

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Short called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Regional Water Authority. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

**RWA Board Members**

Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District  
Steve Nugent, Carmichael Water District  
Al Dains, Citrus Heights Water District  
Bob Churchill, Citrus Heights Water District  
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom  
Spencer Short, City of Lincoln  
Matthew Wheeler, City of Lincoln  
Kelye McKinney, City of Roseville  
Jim Mulligan, City of Roseville  
Jim Peifer, City of Sacramento  
Beverly Sandeen, City of West Sacramento  
Stan Cleveland, City of Yuba City  
Diana Langley, City of Yuba City  
Ryan Saunders, Del Paso Manor Water District  
Debra Sedwick, Del Paso Manor Water District  
Bill George, El Dorado Irrigation District  
Mark Madison, Elk Grove Water District  
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District  
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company  
Michael Schaefer, Orange Vale Water Company  
Sharon Wilcox, Orange Vale Water Company  
Matt Young, Placer County Water Agency  
Darlene Thiel, Rancho Murieta Community Services District  
Brent Dills, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District  
Ralph Felix, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District  
Neil Schild, Sacramento Suburban Water District  
Pam Tobin, San Juan Water District  
Keith Durkin, San Juan Water District

**RWA Associates**

None.

**RWA Affiliate Members**

Jim Graydon, Brown & Caldwell, Paul Selsky, Brown & Coldwell, Mike OHagan, Forsgren Associates, Jafar Faghieh, HDR, Inc., Hugh Kleia, MWH Global, Johnathan Goetz, GEI Consultants and Charles Duncan, West Yost Associates.

**Staff Members**

John Woodling, Rob Swartz, Dave Brent, Nancy Marrier, Amy Talbot, Cecilia Partridge and Ryan Bezerra, Legal Counsel.

**Others in Attendance:**

Sarah Jones, Brett Ewart, Greg Zlotnick, Joe Duran, Hilary Straus, Greg Meyer, Jim Holmes, Brett Storey, Mitch Dion and Tom Gohring.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Short recognized Brett Storey and Jim Holmes from Placer County.

John Woodling, Executive Director, congratulated Bob Churchill on his retirement as general manager from Citrus Heights Water District. Mr. Churchill attended the very first meeting of the RWA Board and today is his last meeting

Items number 6 and 7 were moved ahead of item number 5, but will be reported in the order listed on the agenda.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Minutes of the September 8, 2016 RWA regular board meeting

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Ms. Tobin moved, with a second by Mr. Churchill, to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2016 RWA regular board meeting. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors.

**4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

- a. Information: Final minutes from the August 24, 2016 Executive Committee meeting and draft minutes from the October 26, 2016 Executive Committee meeting.
- b. Action: Approve RWA Associate Application from Placer County

M/S/C Ms. Tobin moved, with a second by Mr. Greenwood, to approve the RWA Associate Application from Placer County. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors.

## **5. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT IMPLEMENTATION**

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act resulted from three bills passed by the California Legislature in 2014. Subsequently, the Department of Water Resources was tasked with developing emergency regulations for implementation of the Act, as well as Best Management Practices, a report identifying water available for replenishment, and an update to basin and subbasin boundaries in Bulletin 118.

RWA staff was actively engaged in the legislation, and continues to be active in all implementation activities directly, as a part of the Practitioner Advisory Panel convened by DWR, and through the ACWA Groundwater Committee.

The Act lays out a number of compliance timelines, including a deadline of June 30, 2017 for formation of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA). RWA and its member agencies overlie a number of groundwater subbasins in the Sacramento Valley. Representatives working on GSA formation and other activities in the Cosumnes, South American, and North American subbasins presented to the RWA Board on progress and status.

Diana Langley and Stan Cleveland exited the meeting.

The panel included Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento and Chair of the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority; Tom Gohring, Sacramento Water Forum; Kelye McKinney, City of Roseville; Brett Storey, Placer County and Rob Swartz, Sacramento Groundwater Authority. The only area that was not represented was the Sutter County portion of the North American Subbasin.

