



PUBLIC NOTICE

Special Meeting of the

WATERMASTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WAC)
Attachments available 11/15/2021 at www.honeylakevalleyrcd.us

Date: Thursday, November 18, 2021

Location: Via Phone Conference Call:

Dial-in number: (516) 893-5818

Access code: 8807995

Time: **3:30 PM**

AGENDA

NOTE: THE HONEY LAKE VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT WAC MAY ADVISE ACTION ON ANY OF THE AGENDA ITEMS SHOWN BELOW.

NOTE: IF YOU NEED A DISABILITY-RELATED MODIFICATION OR ACCOMMODATION, INCLUDING AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES, TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER AND ADDRESS LISTED BELOW PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

I. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Per RCD Board Policy No. 5030.4.1, during this portion of the meeting any member of the public is permitted to make a brief statement, express his/her viewpoint, or ask a question regarding matters related to the District. **Five (5) minutes** may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of twenty (20) minutes to each subject matter.

IV. ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

- A. Approval of 05/13/2021 regular meeting minutes.
- B. Annual Use Report Draft Review- Adams

V. REPORTS

- A. Watermaster Report – Adams

B. RCD Report – Langston

VI. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a), committee members may make brief announcements or brief reports on their own activities. They may ask questions for clarification, make referral to staff or take action to have staff place a matter of business on a future agenda.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled Honey Lake Valley RCD WAC meeting will be **January 6th, 2022, 3:30pm** at the **via teleconference or Zoom due to COVID restrictions.**

*I certify that on **November 15th, 2021** I personally posted agendas as required by Government Code Section 54956 and any other applicable law.*

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Adams
Deputy Watermaster, SRWMSA
Honey Lake Valley RCD

Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District

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(530)252-7271

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HONEY LAKE VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WATER MASTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WAC) Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, May 13th, 2021

Location: Via Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88075858835?pwd=ZjZScE94TThhS251MUwvVm1DNFVoQT09>

Meeting ID: 880 7585 8835

Passcode: 547683

Call in: 1-669-900-6833

Time: **5:30 PM**

Present: Board: Ramsey Wood Wayne Langston Todd Swickard
Daren Hagata Trevor Wood
Staff: Carrie Adams
Attendees: None

I. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order by Board Chairman Ramsey Wood at 5:30pm. Board Member Brad Hanson was absent.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board Member Trevor Wood made a motion to approve the agenda, Board Member Wayne Langston seconded and the motion passed. All.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Approval of 9/10/2020, 11/12/2020, and 03/11/2021 regular meeting minutes.

Board Member Daren Hagata made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Board Member Trevor Wood seconded, and the motion passed. All.

V. ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

A. FY July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022 Budget Review

Board Members reviewed the draft budget and updated year to date expenses. The Committee decided that the total amount with respect to the tracked spending looked good. There was the edit made that the Water Code requirement to have \$10,000 in savings for legal fees was already set aside, as was an additional designated Savings line item; and thus, the line item for the Water Code's \$10,000 could be removed. This lowered the total budget \$10,000 from \$232,000 to \$222,000. Board Chair Ramsey Wood made a motion to approve the budget as amended and Board Member Daren Hagata seconded, and the motion passed. All.

VI. Reports

A. Watermaster Report - Adams.

Deputy Watermaster updated the WAC on current happenings and water conditions.

B. RCD Report- Langston

Board Member Langston updated the Board on RCD happenings including the recent application for the Urban Development Grant.

VII. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Ramsey Wood adjourned the meeting at 6:12pm.

