



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

RWA Board Meeting
Final Minutes
January 9, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schubert called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:00 a.m. at the City of Roseville. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

RWA Board Members

Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
Ray Riehle, Carmichael Water District
Hilary Straus, Citrus Heights Water District
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom
Ray Leftwich, City of Lincoln
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville
Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville
Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville (Alternate)
Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento
John Lenahan, Del Paso Manor Water District
Michael Raffety, El Dorado Irrigation District
Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District
Mark Madison, Elk Grove Water District
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Agency
Jim Lemley, Orange Vale Water Company
Joe Duran, Orange Vale Water Company
Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency
Brent Smith, Placer County Water Agency
Christopher Gifford, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District
Tim Shaw, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency
Dave Jones, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Paul Helliker, San Juan Water District
Marty Hanneman, San Juan Water District

RWA Associate Members

Brett Storey, Placer County; Ken Payne, El Dorado County Water Agency; Art Starkovich, Sacramento Municipal Utility District; and José Ramirez, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

RWA Affiliate Members

Charles Duncan, Jim Mulligan and Kelye McKinney, West Yost Associates; Alyssa Leidel, GEI Consultants; and Vanessa Nishikawa, Stantec

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Ryan Ojakian, Josette Reina-Luken, Amy Talbot, Cecilia Partridge, Monica Garcia and Ryan Bezerra, Legal Counsel

Others in Attendance:

Ted Costa, David Gordon, Debra Sedwick, Mike Vasquez, Dave Beauchamp, Lynette Moreno, Ed Crouse, Kevin Kennedy, William Roberts, Pam Tobin

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Adopt proposed RWA Board Meetings scheduled for 2020
- b. Direct Executive Director to contract with Rachio for a regional irrigation controller program
- c. Direct Executive Director to contract with IN Communications for both Water Efficiency and Public Relations Programs

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

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Information: Final minutes of the October 23, 2019 Executive Committee meeting

Mr. Peifer reported that at the December 11, 2019 Executive Committee meeting an item was tabled that was to be a Memorandum of Agreement for the Voluntary Agreement (VA) Assistance program. The proposed subscription program was intended to hire a consultant to assist in the development of the VAs and was being proposed by a number of agencies that are involved in VAs. A request was received from Andy Fecko with Placer County Water Agency that the RWA evaluate the potential for a staff person at the RWA to assist with that program. This will be discussed during the upcoming Strategic Plan workshop.

Mr. Houdesheldt entered the meeting.

5. RWA LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY POLICY PRINCIPLES

Mr. Ojakian said that to advance the advocacy program, the RWA Legislative and Regulatory Priority and Policy Principles (Policy Principles) were adopted in the fall of 2015. The purpose of the Policy Principles is to maintain a focused set of long-term priorities and supporting policy principles to guide advocacy efforts. The Policy Principles were intended to be regularly updated. RWA Policy 100.5 requires that they be updated at least once every three years.

Included in the Board packet for the Board's consideration was an update to the Policy Principles. Its use will help determine the importance of, and positions on State and Federal legislative and regulatory matters, as well as guiding RWA's general advocacy.

This document has been circulated and refined with input from the Legislative and Advocacy program and the Executive Committee. This platform is intended to build on previous advocacy work to proactively and selectively engage in the legislative and regulatory processes and continue building RWA's reputation as a well-respected organization of water agencies.

Staff recommends that the Board approve the document as the updated RWA Legislative and Regulatory Priority and Policy Issues.

It was suggested that on the second page of the document under Policy Principles that the language be changed to read "to promote and support the development regulations that enhance water supply reliability and protect groundwater resources." On page four of the document the heading "Protect Local Authority to Set Water Rates Appropriate for Accessible, Reliable Services" be changed to read "...Accessible and Reliable Services." In the first sentence on page four the word "extracted" be changed to "required". On page seven the fourth bullet under Policy Principles the word "requirements" be changed to "goals and objectives" and in the sixth bullet the word "local" deleted. The third bullet on page eight will be changed to "Support implementation of...".

M/S/C Mr. Helliker moved, with a second by Mr. Yasutake, to recommend RWA Board approval of the RWA Legislative and Regulatory Priority and Policy Issues with the suggested amendments. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

6. RWA FEDERAL PLATFORM

At the November RWA Board Meeting, the Chair directed the Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee to prepare a Federal Platform to guide RWA Legislative and Regulatory efforts. At the December Executive Committee (EC) meeting, the EC gave the ad hoc committee Chair and the Executive Director direction to bring a

platform to the January RWA Board Meeting for the Board's consideration and approval.

