

MINUTES FROM PUBLIC MEETING # 1

November 2, 2023

Russian River Utility-Administrator

Cazadero Water Company

Held on Thursday October 19, 2023 6:00pm – 7:00pm

I. Introductions and Overview of Meeting Format

James Dunton and Stephanie Voet of Russian River Utility introduced themselves to the Cazadero residents in attendance and gave a brief history of Russian River Utility (RRU) and their role in the Cazadero Full Scope Administrator Project, and their appointment as President and Vice President of RRU as the Administrator and Operations and Maintenance entity of the Cazadero Water Company.

II. Public Meeting Updates

- **Performance of the Water System**

Mr. Dunton described the general performance of the system and identified primary areas of concern – system leaks, lost production – and that RRU is making the repairs as necessary.

- **Overview of the Water System's Finances**

Mr. Dunton provided an update as of October 19, 2023 noting that the system has just \$5,000 in reserves. Also stated was that there are approximately \$42,000 in unpaid water bills by 17 customers and that approximately half of the 17 customers owe over \$2,000 each.

It was stated that monthly meter reading and billing have resumed as of May 2023.

- **Update on major projects or plans**

Mr. Dunton stated that Santa Rosa engineering firm Brelje & Race Civil Engineers is in the process of producing and finalizing an evaluation and preliminary/draft plans for system-wide improvements. Mr. Dunton explained the need to replace piping as well as the vulnerability of the Luther tank.

- **Update on any changes to water rates**

See “Public Comments, Questions and Answers.”

- **Update on significant matters related to the Water System**

See “Public Comments, Questions and Answers.”

- **Public Comments, Questions and Answers**

1. An attendee asked if the rates would be raised. Mr. Dunton answered that rates would not be raised at this time while we are in the Administrator process.

2. There were concerns about RRU entering private properties unannounced. Mr. Dunton offered that anyone concerned about RRU staff entering property to assess for leaks or read the meter may call our office and ask to be put on a “call first” status. Ultimately, those who were concerned felt satisfied knowing now who RRU is and why we are there.

3. Questions regarding the funding from the State being used 100% for the improvements of the water system were confirmed by Mr. Dunton. Mr. Dunton also stated that the budget and scope of work are public information and are available upon request at any time.

4. An attendee asked how they would be notified of public meetings, minutes, and any other new information. Mrs. Voet informed that there is now a website where agendas, minutes, and new information will be posted, and that notices will be placed publicly in town and postcards/notices will be mailed.

5. An attendee asked about future meetings being held by zoom. Wi-fi at the Fire Station hall is unreliable, and so RRU is considering other locations that may have better reception for remote meetings.

III. Public Comments will be recorded and considered by the Administrator

IV. Next Public Meeting Date and Time - TBD

Adjournment