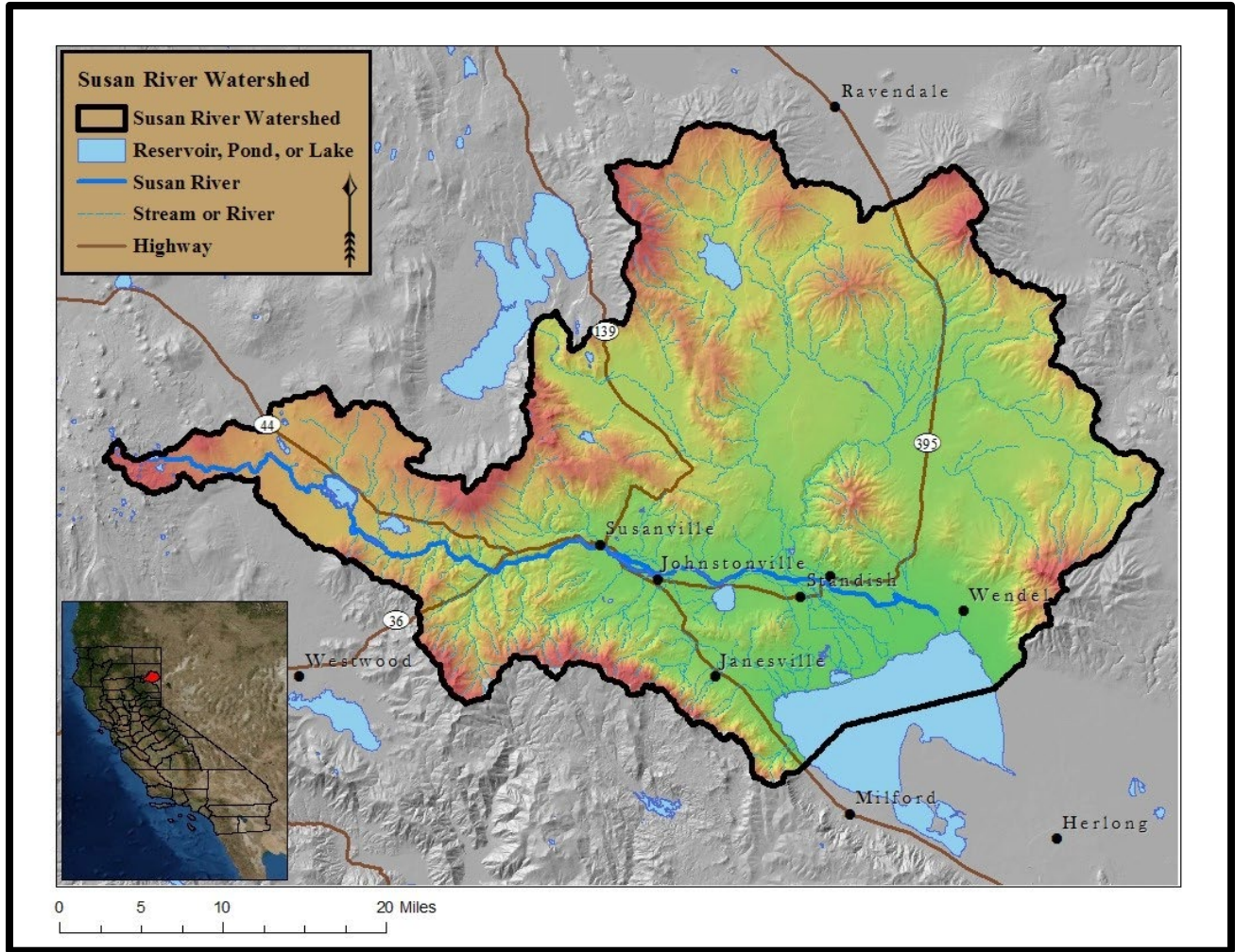
Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Adams
Deputy Watermaster, SRWMSA
Honey Lake Valley RCD



HONEY LAKE VALLEY
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

SUSAN RIVER WATERMASTER SERVICE AREA



ANNUAL USE REPORT - 2020/21

Susan River

Watermaster Service Area

Annual Use Report- 2020/2021

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021

Irrigation Season: March 1, 2021- October 31, 2021

Storage Season: November 1, 2020- February 29, 2021

Lassen County, California

Decree No.'s 4573, 8174 and 8175

Submitted by December 31, 2021 to

The Presiding Judge, Lassen County Superior Court



Prepared By:

Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District
170 Russell Ave.
Susanville, CA 96130

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General Description:

The Susan River service area is located in the southern part of Lassen County in the vicinity of the town of Susanville. There are approximately 246 water right owners in the service area with total continuous allotments of 351.922 cubic feet per second in addition to storage rights held by several users. The source of supply consists of three stream systems as follows: Susan River, Baxter Creek, Parker Creek and their associated tributaries.

Susan River has its sources on the east slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the southwesterly portion of Lassen County immediately east of Lassen National Park at an elevation of about 7,900 feet. Its channel runs easterly from Silver Lake through McCoy Flat Reservoir, through Susanville, and easterly on to Honey Lake.