Mr. Peifer said that RWA has had increasing interactions with the federal government, such as federal acknowledgement of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank and the acquisition of grants and appropriations on behalf of RWA members. RWA has led the Metro Chamber's annual Cap-to-Cap program and is involved in the effort this year. Historically, position papers have been prepared on an ad hoc basis for Cap-to-Cap. This year, the position papers were being brought to the RWA Board for adoption. It would be beneficial to have the Federal Affairs Platform completed and submitted to the Metro Chamber in time to have the Metro Chamber Policy Committee adopt the position paper.

The purposes of the Federal Platform are to assist in further prioritizing the RWA resources on Federal advocacy efforts, to provide direction on annual regional federal advocacy efforts such as the Metro Chamber Cap to Cap program and occasional advocacy trips coordinated collectively by some of the member agencies and the RWA. Mr. Peifer said that the papers at Cap-to-Cap provide a way to communicate the region's needs in seeking federal funds.

Mr. Peifer explained the Federal Platform was referred to the Regulatory and Advocacy Program committee, but acknowledged the process was rushed. The Federal Platform is intended to tie off the RWA Legislative and Regulatory Priority and Policy Principles.

Mr. Peifer explained that Anne Sanger, an RWA alternate representative from City of Sacramento, wrote the first draft of the platform using her considerable congressional office knowledge and experience. The thinking was that Ms. Sanger had experience in knowing how congressional offices take in information and she would be ideal in initiating the document.

Mr. Shaw expressed concerns over the adoption of the Platform. Chair Schubert noted that the document can be amended and refined at a later date if needed.

Mr. Bigley, Chair of the ad hoc committee said that in terms of prioritizing RWA staff time and focus this type of document is not only beneficial for RWA, but for the region in clarifying what is our regional perspective. Currently, we do not have anything that defines that. A document like this helps find clarity in terms of what our shared regional perspective is, which is helpful for member agencies. The platform will help bring consistency in the region.

Mr. Dugan said that this is not a new concept and RWA has discussed this every year for several years. The platform helps define issues and policies with RWA being the voice for the region on water issues. In the years that RWA did not engage, others organizations filled the void and that became problematic. Getting the entire business community to listen to the RWA as the voice is a major tool to

advance our collective interests. Mr. Dugan indicated that everything in the platform is consistent with the policy adoption.

Mr. Madison suggested that an update on Federal Affairs should be given to the RWA Board every four months.

Chair Schubert recommended that any comments be sent to the ad hoc committee prior to their meeting on January 14, 2020, those comments will be incorporated into a final draft to be submitted to the Executive Committee at their January meeting. The final approved draft will be sent to the full RWA Board for final approval.

M/S/C Mr. Dugan moved, with a second by Mr. Yasutake, to approve of the RWA Federal Platform in concept, subject to possible amendments at the January Executive Committee meeting, with final approval at the March RWA Board meeting. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

7. ELECT 2020 RWA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A copy of the procedures for selection of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors was included in the packet. The election process involves multiple rounds of balloting to achieve a total of nine members.

Mr. Bezerra, RWA legal counsel, gave a brief overview of the election process. Chair Schubert appointed Ryan Bezerra and Josette Reina-Luken to act as the Election Committee. Each candidate was allowed two minutes to make a statement, if they desired. Hard copies of all final ballots will be kept in the RWA office for anyone who wishes to review them.

Pursuant to the RWA Policy 200.3, the Board of Directors elected the following members to the 2020 Executive Committee:

- Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
- Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom
- Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento
- Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company
- Brent Smith, Placer County Water Agency
- Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency
- Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District
- Marty Hanneman, San Juan Water District
- Sean Bigley, City of Roseville

M/S/C Mr. Hanneman moved, with a second by Mr. Dugan, to approve the election of the Executive Committee. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

8. ELECT 2020 RWA CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Pursuant to RWA Policy 200.3, the Board of Directors elected the Chair and Vice-Chair from the membership of the Executive Committee.

Kerry Schmitz was elected as the 2020 Chair.
Sean Bigley was elected as 2020 Vice-Chair.

M/S/C Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Mr. Dugan, to approve the election of Kerry Schmitz as Executive Committee Chair. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

M/S/C Mr. Schubert moved, with a second by Mr. York, to approve the election of the Sean Bigley as Executive Committee Vice Chair. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Grants Update – Staff submitted a funding proposal through the California Department of Water Resources' Proposition 1, Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Program on December 6, 2019. The proposal seeks \$7.74 million to fund 10 priority projects in the state's Sacramento River Funding Area portion of the American River Basin (ARB) IRWM region. A separate application seeking \$1 million was submitted to fund a single project in the San Joaquin River Funding Area was also submitted on November 15, 2019. The distinct applications were required by DWR, because the ARB overlaps two funding areas. Final DWR award recommendations are expected in mid-2020.

