

Discussion and Vote: Clean Water Act Rulemaking Comment

1. A draft letter from Hilbach-Barger to the US EPA was read, objecting to the process followed by the EPA in proposing Clean Water Act policy changes.
2. The letter argued the proposed policy changes would undermine the intent of the Clean Water Act, and that the EPA did not adequately inform affected parties of the proposed changes or provide adequate time for their public comment on the proposed changes.
3. Marshall made a motion to approve sending the letter on District letterhead and behalf of the District Board to the US EPA, Wyre seconded, and all agreed.

Discussion: Illegal Dumping and Solid Waste Solutions

4. Solid waste abatement and disposal were further discussed, including recycling buy-back.

Discussion and Vote: Memorandum of Understanding for Collaboration with Round Valley Indian Tribes:

1. Progress on developing a memorandum with RVIT was discussed.
2. It was reported that the previously developed MOU was insufficient in its language, format and focus.

3. It was suggested that an MOA between the two organizations might be to allow RVIT to avoid waiving sovereign immunity in contracts with the State.
4. It was suggested that an agreement between the two organizations might specify that the agreement be mediated within the Tribal court.
5. It was suggested that one goal of an MOU or MOA would be to bridge the organizational gap between the Tribes and the State.
6. It was agreed that a new MOU for collaboration would be developed and brought to the District Board for discussion.

CDFW Town Creek Bioengineering and Education Project:

1. It was reported that a project invoice for work conducted in November and December had been resubmitted to CDFW.
2. It was reported that the District would be offering a workshop on rural road maintenance on March 21st.
3. It was reported that the field portion of the workshop would be conducted on Pigeon Ridge.
4. It was agreed that hours for the Administrative Clerk should be increased to 6 hours per week.

- Discussion and Vote: Project Contracts

Groundwater Monitoring Network and Water Quality Test Results:

1. An analysis of results from the District's community water quality testing event, conducted in the summer of 2025, was presented and discussed.
2. It was agreed that the analysis should be presented to the Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council, and that maps should be developed showing concerning test result areas in such a way that specific parcel locations were disguised.

CFMC Youth Education: Protecting Our Waters Project:

1. It was reported that project funds remained in the District account.
2. It was reported that some project funds had been used on food for educational events.
3. It was reported that funds might be used for art education at the Round Valley Earth Day Festival.

Discuss: District Storage Room:

1. It was suggested that shelving/furniture in the west room should be flattened and disposed of.
2. It was reported that more new baseball mitts and balls had been found in the east room.

Eel River Water Diversions:

1. It was reported that a minority of Mendocino County supervisors were now expressing support for investigating the possibility of keeping Lake Pillsbury.

Sites Dam and California Water Project:

1. It was agreed that a request should be made to receive updates on the project from Save California.

General Manager's Commentary:

Project Manager's Commentary:

Directors' Commentary:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02pm. The next RVCWD meeting will be on Wednesday, March 25th at 6:30pm.