



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meredith Matthews, City of Arcata, **Vice Chair**
Adelene Jones, City of Blue Lake
Leslie Castellano, City of Eureka, **Chair**
Randy Cady, City of Ferndale
Steve Madrone, County of Humboldt
Frank Wilson, City of Rio Dell

Minutes

Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Sequoia Conference Center Annex
901 Myrtle Avenue
Eureka, CA

Present: Meredith Matthews, Frank Wilson, Leslie Castellano, Randy Cady
Absent: Steve Madrone, Adelene Jones
Staff: Eric Keller-Heckman, Tony Heacock, Loral Uber
Legal Counsel: Nancy Diamond

1. Call to Order and Roll Call at 6:00 PM

Chairperson Castellano called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. A quorum was present and acting.

2. Consent Calendar

- a. Approve Minutes from the April 13, 2023 HWMA Board Meeting

Motion: **Director Matthews** moved and **Director Cady** seconded the motion to approve the Consent Calendar.
Action: Approve the Motion as made by **Director Matthews** and seconded by **Director Cady**
Ayes: Unanimous
Noes: None
Absent: Steve Madrone, Adelene Jones

3. Oral and Written Communications

Chairperson Castellano opened the floor to public comment regarding items not on the agenda. No comments were received.

Chairperson Castellano closed the floor to public comment.

4. Receive and Provide Direction on Draft Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget

Executive Director Keller-Heckman presented a summary of differences between the current year budget and the Draft Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget prepared by staff and rationale for the proposed changes, including assumptions for projected revenues and expenditures, predicted decrease in backhaul percentage, changes to tipping fees and redistribution of satellite site fees, and impacts of inflation.

Executive Director Keller-Heckman requested direction from the Board on expanding illegal disposal fund amount and uses, funding for edible food recovery infrastructure, and methodology for Cost of Living Adjustments to wages.

The Board discussed the Draft Budget and requested clarification to confirm that the proposed budget is sufficient to cover all expected expenditures and replenish reserves. The board also

discussed the possibility of setting aside additional funds for long-term projects including reopening a Eureka Recycling Center. Executive Director Keller-Heckman informed the board that an additional \$1/ton increase to the HWMA Base Fee is expected to result in approximately \$75,000 increase in annual revenue.

Chairperson Castellano opened the floor to public comment on the Draft Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget.

Linda Wise of Recology informed the board that, based on her experience, the proposed budget is in line with industry standards, and that she appreciates the quality and transparency of the document. She expressed concern about an upcoming trucking bubble that will exacerbate current difficulties with shipping costs and backhaul possibilities. Ms Wise encouraged the board to consider the importance of food waste reduction and in-county composting to reduce the impact of increased shipping costs on residents.

Frank Nelson spoke about the importance of long-term planning for capital improvements for keeping rates stable and to mitigate the impact of economic, operational, and regulatory changes to county residents. He believes the proposed budget is intelligent and well-written, and that the Authority has a high level of transparency.

Chairperson Castellano closed the floor to public comment.

The Board directed staff to proceed with the proposed 6.5% cost of living adjustment for staff wages in the upcoming fiscal year, and to develop a plan for periodic compensation surveys to inform future cost of living adjustments.

The Board directed staff to modify the proposed budget with an additional \$1/ton increase to the HWMA Base Fee, to establish a new reserve for funding long-term projects.

5. Adjourn

Chairperson Castellano adjourned the meeting at 7:14 PM.