

Chair Bigley called the meeting of the RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee to order at 11:00 a.m. as a teleconference meeting.

1. Roll Call

Individuals in attendance are listed below:

Committee Members in Attendance:

Jeni Buckman, Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan, Legal Counsel
Evan Jacobs, California-American Water
Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom
Sean Bigley, Chair, City of Roseville
Anne Sanger, Vice Chair, City of Sacramento
Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency
Dave Underwood, Sacramento County
Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

Others in Attendance:

Andy Fecko, Tony Firenzi, William Roberts, Ryan Ojakian,
Christine Kohn, Eric Sapirstein, Kristi More, Maurice Chaney, Jim
Peifer and Cecilia Partridge

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Minutes from the May 27, 2020 and June 17, 2020 RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee meetings

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Zlotnick moved, with a second by Mr. Underwood, to approve the May 27, 2020 and June 17, 2020 RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee meetings. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all committee members present.

4. Disclosures and regional coordination

Mr. Bigley gave an opportunity for agencies to disclose any activities they are working on giving them an opportunity to coordinate on a regional basis. There was no response.

5. Legislative and policy review/discussion

- a. Review of RWA Federal Legislative Tracker; consideration of priority bills
 - i. H.R. 2 – Moving Forward Act
 - ii. FY 2021 Appropriations
 - iii. Water Resources Development Act
 - iv. Related recently introduced bills
- b. Call for federal bills for next RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee
 - i. RWA Bill Tracker
- c. Other Federal Updates
 - i. Recommendation of Sacramento Regional Groundwater Bank for WIIN Act funding

The RWA Federal Legislative Tracker that highlights priority bills, has been posted on the RWA website. Ms. More gave an overview of H.R. 2, an infrastructure package bill. There is concern with funding for this bill.

Mr. Sapirstein gave an update on high level bills, emergency spending, the WIIN Act spending project, the groundwater bank, drinking water funding and FY 2021 appropriations. He suggested a support letter from RWA be sent to Senator Feinstein and others on the appropriation committee to reinforce our positions as a continuous resolution.

Mr. Bigley recommended that Jim Peifer, RWA Executive Director receive concurrence to initiate a support letter. Mr. Peifer requested direction from the Federal Affairs Committee to present at the next Executive Committee meeting to take a position.

M/S/C Mr. Yasutake moved, with a second by Mr. Zlotnick, to direct the Mr. Peifer to offer a recommendation to the Executive Committee to give the Executive Director the authority to initiate a support letter. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all committee members present.

Ms. More gave an update on the Water Resources Development Act and other water bills that include environmental Infrastructure, water reliability, resiliency and water efficiency that impacts many agencies in the region. There was discussion on funding for the water bank and how we position ourselves for funding. It is important to continue to work with Federal Affairs and make our interests their interests.

There was discussion on new bills that have been introduced including bills that benefit and assist small communities. A future act has been discussed with a net benefit for improvements, storage and the water bank. We may be able to apply for the funding with our water forum agreement.

It was suggested that the August meeting include a follow up and discussion on where the bills of interest are, a comparison of what bills we should focus on, identifying the bills that are of concern and the congressional packaging of

water bills. There are regional needs including funds for studies and implementation of the funds. There was discussion on how we translate our regions needs with proposals to congress for funding. It was suggested that a committee be formed for additional discussion to add to the August Federal Affairs meeting agenda. Committee members Tony Firenzi, Eric Sapirstein, Kristi More, Greg Zlotnick, Ryan Ojakian and Anne Sanger volunteered for the committee with Ms. Sanger acting as Chair.

There was discussion about the recommendation from Reclamation on the water bank, what is required to apply for water bank funding and how to proceed. We need to explore possibilities with Rob Swartz and other stakeholders for ideas on in-kind contributions or credits.

There is a water technology bill that will be important for many agencies. The bill could promote technology leading to restructuring at a level that will give us more remote leak technology.

6. COVID-19 pandemic and economic impacts

- a. Outlook on State of California recovery efforts
 - i. Coronavirus relief
 - ii. Infrastructure and economic recovery
- b. Outlook on State of California recovery efforts
- c. Advocacy Strategy Subcommittee and related updates
- d. Communications Subcommittee and related updates
- e. Other similar efforts and coordination
- f. Other items

Chair Bigley gave an overview of COVID-19 efforts. No immediate action is expected on infrastructure and economic recovery. A coronavirus bill package will be considered by both the house and senate and it appears that a resilience bond is not going forward.

There was a report on the virtual meetings with congressional staff with a second round of meetings scheduled. A fact sheet write-up that includes our proposals is used for presentations for congressional briefings. An interactive map tool is available on the website. Ideas were shared about what is next in the effort to coordinate with SACOG.

It was suggested that the August agenda include an item to promote what RWA is doing among our local elected officials about the importance of water. There is a Placer County report on infrastructure that is being completed.

7. Action items

A discussion will be added to the August Federal Affairs meeting agenda to provide Mr. Peifer with the authority to provide a letter to Senator Feinstein and possibly others on language to underscore the need to include the water bank relative to the WIIN recommendation.

A subcommittee will meet to develop a comparative list of bills and provisions contained in those bills for discussion at the August meeting.

To start a local elected engagement effort will be discussed in the August agenda.

A discussion item will be added to the August agenda to prepare for potential transitions of power in both Congress and in the White House To be prepared for these potential changes, we should begin discussing what is involved in a transition, working with transition teams and what specific thing RWA can do to be prepared and successful, if this were to occur after the November 2020 election.

8. Public comment

None.

9. Adjournment

Chair Bigley adjourned the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:
