



**Regional Water Authority
Executive Committee Meeting
Final Minutes
September 25, 2019**

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Executive Committee Members

Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville
Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company
Brent Smith, Placer County Water Agency
Pam Tobin, San Juan Water District

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Rob Swartz, Ryan Ojakian, Amy Talbot, Nancy Marrier, Cecilia Partridge, Monica Garcia and Andrew Ramos, legal counsel

Others in Attendance

Bruce Kamilos, Todd Eising, Kelye McKinney, John Woodling and Charles Duncan

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

The minutes from the August 28, 2019 Executive Committee meeting

Motion/Second Carried (M/S/C) Ms. Tobin moved, with a second by Mr. Greenwood, to approve the consent calendar item. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

4. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON STAFFING SERVICES

RWA has received a letter from the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) requesting the RWA brief the SCGA board on the RWA staffing relationship with SGA and the feasibility of providing staff to SCGA in a similar manner. Chair Schubert invited Todd Eising, SCGA Chair, to provide additional information. SCGA went through a strategic plan process to define their mission, vision, core values and

goals. Two objectives associated with this goal include: "...model SCGA after the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA), or other measures to most effectively and efficiently govern" and "create new governance to foster independence, transparency, accountability, and cost efficiency as it relates to the long-term management of the basin."

Some representatives of SCGA like the model used by SGA and their relationship with RWA and would like to explore the possibilities of having their own structure that would give them independence, but would also provide regional benefits. The chairs and vice-chairs of SCGA, SGA and RWA met to determine if there were any potential fatal flaws and what the potential benefits would be.

Ms. Tobin asked if SCGA has consulted legal counsel. Mr. Eising said that the only item that came up was PERS membership, which is a long-term obligation. It was determined that this would be an administrative issue and would not be a roadblock. There was discussion about making a distinction between SCGA and Sacramento County. SCGA was agreeable to pay for additional future staff if needed.

SCGA has requested the RWA staff review the details and feasibility of providing staff to SCGA and present the findings to the SCGA at a future board meeting. This item will be brought back to the RWA Executive Committee for further discussion after the presentation to SCGA. A copy of the letter making the request was provided.

It was suggested that there be further discussion on how the RWA and SGA relationship works together and how SCGA could be incorporated into that relationship. The RWA Executive Director will brief the SCGA Board.

M/S/C Ms. Tobin moved, with a second by Ms. Schmitz, for the Executive Director to further investigate per the direction of the request from RWA on the feasibility of moving forward. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

5. RWA STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The RWA prepared a strategic plan in 2013 and adopted minor plan updates in 2017. An update of the Strategic Plan is recommended by the Executive Director and Executive Committee input is requested. Similar to the 2013 update, the Executive Committee will guide the development of the process to update the plan, including schedule, the process used to solicit input from members and stakeholders, and other considerations. The Executive Director has three additional agencies to meet with on his listening tour.

Three questions that Mr. Peifer is asking include: 1) what are RWA members greatest challenges, 2) what is the vision for the RWA and 3) what is the greatest value of RWA. A survey will be sent out in the future requesting additional information from the member agencies.

6. CAPITOL REGION CLIMATE READINESS COLLABORATIVE

Ryan Ojakian, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager, said that the Capitol Region Climate Readiness Collaborative (CRC) is a 501(c)(3) organization that encompasses a 6-county Sacramento region focused on finding regional solutions to address shared challenges – drought, extreme heat, extreme weather events, wildfires and more. CRC is a member networking organization of 36 state, public, non-profit, academic and private members working together to advance climate resiliency efforts in our region. Benefits include annual members' forum, membership to CRC's steering committee, staff support, CRC directory and participants list, regular webinars on a variety of climate related topics and resident education on climate related issues. RWA is considered a local and regional agency with annual dues of \$3,000.

The CRC focuses on climate challenges with the main topic changing year to year. The CRC came to the RWA's attention due to their focus on water supply issues last year. By joining CRC, it would show that we employ progressive water solutions and we would be involved with issues that we are interested in including the Sacramento Region and getting funding for disadvantaged communities and potential water efficiency issues. It would be beneficial for RWA to be involved with CRC.

M/S/C Ms. Schmitz moved, with a second by Mr. Bigley, to direct the Executive Director to have the RWA join the Capitol Regional Climate Readiness Collaborative. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

7. AGENCY AWARD

RWA Policy 100.4 establishes the criteria for Water Statesperson of the Year Award and Distinguished Service Award. The awards are presented at the RWA annual holiday social in December.

Mr. Peifer asked for input from the Executive Committee on creating a new award that would be received by an agency. The award would be granted for an agency's efforts to work collaboratively with others within the Region on initiatives that are innovative and improve the management of water resources or improve the reliability of water resources. It was suggested that the new award would not be presented annually, but would be awarded for exceptional special programs or projects.

Included in the packet was proposed additional language to RWA Policy 100.4, RWA Awards detailing the awards criteria.

After discussion, it was suggested that agencies other than RWA be considered for the agency award. Mr. Peifer will refine the proposed additional language and add it to the next RWA Board meeting agenda.