Susan River has four major tributaries: Paiute Creek (entering from the north at Susanville), Gold Run and Lassen Creeks (entering from the south between Susanville and Johnstonville), and Willow Creek (entering from the north above Standish). Gold Run Creek and Lassen Creek rise on the north slope of Diamond Mountain at an elevation of about 7,600 feet. The watersheds of Paiute Creek and Willow Creek are lower and they rise on the south slopes of Round Valley Mountains.

A short distance below the confluence of Willow Creek and Susan River the river channel divides into three branches known as Tanner Slough Channel on the north, Old Channel in the middle, and Dill Slough Channel on the south. Two channels which take off of Dill Slough on the south are known as Hartson Slough and Whitehead Slough.

The Baxter Creek stream system is situated in Honey Lake Valley on the east slope of the Sierra Nevada about 10 miles southeast of Susanville in the southern portion of Lassen County. The principal streams in the Baxter Creek stream system are Baxter Creek (which rises in the extreme western portion of the basin and flows in an easterly direction), Elysian Creek, Sloss Creek, and Bankhead Creek (a tributary to Baxter Creek from the south). Elysian Creek has three tributaries: North Fork Elysian Creek, South Fork Elysian Creek, and Kanavel Creek.

Parker Creek is situated in Honey Lake Valley on the east slope of the Sierra Nevada about 15 miles southeast of Susanville in the southern portion of Lassen County. Its source is on the east

slope of Diamond Mountain and flows in an easterly direction for about 5 miles into Honey Lake. The primary area of water use in the Susan River service area is in Honey Lake Valley between Susanville and the northwest shore of Honey Lake, 25 miles in length. The valley floor is at an elevation of about 4,000 feet.

Water Supply:

The water supply in the Susan River service area comes from two major sources: snowmelt runoff and springs. The snowpack on the Willow Creek Valley and Paiute Creek watersheds, which embrace more than half of the Susan River stream system, melts early in the spring and usually is entirely depleted by the first of May. The irrigation requirements from this portion of the stream system after the first of May are almost entirely dependent upon the flow of perennial springs which remain constant throughout the year. Under normal conditions, the flows of Lassen Creek, Gold Run Creek, Baxter Creek, Parker Creek, and the Susan River above Susanville are well sustained by melting snows until early June. The flow from perennial springs in this portion of the water system is comparatively small. The Lassen Irrigation Company stores supplemental water in Hog Flat Reservoir and McCoy Flat Reservoir, located on the headwaters of the Susan River. This stored water is released into the Susan River, which is used as a conveyance and commingled with the natural flow usually during June and July. It is then diverted into the A and B Canal leading to Lake Leavitt for further distribution by the irrigation district.

Methods of Distribution:

Irrigation in the Susan River service area is accomplished by placing diversion dams in the main channel of the stream system, to raise the water to the level required to divert into the canals, sloughs and ditches. These dams for diversion are relatively large on the Susan River compared to those on the smaller tributaries. Various methods of irrigation are practiced; the most common approach is by flooding. With this technique, water is transported by a main conveyance channel along the high point of the lands to be irrigated. It is then dispersed by laterals along the higher ridges of the tract from which it can be distributed over the area to be irrigated by the smaller laterals of the ditch system. Sub-irrigation occurs in some areas incidental to surface irrigation or because of seepage from ditches or creek channels. During

the past several years, numerous users have increased the usage of sprinkler irrigation by wheel lines to improve the efficiency of their irrigation systems.

Watermaster Service Fiscal Information:

The FY 2020/2021 Watermaster Service Budget was adopted on June 9, 2020 in the amount of \$225,000; increasing from the previous 2019/2020 Fiscal Year total assessment amount of \$180,000. The Budget was increased due to high legal fees experienced by the District over three active water right litigation cases. A courtesy letter notifying the water users of the upcoming increase was mailed in May 2020. The required notification regarding the budget, apportionment and individual assessments were mailed to the users and filed with the Lassen County Superior Court before June 15, 2020. There were no filed objections to the budget or apportionment within 15 days or thereafter; and thus, deemed approved by the Court without further hearing. The approved budget, apportionment, and individual assessments were certified to the Lassen County Auditor and the Lassen County Board of Supervisors prior to August 10, 2020.

