

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Peifer called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 8:30 a.m. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

Executive Committee Members

Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom  
Kelye McKinney, City of Roseville  
Jim Peifer, City of Sacramento  
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company  
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency  
Rob Roscoe, Sacramento Suburban Water District  
Pam Tobin, San Juan Water District

Staff Members

John Woodling, Rob Swartz, Adam Robin, Nancy Marrier, Amy Talbot, Cecilia Partridge, Monica Garcia and Ryan Bezerra, legal counsel.

Others in Attendance

Terrie Mitchell, Shauna Lorance, Mitch Dion, Charles Duncan, Debra Sedwick and Michael Raffety.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

The minutes from the Executive Committee meeting held May 24, 2017.

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Ms. Tobin moved, with a second by Mr. Schubert, to approve the minutes from the May 24, 2017 Executive Committee meeting. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

**4. LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE**

Adam Robin, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Program Manager, updated the Executive Committee on legislative and regulatory issues including Long-Term Urban Water Use Efficiency Legislation, Proposition 218 - SB 231 and SCA 4,

Public Goods Charge Legislation, SWRCB AB 401 (2015) Statewide Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program and Lead in Drinking Water legislation.

There has been considerable activity on Long-term Urban Water Use Efficiency legislation. RWA sponsored legislation AB 1654 is out of the Assembly and is now with the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. Staff is asking RWA member agencies to express their support for the legislation with a coalition letter that will be circulated. The administration has released a revised budget trailer bill that does include target setting related provisions. A concerning piece for water agencies is increasing the requirements on energy intensity evaluation in the Urban Water Management Plan, which was not in the framework.

At this point SB 623 has not been amended to include a public goods charge. There is an effort by the State Water Board to look at categories of need including general subsidies for low income rate payers statewide and the operations and maintenance funding shortfall for disadvantaged communities that lack access to safe drinking water. The State Water Board will be holding a series of workshops around the state in July to present options for a statewide low income rate assistance program. AB 401 requires them to submit a report with recommendations for potential legislation by February 2018 with a near term goal to create a draft report by fall.

Staff continues to track the Lead in Drinking Water legislation, SB 427 that is a follow up to SB 1398, and is related to lead service lines. AB 746 is a Lead in Schools bill that would require schools to develop protocols for sampling their plumbing onsite.

It was suggested that the motion be modified to include taking a support position on AB 313 that would establish a Water Rights Division within the Office of Administrative Hearings and to ratify the position, oppose unless amended, taken by the Executive Director on SB 623 that would establish the Safe And Affordable Drinking Water Fund in the State Treasury.

M/S/C Ms. McKinney moved, with a second by Ms. Tobin, to adopt bill positions as presented with the stated modifications. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

Ryan Bezerra, Legal Counsel, provided information on the Water Fix. Last Monday the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service issued their ESA biological opinions for California's Water Fix. It was concluded that the project as they defined it would not jeopardize any listed species anywhere in California which means that the Federal agencies can approve the project. Reclamation can adopt a record of decision for the project and can approve the environmental impact statement for the project. DWR has said on the state side that they plan to certify their EIR for the California Water Fix shortly after receiving the biological opinions. We expect DWR and Reclamation to approve the EIR/EIS

for the California Water Fix. That means that any agencies that decide to challenge the EIR under CEQA will have 30 days after the certification of the EIR to file their lawsuit.

Item number 8 was moved ahead of item number 5 but will be reported in the order listed on the agenda.

## **5. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA) UPDATE**

John Woodling, Executive Director, gave an informational SGMA update stating that efforts to ensure that the entire North American subbasin is represented by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) before the July 1, 2017 deadline are nearing completion. All of the necessary agencies have filed their intent to be GSAs. The basin will be covered by five Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, including the Sacramento Groundwater Authority, Western Placer (Roseville, Lincoln, Placer County, Placer County Water Agency, Nevada Irrigation District and California-American Water); South Sutter Water District; Reclamation District 1001 (in coordination with Pleasant Grove-Verona Mutual Water Company; and Sutter County (in coordination with Natomas Central Mutual Water Company). The five GSAs have a consultant working on a scope and budget for a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the subbasin.