Mr. Ewart said that the boundary definition of the South American Subbasin follows the Cosumnes River, so it does not align with the administrative boundaries of the central basin. There was boundary controversy, but the decision was for the boundary to remain as it is. An application for a GSA has been submitted for the greater part of the central basin. They anticipate submitting an alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) with the state for their review. Budgets have increased substantially for agencies who are filing applications. The next steps after filing an alternative submittal will be a review period and then to meet with the groups involved and address their concerns. There has been interest in the structure of how the SCGA is formed.

Mark Madison noted that Mr. Ewart has been elected as Chair of the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority for a second year. He also thanked Jonathan Getz, GEI Consultants, for his spectacular work.

Mark Madison exited the meeting.

Tom Gohring said that the Water Forum is involved in some of the negotiations in creating a GSA in the south basin. The Water Forum has been attempting to convene meetings of the entities that have either filed to become a GSA or have intentions of filing to become a GSA. It appears that the south basin may be represented by up to seven separate GSAs who have indicated they would prefer one GSP. There will be one JPA to come out of Amador County to become a GSA.

Jim Peifer exited the meeting.

Mr. Gohring noted that there are some undefined areas within the Galt Irrigation District. There is one square mile of land and an unincorporated area in the City of Galt. There have been long standing discussions about the challenges for the area including the level of management, the agricultural and residential areas and the desire to move the basin boundary.

Brent Dills exited the meeting.

Rob Swartz explained that in 1998 SGA formed as a separate JPA that managed the underlying groundwater basin. A board was assigned, including all fourteen organized water agencies, that was authorized to manage the entity. Two positions were created for independent pumpers. After complying with the DWR SGMA filing requirements, SGA received confirmation in January 2016 that it was determined to be the GSA. Once the other GSAs are formed SGA intends to begin moving forward to develop one common GSP for the entire North American Basin.

Kelye McKinney said that City of Roseville is working with Placer County, Placer County Water Agency, City of Lincoln and California American Water in implementing the West Placer Groundwater Management Plan. With the exception of Placer County, the agencies have been working under a Memorandum of Agreement for the past ten years. The agencies have been meeting to discuss SGMA implementation. There is a public outreach phase and governance aspect of the GSA formation. In their area about 90% of groundwater pumping is independent agriculture. Assistance was received from DWR in assessing the stakeholder interests on the agriculture side. A GSA website is being created that will contain messaging materials where stakeholders can sign up to receive information. Community outreach meetings are planned to educate stakeholders about SGMA and upcoming timelines. Electeds from the agencies will be meeting to discuss different governance options and hear staff recommendations to determine how to proceed. Documents and agreements will be finalized in order to file. Stakeholder outreach provided information from key agricultural users that they prefer to get their information from existing methods currently used like the Ag Commission.

Brett Storey indicated that he is also working in the western portion of Placer County that will not be covered by the West Placer Groundwater Management Plan. Their outreach program has created an ability to work together with South Sutter

Water District with a common interest. There are areas within Placer County in the South Sutter Water District that are served by Placer County Water Agency. Participation of the parties has allowed South Sutter Water District to create a GSA in their district and entering into an MOA with Placer County that protects stakeholder interests. Both parties will sign the MOA before South Sutter Water District submits their proposal in January 2017 to become a GSA.

## **6. WATER EFFICIENCY UPDATE**

John Woodling, Executive Director, gave an overview of the current status of the state's proposal. Despite precipitation in northern California that was 400% of average for October, the statewide drought emergency continues. Monthly reporting to the State Water Resources Control Board shows that throughout the state water use continues to be significantly below 2013 levels. While the State Water Board's decision earlier this year to allow water suppliers to certify the adequacy of supplies for three more years of drought seems to have been a sound one, the Board is still planning for the possibility of a return to mandatory conservation targets in January of 2017.