Water Resilience Portfolio – The Newsom Administration has released a draft of the 2020 Water Resilience Portfolio (Portfolio). The purpose of the Portfolio is to manage water supplies in ways to avoid the risks posed from Climate Change. As was noted at previous board meetings, RWA had provided a comment letter with recommendations for the content of the Portfolio. In addition, staff had met with members in the Governor's administration and we offered recommendations during our meetings. A copy of the draft Portfolio executive summary was attached.

Mr. Peifer announced that a number of our recommendations made it into the report. On balance, the Portfolio is largely positive and has a number of recommendations that will allow the region to adapt to climate change.

RWA, SGA, Water Forum and SAFCA released a joint statement on the Portfolio and a copy was attached.

Office Flooding - On the evening of December 26th, a leak in one of the bathrooms occurred and the bathroom floor drain did not work properly which flooded much of the first floor of the office building, including RWA's office and board rooms. Until restoration work is completed, the RWA staff will be working from an alternate location.

In the interim, temporary office space has been secured in a nearby location (5750 Sunrise Blvd., Suite 130-AA, Citrus Heights, CA 95610). Staff will be moving offices the week of January 6th and should resume normal working hours shortly thereafter.

It is unknown when office functions of the Birdcage Street location will resume. At the time of the preparation of this report, the owner had not filed an insurance claim or contracted with a restoration company. For a period of time, some office functions will be temporarily suspended, scaled back or experience delayed responses including answering the main phone line and mail pick-up and distribution. Staff is working with the temporary location manager and RWA's IT support consultant to establish email and computer services as soon as possible.

RWA Outreach – Mr. Peifer and Mr. Ojakian attended the fall ACWA Conference in San Diego from December 3rd to December 5th. Meetings were held to discuss the Sacramento Regional Water Bank, the Resiliency Portfolio and the Voluntary Agreements with a few managers from the American River region and representatives from other regions around the state.

Mr. Peifer gave a presentation to the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority Board on December 11th. Mr. Peifer was asked to present on the current relationship between the Regional Water Authority and Sacramento Groundwater Authority.

Strategic Plan Update – The services of Strategy Driver (Ellen Cross) have been obtained to assist in the update of the RWA Strategic Plan. Two special board meeting dates for workshops have been identified as Friday, February 21, 2020 and Friday, March 27, 2020. A questionnaire will be emailed to members around January 10th. Responses to the questionnaire are requested by January 24th.

November 2019 COLA – Consistent with RWA policy, pay scales were increased January 1, 2020 by 2.5% based on the November consumer price index for small western cities. The updated pay scales will be included in the March Board packet and will be posted at www.rwah2o.org to comply with CalPERS requirements.

10. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Nelson expressed concern over the formation of a group of general managers, but not the full board. Mr. Peifer said that there is a proposal to form a group of

general managers to help with regional communication within the group. The proposal was being reviewed for consistency and compliance with the Brown Act. It was noted that it would be problematic if the general managers, who could make up a quorum of the board, made decisions on behalf of the RWA Board.

Mr. Madison asked that the general managers meeting be agendaized for discussion at the next RWA Board meeting. Mr. Peifer explained this would occur during the strategic planning process.

Mr. Hanneman thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee. He thanked Ms. Tobin for her many years of service on the Executive Committee and congratulated her on her successful election as ACWA Vice Chair.

Ms. Tobin thanked everyone for their support while she was campaigning for the ACWA Vice Chair position. She also thanked Chair Schubert for serving as 2019 RWA Chair and Mr. Peifer for stepping in and stepping up as Executive Director.

Mr. Helliker said that this month comments are due on the state's proposed regulations on monthly conservation reporting.

Mr. Bigley thanked everyone for their confidence in voting him on the Executive Committee and electing him as the Vice Chair.

Mr. Houdesheldt welcomed everyone to City of Roseville. He said that this is going to be a dynamic year of accomplishments for the RWA.

Ms. Roccucci said that the changes RWA is making on a state and federal level are necessary to keep up with changing times.

Ms. Schmitz thanked everyone for electing her as the 2020 RWA Executive Committee Chair. She commented that Chair Schubert has done a fantastic job as the 2019 Chair.

Mr. Brent announced that Einar Maisch is retiring the end of February. Andy Fecko will be the next General Manager for Placer County Water Agency.

Ms. Carrey said she is looking forward to 2020 and working on the Executive Committee again.

Mr. York said that Chair Schubert did a great job in 2019.

Mr. Greenwood said he agreed with everything that has been said. Carmichael Water District is in the process of interviewing for the general manager position.

Chair Schubert said that on January 21st there will be a retirement celebration for Steve Nugent at the Porchlight Brewery from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. He thanked Ms. Tobin for her long service to RWA and the Executive Committee.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Schubert adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary / Treasurer