An audit for Fiscal Year starting July 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2020, has been completed and is available on the Honey Lake Valley RCD website.

2020/2021 Water Allocation and Distribution:

The Susan River Watermaster Service Area experienced extremely light precipitation compared to the area's average. Based on California Cooperative Snow Surveys for the Susanville area, October 2020 through September 2021, the area received only XX% of the average precipitation amount. The general availability of water for the various stream systems are described below.

Parker Creek: First priority water rights were served through early May.

Baxter/Elysian Creek: Users of both Baxter Creek and Elysian Creek could divert at prorated rates through late May.

Paiute Creek: The water supply in Paiute Creek was dry for most of year, with low flows in March and April.

Lassen Creek: There was sufficient water in Lassen Creek to provide prorated water amounts until mid-May.

Hills Creek: The water supply in Hills Creek continued into mid-May.

Gold Run Creek: The water supply in Gold Run Creek supplied prorated water right amounts through mid- May.

Upper Susan River: At the start of Irrigation Season, March 1, the Upper Susan was at approximately 17% water availability of the Schedule 5, 2nd priority water right allotments. Full water right allotments were never met with the highest flows reaching 65-70cfs out of the 100%, 72.45cfs for a few days in early April. Thus, users were prorated most of the season with flows quickly decreasing in early May, only leaving stock water available come mid-May. Stock water availability through the irrigation season and into the storage season was very limited; this caused farther downstream users to rely on well pumping, the majority of users to supplement with well pumping, and neighboring users to rotate the water use.

Lower Susan River Below the Confluence of Willow Creek: The Lower Susan started off the season below 100% of the Schedule 3, 2nd priority water rights. These users were prorated until only stock water was available in late April. Due to low flow, stock water was only available to those higher upstream, or closer to the channel. Users relied on well pumping either completely or as supplement.

Willow Creek: Prorated allocations were available through late May. Flows were sufficient enough for stockwater into August.

Bankhead/Sloss Creek: Irrigation water was available until late April.

Lassen Irrigation Company Storage Reservoirs: By the start of irrigation season, McCoy Flat stored to a stage height of 0.9 feet, equaling approximately **XXX acre-feet** of water. LIC began

diverting water from McCoy on April 19, 2021, utilizing completely by April 23, 2021. Hog Flat reserved to a stage height of 2.5 feet, equaling approximately 1,350 acre-feet of water. This water was utilized starting on April 19, 2021 and was completely drained by approximately May 4, 2021.

Miscellaneous notable events:

1. The District Manager, Kayla Meyer, left the organization on June 26, 2020. Andrea Stuemky was hired as District Manager, starting on August 17, 2020. Andrea possesses a Bachelor's of Science in Biology, and a Master's of Science in Horticulture, Specialty Crops. She resides here in Susanville, and previously worked for the local Bureau of Land Management Eagle Lake Field Office, on the Botany team.
2. On April 30, 2021 the California Court of Appeals, Third Appellate District decided on the Dow- Bonomini 2013 Family Trust Appeal of the June 3, 2019 Lassen County Superior Court decision; siding with the RCD on the interpretation of the phrase "and, or" of paragraph 21 of the 4573 Decree, allowing Lassen Irrigation Company the ability to store and release water simultaneously. The Dow party appealed this decision to the US Supreme Court, of which it has not yet been denied or accepted.
3. Briefs are due to the California Court of Appeals, Third Appellate District on October 1, 2021 for the RCD appeal of the Lassen County Superior Court March 9, 2021 decision which sided with the Dow-Bonomini 2013 Family Trust on the issues of transferring Schedule 4- Gold Run Creek, and Schedule 5- Upper Susan River water rights, for use below the confluence of the Susan River and Willow Creek; and the use of 740 acre-feet of water described in the Barham Kelly 3037 Judgment argued to be additional water rights to the 4573 Decree.
4. The RCD Board Vacancy was filled by Robin Hanson, taking the Oath of Office on October 22, 2020. Robin is a part of the local Lassen County Cattlemen's Association and previously served on the Yolo County RCD Board. This position is a 4-year term.
5. The RCD as Watermaster, changed legal representation from William P. Curley of Harper & Burns, LLP. and Mark Waterman of Lozano Smith, to Gene Tanaka and Steven M. Anderson of Best, Best, and Krieger LLP. This was filed with the California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District in early December 2020.