In addition to the emergency conservation requirements, the Governor's Executive Order B-37-16 requires the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Board to develop a framework for permanent requirements for long-term water conservation. This will include changes to drought planning in the Urban Water Management Planning Act as well as enforceable standards and targets that go beyond the 20% by 2020 requirements of SBX7-7. RWA staff and member agencies have been involved in an Urban Advisory Group empaneled by the state to provide input to the framework. There is broad agreement among water agencies throughout the state on a number of issues, as presented in a comment letter on the process that was included in the packet. The state will release a draft report of recommendations on the framework on November 14<sup>th</sup> for a brief comment period, with a final report due by January 10, 2017. Legislation to enact parts of the recommendations is expected to be introduced early next year.

The question was asked why the comment letter did not have a more defined position. Jim Peifer, City of Sacramento, explained that it was a challenge to bring the many agencies together to agree with the content of the collation letter regarding water management. The letter represents statewide agreement and support.

The state seems to be solely focused on use of less water. Some policy considerations and objectives of conservation/efficiency measures are to meet future demands, reduce costs, environmental objectives, regulatory mandates, energy savings and water quality improvements. Conservation is when you reduce water use while efficiency is using the appropriate amount of water per purpose. There are questions about the benefits and unintended consequences for water agencies with statewide water conservation. The Executive Order B-37-16

implementation requires eliminating water waste, strengthening local drought resilience and using water more wisely. Mr. Woodling gave examples of how agencies will be able to comply with the requirements, possible adjustments and how complying with the requirements may be problematic.

Amy Talbot, Senior Project Manager, reported on the water savings that has been achieved in our region. This year the Regional Water Authority received the 2016 WaterSense Excellence Award in Education and Outreach from the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

## **7. ADVOCACY PROGRAM UPDATE**

Dave Brent, Water Policy Advisor, gave a Legislative Summary update. The California Legislature adjourned August 31<sup>st</sup> giving the Governor until September 30<sup>th</sup> to take action on the bills that had reached his desk and officially close the 2015-2016 two-year legislative session. Of the nearly 100 bills that RWA tracked and monitored, including the 37 top priority “hot bills”, eleven were signed into law by the Governor. The remaining hot bills were either amended to issues of no concern to RWA; failed to make it out of the legislature; or were vetoed by the Governor.

Mr. Brent commented that RWA has increased our profile and presence at the table on many issues. With the leadership from John Woodling and staff, issues aren't simple but our voice is being heard.

SB 7 – Beginning January 1, 2018, this bill requires any water purveyor that delivers water service to a newly constructed multiunit residential structure or newly constructed mixed-use residential and commercial structure for which a new water connection is required to ensure each individual unit be metered or sub-metered as a pre-condition to a new water service. The developer and/or owner of the newly constructed structure is required to install, certify, maintain, test and read the sub-meters unless the water purveyor agrees otherwise.

SB 814 – This bill prohibits excessive water use by metered residential customers during specific types of drought emergencies. The specific “types of drought emergencies” for which this prohibition applies are all based on local drought conditions. The bill requires, as part of scheduled updates to Urban Water Management Plans (years ending in “0” and “5”), every urban retail water supplier, except those not fully metered, to establish a method to identify and discourage excessive water use during drought conditions. Agencies that are not yet fully metered are exempt from the above requirements until such time as they become fully metered. In lieu of the requirements, these agencies are required to prohibit certain water use practices (such as specific non-watering days, no runoff, etc.) and impose penalties for prohibited uses of water.

SB 1398 –The intent of this bill is to ensure that any known lead water pipes

are identified and replaced as promptly as possible and that appropriate action is taken on water service lines of unidentified composition to ascertain whether they contain lead so that water suppliers can manage the replacement of service lines on a schedule that is commensurate with the risks and costs involved. A system inventory and a timeline for replacement of known lead pipes must be submitted to the by July 1, 2018 the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for approval.