M/S/C Mr. Yasutake moved, with a second by Ms. Schmitz, to recommend adoption of revision to RWA Policy 100.4 RWA Awards by the RWA Board with the suggested amendments. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

8. VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE

Chair Schubert appointed an ad hoc committee to address the RWA's role in the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) and the Voluntary Agreements (VA). The new ad hoc committee's charge is to oversee the participation of RWA and its Executive Director in the ongoing negotiations and proceedings concerning the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) proposal to amend the WQCP. The ad hoc committee will make recommendations to the RWA Board and Executive Committee for defining the RWA role and commitments of resources.

The members of the Ad Hoc Committee include Kerry Schmitz, Marcus Yasutake, Anne Sanger, Sean Bigley, Dan York, Paul Helliker, Steve Nugent, Andy Fecko and Jim Abercrombie.

Kerry Schmitz, Ad Hoc Committee Chair, reported that the committee has met and produced a draft description of the VA subscription program and a draft VA program agreement. At the next committee meeting the documents will be refined and brought back to the Executive Committee for review. Placer County Water Agency is moving forward with a contract with the consultant.

9. FEDERAL AFFAIRS AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE

Chair Paul Schubert appointed an ad hoc committee to address the RWA's role in Federal Affairs. The new ad hoc committee's charge is 1) to make recommendations to the RWA Board on the role of the RWA on federal matters and 2) to provide direction to the Executive Director on federal matters. The committee will terminate upon completion of the updated strategic plan.

The members of the Ad Hoc Committee include Sean Bigley, Chair, Anne Sanger, Vice Chair, Hilary Straus, Marcus Yasutake, Dan York, Andy Fecko and Evan Jacobs. Counsel for the committee is Jennifer Buckman.

Mr. Bigley said the committee focused on developing a member survey directed to the general managers and directions in the region. The survey results will be presented to the EC as the agency's perspectives. It is expected that each agency will have a different input and perspectives. The survey results will be reviewed for common specific themes and the results will be presented to the Executive Committee and the RWA Board.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for October 24th, from noon to 2:00 p.m. in the RWA conference room. Everyone is invited to participate in the discussion. Mr. Bigley asked that anyone who wants to attend please RSVP as lunch will be provided.

10. SACRAMENTO REGIONAL WATER BANK UPDATE

Mr. Swartz gave an update on efforts to develop the Sacramento Regional Water Bank. An application has been successful through the Water Management Options Pilot (WMOP) Program with funding assistance from the Bureau of Reclamation for \$650,000. This will help fund some of the second phase of Water Bank development. Recent presentations have been given on the Water Bank at the Groundwater Resources Association and to the City of Sacramento Water Committee.

Brent Smith said that PCWA also received funding from the WMOP Program in the amount of \$504,000.

11. 2018 RECLAMATION WATERSMART DROUGHT INTERTIES GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Swartz reported that because of RWA's extensive experience with Reclamation grants, SJWD and SCWA want RWA to assist in managing the various grant requirements. Staff has prepared an RWA Program Agreement, included in the packet, as authorized by the RWA Joint Powers Agreement. The participating agencies will directly fund the program management expenses to ensure there is no fiscal impact to RWA or its member agencies that are not participating in the program. Staff is requested that the Executive Committee approve the Program Agreement, with the addition of Item 13 to ensure environmental compliance.

M/S/C Mr. Yasutake moved, with a second by Mr. Bigley, to approve the 2018 Reclamation WaterSMART Drought Interties Program Agreement with the noted amendments. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Finance and Administrative Services Manager Recruitment – An offer of employment has been presented to Ms. Josette Reina-Lukan for the position of Finance and Administrative Manager and she has accepted. Ms. Reina-Lukan will begin on October 8th.

RWA Outreach – Jim Peifer participated on a panel on Urban, Rural and Agricultural Supplies at the State Water Resources Control Board on September 23rd. The Panel discussion was part of a larger Drought Panel discussion to inform the Water Resilience Portfolio Initiative.

Rob Swartz presented on the Sacramento Regional Water Bank to the Groundwater Resources of California's Western Groundwater Congress on September 19th and to the City of Sacramento Water Committee on September 24th.

Jim Peifer, Rob Swartz, Amy Talbot, and Ryan Ojakian are meeting with members of the Water Forum Environmental Caucus on September 26th to brief them on a variety of RWA activities.

Jim Peifer has continued to meet with member agencies to introduce himself as the new Executive Director and to ask questions about the strategic plan.

Jim Peifer participated on a regional advocacy trip with a number of RWA member agencies to Washington, DC to discuss funding needs for the Sacramento Regional Water Bank. The trip occurred during the period of September 15th to September 18th.

13. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Smith said that PCWA has been in Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) preparation mode. At this time the community of Forest Hill is without power. PCWA has been assuring customers that even if they lose power, they will still have water. On September 11th they took staff to Hell Hole for a planning retreat. There was positive discussion on planning matters, the meter consortium and assisting small struggling systems within Placer County.

Ms. Carrey thanked Rob Swartz for his presentation to the City of Sacramento and reported Councilmember Harris was supportive of Ms. Tobin's candidacy for ACWA Vice President.

Ms. Tobin thanked the Executive Committee for their support of her ACWA candidacy.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Schubert adjourned the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Nancy Marrier, Board Secretary / Treasurer