Ms. Schmitz said that there are overlap areas that will not be considered probationary as long as the alternative is being considered by the state. If the alternative is denied or withdrawn, at that point those areas have a grace period to become GSAs; however, the extraction reporting and associated fees start right away. The county has the opportunity to step in and accept responsibility for those areas, even on an interim basis until the overlap issues are resolved.

The Yolo Subbasin GSA held its inaugural meeting, at which it adopted its Joint Powers Agreement on June 19, 2017. The Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority submitted an alternative to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan and is awaiting review by the Department of Water Resources.

Chair Peifer was expected at another meeting. He handed the gavel over to Vice Chair Marcus Yasutake for the remainder of the meeting.

The state released a proposal solicitation package for the Groundwater Sustainability money in Prop 1 of about \$80 million. About \$10 million will go to disadvantaged communities with the remainder going towards supporting development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans. SGA provided comments by the deadline of June 19, 2017. Entities that submitted alternative plans are not eligible for this money. The grant applications will be due this fall and award recommendations are expected by the end of 2017.

## **6. STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE**

RWA adopted its *Strategic Plan 2013-2018+* in late 2013. In the interim, a number of internal and external factors have changed, including the passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the drought emergency, and proposals for new permanent water conservation standards.

At the Executive Committee meetings since January 2017, the Executive Committee has discussed the progress of strategic plan implementation as well as the approach to updating, modifying, and reprioritizing elements of the plan. Staff solicited input from the full RWA Board and discussed the feedback received as well as how to proceed. In May, the Executive Committee recommended changes to the Regional Planning goal of the Strategic Plan for consideration by the full Board. Proposed modifications to the Implementation goal were presented to the Executive Committee for consideration.

John Woodling went through each implementation goal with the Executive Committee and explained the proposed changes. The main objectives include promoting implementation of the American River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, promoting improvements in water use efficiency in the region to meet future water needs and assure compliance with applicable requirements, supporting a lower American River Flow Management Standard that is consistent with the Water Forum co-equal goals, supporting implementation of water transfers among agencies that are beneficial for the region and supporting programs to benefit from economies of scale in purchasing. The Executive Committee will discuss the next phases of the Strategic Plan at future meetings prior to presentation to the RWA Board of Directors.

M/S/C Ms. Tobin moved, with a second by Ms. McKinney, to recommend modifications to the Implementation Goal of the Strategic Plan to the RWA Board of Directors. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

## **7. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

At the January meeting of the Executive Committee, Chair Peifer appointed three subcommittees to work on specific issues. Kerry Schmitz was appointed Chair of a Conference/Education Subcommittee that also included Rob Roscoe, Pam Tobin and Kelye McKinney. Pam Tobin, Ron Greenwood, Marcus Yasutake and John Woodling were appointed to an Office Space/Lease Subcommittee to evaluate office space options for RWA when its lease on 5620 Birdcage expires in 2018. Robert Dugan was appointed Chair of a Membership Subcommittee to evaluate and help recruit potential new members. Mr. Dugan requested that Rob Roscoe, Jim Peifer and John Woodling join his efforts on the Membership Subcommittee. The subcommittees gave updates at the April and May Executive Committee meetings.

At the May Executive Committee meeting Mr. Dugan expressed a desire to table future efforts to increase RWA membership until after the issues of how to dispense financial obligations if a member withdraws from RWA are finalized. He feels it would be beneficial to provide the information to an agency before they become an RWA member.

The Conference/Education Subcommittee will be looking into hiring a consultant to assist in planning an event or partnering with another agency. Ms. Tobin is reaching out to the Water Education Foundation who may be interested in partnering with RWA to plan an event. The subcommittee members will participate in a conference call to share thoughts and information. The July 13, 2017 RWA Regional Water Authority Workshop will be the first event organized by the Conference/Education Subcommittee.