Of note during this legislative session were certain bills that failed to move forward. For example, at the start of the 2016 session, RWA and other water organizations geared up in anticipation that a carry-over bill from the first year of the session, SB 20 (Pavley), would be taken up as the vehicle for imposing a public goods charge. While that bill was later gutted and amended and the public goods charge discussion never materialized, the topic of a public goods charge is not dead. RWA has an adopted policy acknowledging the need for helping disadvantaged communities but opposing a PGC that would be imposed on our members' customers. It is recommended that RWA continue to keep a close eye on future legislation that would consider imposition of such a charge.

Another bill that died was a bill that would have circumvented time schedules of the Sustainable Groundwater Manager Act by imposing on counties a permitting requirement on new groundwater wells throughout the State. This issue will most likely continue to crop up in future legislative sessions as well.

As part of the 2017 Work Plan development process, we have reviewed the Policy Principles adopted by the RWA Board in 2016 and recommend those principles be maintained without amendments. The 2017 Work Plan will focus on preparing for the upcoming 2017 legislative session, continuing to expand RWA's advocacy efforts, and fostering existing and new partnerships and coalitions. As part of the preparation for the 2017 session, RWA and several member agencies will host a water quality tour with legislative staff members on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Woodling noted that the RWA board was supportive of making the advocacy program more nimble and aggressive. Two years ago the Board approved a part time position that Dave Brent filled as a retired annuitant and took the program a long way to making it effective. The Board has now directed the position to become a full time staff program position. Through an interview process the Advocacy program will have full time staffing in December.

Staff will be reaching out to RWA members to see if other agencies are interested in joining the subscription-based program to employ the contract lobbyist. The Elk Grove Water District has agreed to become a member of the program beginning in January. In an effort to more fairly share the cost of the program, the fee structure for the LSP will be revised to a tiered rate structure consisting of three tiers with the largest members (greater than 30,000 connections) paying \$13,000 per year, medium sized agencies paying \$9,000 per year, and the smallest agencies (less

than 6,000 connections) paying \$5,000 per year. The new fee structure will not result in a fee increase for any of the member agencies.

Mr. Woodling mentioned the annual report coming out soon that will detail what RWA is doing with the advocacy program. Mr. Woodling announced that Adam W. Robin, currently with ACWA, will be the RWA Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Program Manager.

## **8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**RWA Membership** – The Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency has notified staff of its intention to withdraw from RWA effective June 30, 2016.

**RWA Holiday Social** – The RWA annual holiday social is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2016 at the North Ridge Country Club. .

**Financial Documents** – The financial reports for the period ending September 30, 2016 were included in the packet.

## **9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Greenwood said that he was reelected to the Carmichael Water District Board.

Mr. Churchill said that looking back in history it's interesting how RWA's collaboration has grown. RWA continues to get stronger every year and will continue to do so with the new legislative advocacy position.

Mr. Schild reported that after the Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) elections he remains on as a director with Dave Jones becoming a newly elected director. He attended the American River Pipeline Conveyance Project dedication and said that it was well run and well attended.

Mr. George reported that Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation District General Manager, had a double lung transplant and is doing well. He will be back to work full-time in January. Mr. George was not reelected as a director. He expressed his thanks for having the privilege of serving on the Executive Committee in the past.

Mr. Woodling thanked Mr. George for his commitment and drive as the El Dorado Irrigation District representative for RWA.

Ms. Tobin was reelected to the San Juan Water District Board, as was Ken Miller. ACWA Region 4 held an interesting and informative regional tour and discussion about stream restoration and the revitalization of salmon and spawning grounds.



Ms. McKinney reported on the City of Roseville's elections: Susan Rohan will be mayor; Bonnie Gore was reelected and will be Vice mayor, Pauline Roccucci has termed out, and new council members are John Alder and Scott Albert.

Sarah Jones introduced herself as the new Program Manager for Elk Grove Water District.

Chair Short congratulated Steve Nugent and Ron Greenwood on the Carmichael Creek Crossing Program completion. Mr. Short was not reelected with the City of Lincoln.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Short adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

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Nancy Marrier, Board Secretary / Treasurer