

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schmitz called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 8:30 a.m. as a teleconference meeting. 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
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Marty Hanneman, San Juan Water District

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Rob Swartz, Ryan Ojakian, Josette Reina-Luken, Amy Talbot, Cecilia Partridge, Monica Garcia and Ryan Bezerra, legal counsel

Others in Attendance

Pam Tobin, Paul Helliker, Greg Zlotnick, Cathy Lee, Craig Locke, Dane Wadle, Brian Sanders, Tim Shaw and Robert Reisig

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes of the May 27, 2020 Executive Committee meeting

Mr. Peifer said that the RWA received an request from Mr. Shaw, Rio Linda/Elverta CWD asking that some of the items in the Executive Director's Report in the minutes be stricken. The minutes reflect what Mr. Peifer said but he requested that a note be inserted in the minutes indicating that Mr. Shaw disagrees with the statements.

Mr. Yasutake noted that under item nine under director's comments WIND should be changed to WIIN.

Motion/Second Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Hanneman moved, with a second by Mr. Yasutake, to approve the May 27, 2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes with the suggested edits. 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, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District, and Marty Hanneman, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

4. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Peifer said that we have been talking about Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority's (SCGA) interest in potentially having the RWA provide staffing services. A 2 x 3 has been formed including chairs and vice chairs of the RWA, Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) and SCGA. One of the things that the committee thought would be appropriate was to have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to guide the discussions and the intent going forward. If the MOU was approved, a 3x3 committee would be formed that would include one member of each authority who is not a member of the other two authorities. That person, along with the Chair and Vice Chair of the authorities would participate in the meetings and discussions that will include the Executive Director of the RWA/SGA and the SCGA Interim Executive director with additional staff from the authorities as needed. Discussions will include operational and administrative changes as well as governance changes that might be necessary for this to work. The MOU was adopted by the SGA.

Mr. Woodling confirmed that the SCGA took an action to appoint him as interim executive director. They are working towards the SCGA moving away from Sacramento County administration and form a relationship with RWA similar to what SGA has; they will be looking at the potential benefits for all three authorities working collaboratively. The vision is to put something together that integrates the management and administration under RWA and bring the 3 x 3 participants together to figure out the details going forward.

There was discussion on the possible benefits to each agency, the costs involved, and if additional staff or changes in staff will be necessary to provide the necessary support required by each agency. It was noted that this needs to be either neutral or positive to the RWA, SGA and SCGA.

M/S/C Mr. Bigley moved, with a second by Mr. Hanneman, to recommend board approval of the MOU. 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, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento

Suburban Water District, and Marty Hanneman, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

5. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

Mr. Ojakian, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager reported that there are about a quarter of the number of bills typically seen at this time. There appears to be a budget agreement between the administration and the legislature which is a combination of what the legislature passed, a budget and what the governor may revise. Staff is watching what is happening with the bonds and the safe drinking water funding. The deadline is July 24th to have a bond measure passed to be put on the ballot. Staff will present updates as the legislature continues to deal with COVID-19 that has affected budget discussions.

6. FEDERAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATE AND POSITION ON LEGISLATION

Mr. Bigley reported on Federal Affairs Standing Committee positions on legislation. The standing committee released an article regarding a list of some of our projects that was distributed to congressional offices. The first meeting with congressional staff is today regarding infrastructure and how infrastructure projects could beneficially impact recovery related to COVID-19. A presentation was developed by Christine Kohn and other resources to present at congressional briefings that will occur over the next couple of weeks. There is a map tool associated with infrastructure which is being refined to potentially post to the website. This is a great communication aid to show where those projects are located.

Mr. Wadle, Field Coordinator with California Special Districts Association, talked briefly about HR 7073. This is a bill that would allow, through future state stimulus measures that are passed, 5% to be allocated to special districts. The bill permits districts to be considered eligible issuers of the Federal Reserve Board's Liquidity Facility Program that was created as a tool to use some funds provided in the CARES Act regarding the purchase bonds and revenue anticipation notes for local governments and states. As special districts were left out of allocation in the CARES Act, HR 7073 is an attempt to remedy it.

Mr. Peifer said that there is a role within RWA for the Federal Affairs Committee as they do work for its members by aligning the region on federal issues with a consistent voice. The next steps for the committee are to organize efforts to reach out to members of congress and staff with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the need to invest in our community as a way of moving the member projects forward for our reliability and efficiency. This is a means of educating the members of Congress on our needs, making the case of putting people back to work and why we are worthy of investment. These efforts have been in our strategic plan for years.

The Ferguson Group put together an RWA federal legislative tracker that identifies the bills that are of interest to the committee and the RWA. This will be a useful tool for member agencies and will be available on the RWA website. This might be something that general managers want to include in their board packages to help educate their board members.

Mr. Bigley said that the committee felt it was appropriate to recommend support of HR 7073 with a request that the RWA Executive Director develop a support letter to indicate RWA support for the bill.

M/S/C Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Mr. Yasutake, to adopt positions on legislation and support position on HR 7073. 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, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District, and Marty Hanneman, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

7. POTENTIAL MATERIAL PURCHASING PROGRAM

Mr. Peifer said that at the last Executive Committee meeting, Director York was suggested that RWA should consider a regional material purchasing program where member agencies could use their combined purchasing power to negotiate lower prices for materials. This is very similar to the chemical purchasing program that some RWA member agencies participated in. A regional material purchasing program could potentially benefit small and large agencies and the entire region. Similar programs have been vetted at the state and federal level and there are cooperative government purchasing contracts that are cost savers.

There was discussion in support of a regional material purchasing program with interest to discuss additional regional programs including fuel deliveries for generator services.

8. STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Peifer reported that we had a strategic planning session last Friday, with our next session scheduled for the following Friday from nine o'clock to noon, which focused on objectives. We were hoping to adopt the Strategic Plan at the July RWA Board meeting, but it appears that we will discuss this further at the July meeting. We expect to schedule the Strategic Plan for adoption at the September Board meeting. This is an important document that we need to spend adequate time on to make sure we have good input and discussion before finalizing.

9. RWA OFFICE OPERATIONS

Mr. Peifer reported that the RWA office is largely closed, with staff working remotely and only going in periodically when necessary to use resources and perform particular tasks. Mr. Peifer noted that some employees would like to work from the office occasionally and others are at higher risk and may want to continue to work from home. Mr. Peifer noted that from his personal perspective, there are distractions at home that are not experienced in the office. He requested input from the Executive Committee on a direction or plan to explore options for staff to safely return to the office.

There was discussion by different agencies on how they are integrating staff back into their offices and the safety measures they are employing. It is a judgment call on what is best for staff in the changing and challenging times when considering proper safety protocols. Although it varies for each agency and individual circumstances, it was noted that productivity has been as high working remotely as it was working in the office. Communication between employees can be more difficult through text and email than in person, but this may not change until after the COVID crisis is over. It was suggested that staff time in the office be staggered on a case by case basis while encouraging employees who are productive working remotely to continue to do so. It was suggested that for employees working remotely that equipment be provided to make the work space as ergonomically fit as possible.

Mr. Bezerra said that we need to pay attention to changing law regarding workers' compensation. We currently have a Governor's Executive Order that says if anyone does any work in the office and then comes down with COVID in the next 14 days, it is presumed to be related to work.

Mr. Hanneman left the meeting.

10. RWA JULY 9, 2020 BOARD MEETING AGENDA

After discussion it was suggested that the Strategic Plan update be moved to the Executive Director's report and a Sacramento Region Water Utility Collaboration/Integration Study presentation by Dan York be added to the agenda.

M/S/C Mr. Schubert moved, with a second by Mr. Bigley, to approve the July 9, 2020 board meeting agenda with the suggestions. 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, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, and Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Peifer participated in a Public Policy Institute of California meeting to discuss Central Valley project (CVP) Water Transfers. PPIC's goal for the meeting was to learn from Central Valley Project stakeholders about their experience with CVP trading and banking approval processes, including the updated 2019 CVP groundwater banking guidelines.

The Water Forum has begun the process of renegotiating the Water Forum agreement. The primary negotiating steering committee (NSC) members include Paul Shubert (Golden State Water Company), Dan York (Sacramento Suburban Water District), Darin Reintjes (Placer County Water Agency), Greg Zlotnick (San Juan Water District) and Jim Peifer (RWA) for the water caucus. Public caucus members include Kerry Schmitz (Sacramento County) and Bill Busath (City of Sacramento). Updates are provided periodically to the Water Caucus and Public Caucus meetings.

The initial meeting was held on April 14th where the negotiation ground rules, scope of the agreement, and negotiating structure/framework was discussed. The second Negotiating Steering Committee (NSC) meeting was held on May 21st. The Public and Water Caucus presented and discussed its interests and revisions to the negotiating framework to the NSC members. At the June 18th meeting, the Environmental Caucus presented its interests to the NSC. I have been requested to work with Tom Gohring along with one or two members of the Environmental Caucus and perhaps one additional member of the Water and Public Caucus to define the initial work groups.

RWA staff continues to advocate for changes in the Water Loss Regulation setting process. Amy Talbot has made presentations to the ACWA Water Loss subcommittee, California Municipal Utilities Association and American Water Works Association (CA NV Section) on the Water Loss Regulation Comment Letter. Ryan Ojakian and Jim Peifer have met with Cindy Tuck, Kris Anderson and Chelsea Haines with ACWA to coordinate on policy advocacy.

12. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Greenwood said that Carmichael Water District is replacing one of their water tanks, redirecting some of their main water lines, and working on beautification of the downtown Carmichael area. Staff has been working to facilitate an upcoming water transfer by selling surface water in return for groundwater.

Mr. Yasutake reported that one of the City of Folsom's city council members resigned. The City Council appointed new Council member Andy Morin to serve for the remainder of the previous Council member's term.

Mr. Bigley said that the City of Roseville is working on storage and recovery wells within the city's groundwater program. They have secured the land necessary for

the facilities. In the fall, they will begin to drill monitoring wells to determine feasibility in those areas.

Ms. Carrey gave an update on the City of Sacramento's 2020 groundwater substitution transfer. The City Council approved the agreements and the buy/sell water transfer agreement. They expect to have the appropriate documents executed by the end of this week and will be ready for the water transfer to start in July.

Mr. Shubert said that Golden State Water has a new well in their system that is going online. He thanked Mr. Swartz for his guidance through the water transfer process.

Mr. Smith said that Placer County Water Agency received word that they are now the proud owner of a 40-year operating license for the Middle Fork American River Project. There are a lot of license conditions that need to be implemented and they will be moving forward right away.

Chair Schmitz said that she met with Tim Shaw and Chris Gifford from Rio Linda/Elverta Water District along with Mr. Greenwood to discuss their thoughts about RWA and to find out if there are ways we could be doing better. It seems that they are looking for more collaboration and opportunities for partnerships recognizing the small agencies as well as the larger agencies. She suggested we find productive ways to improve the value of RWA and benefit to the smaller agencies

Mr. York thanked everyone for their assistance and efforts on the water transfers.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Schmitz adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary / Treasurer