Ms. Tobin reported that the Office Space/Lease Subcommittee has received information to their inquiries about the vacancy rate in our area. The vacancy rate is much higher in Fair Oaks, Citrus Heights and Orange Vale because other more desirable areas have built new office buildings. The subcommittee continues to work on lease renewal options at the Birdcage location. She reported that she has been in contact with the realtor who has the Birdcage building listed for sale. She will continue to look at the building lease possibilities.

Mr. Bezerra said that future information regarding the Birdcage building should be shared in a closed session at the July Executive Committee meeting.

## **8. JULY 13, 2017 RWA BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

After discussion it was decided to delete the Delta Update from the July 13, 2017 RWA Board meeting agenda and add a Strategic Plan Progress Update with an action item recommending board adoption of the changes that the Executive Committee approved at the May meeting. It was suggested that the Delta Update be presented as a Regional Water Authority Workshop entitled Update on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and will follow the July 13, 2017 RWA Board meeting.

M/S/C Mr. Roscoe moved, with a second by Ms. Tobin, to approve the July 13, 2017 proposed RWA Board Meeting Agenda with the modifications stated above. The motion was amended to specify that the RWA Board meeting location can be the Roseville Corporation Yard, Folsom's location or Sacramento Suburban Water District's Antelope facility as availability allows. The motion and amendment carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

## 9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Strategic Communications Effort** – RWA staff and consultants are coordinating closely with a small group of RWA members that have engaged a consultant to support outreach and coalition building regarding long-term water efficiency legislation and regulatory action. A part of this effort is to increase RWA's social media presence on Facebook and Twitter.

**Grants Update** – Staff is currently managing four grants totaling \$30 million. Staff is expecting a final DWR contract for the \$250K 2016 Prop 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Grant award. The grant will be used to update the American River Basin IRWM Plan to meet updated standards released in 2016. Mr. Woodling attended a meeting at DWR on May 30<sup>th</sup> where DWR introduced concepts of how it might roll out the first round of Prop 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Grants in 2018.

**Regional Water Reliability Planning Update** – Work on the Regional Water Reliability Plan (RWRP) continues. The identification of vulnerabilities phase of the RWRP is complete, and the identification of mitigation actions phase is nearly complete. The next phase of RWRP development will be to quantify the potential water supply yield generated by expanded conjunctive use operations in the region. These results are expected toward the end of 2017.

**Water Efficiency Update** – Amy Talbot, Water Efficiency Program Manager, provided a verbal report. The agency data for May is being calculated with expected water savings of 15% to 20%. The direct install program is currently being administered. By the end of the year staff will apply for grant programs to fund additional projects. The Public Outreach Campaign launched in March with the River Cats partnership. A meeting is scheduled with the Powerhouse Science Center to get a status update and to discuss the content and design of our education exhibits.

**RWA Outreach** – Mr. Woodling attended the Orange County Water Summit on June 16, 2017. Mr. Woodling gave a presentation on legislative and regulatory issues to the Yolo County Water Resources Association on June 19, 2017, and attended the inaugural meeting of the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency immediately following the WRA.

**Compensation Survey** – The Compensation Survey directed to be undertaken by the Executive Committee is underway. Shellie Anderson of Bryce Consulting is contracted to complete the study. Staff and the consultant reviewed current job descriptions and made some minor changes to serve the needs of the survey. Currently, requests to agencies for salary and benefit information have gone out. The tentative schedule will be for staff and the consultant to discuss the data with

the Executive Committee at its July meeting. The ultimate goal will be to finalize a report and adopt salary schedules by the end of 2017.

**10. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

Ms. Tobin recently made a trip to California from Oregon and observed that Lake Shasta was very full and creeks and rivers are running very fast.

Ms. McKinney reported that the RiverArc Project partners went through an RFP process to obtain a consultant to assist in continuing the project from a strategic perspective and continue to drive that forward. West Yost Associates was selected.

**11. CLOSED SESSION UNDER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 54954.5(C) AND 54956.9(D) – UPDATE ON CALPERS CONTINUED OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE PENSION BENEFITS TO RWA EMPLOYEES**

There was nothing to report from closed session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Executive Committee, Vice Chair Yasutake adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

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Nancy Marrier, Board Secretary / Treasurer