



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

RWA Board Meeting
Final Minutes
September 10, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schmitz called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:00 a.m. as a teleconference meeting. Individuals who participated are listed below:

RWA Board Members

Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District
Raymond Riehle, Citrus Heights Water District
Hilary Straus, Citrus Heights Water District
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom
Ray Leftwich, City of Lincoln
Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville
Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento
Martha Guerrero, City of West Sacramento
Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City
Diana Langley, City of Yuba City
Michael Raffety, El Dorado Irrigation District
Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District
Mark Madison, Elk Grove Water District
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company
Robert Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company
Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency
Brent Smith, Placer County Water Agency
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency
Kevin Thomas, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Dan Rich, San Juan Water District
Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

RWA Associate Members

José Ramirez, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and Ansel
Lundberg, Sacramento Municipal Utility District

RWA Affiliate Members

Kelye McKinney, Charles Duncan and Abigail Madrone, West Yost Associates

Staff Members

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

Others in Attendance:

Pam Tobin, Craig Locke, Paul Helliker, Brian Sanders, Anne Sanger, Tim Shaw, David Wheaton, John Patten, Rich Plecker, Dan Kelly, Robert Reisig, David Wheaton and Bruce Kamilos

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE.

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Information: Minutes from the July 9, 2020 Regular Board meeting

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Schubert moved, with a second by Mr. Houdesheldt, to approve the July 9, 2020 Regular Board meeting minutes. Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District, Ray Riehle, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Ray Leftwich, City of Lincoln, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento, Martha Guerrero, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District, Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Robert Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company, Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District and Dan Rich, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried.

- b. Information: Final minutes of the June 24, 2020 and July 22, 2020 Executive Committee meetings

- c. Executive Committee report on the Executive Director's performance review

Chair Schmitz gave a brief update on the Executive Director's performance review. The Executive Director's evaluation was very favorable.

- d. Amend RWA Personnel Rules (Policy 400.1) effective January 1, 2021

Mr. Peifer said this item changes the holidays that the RWA observes. The holidays change by removing the second Monday in October, which is commonly known as Columbus Day and adds the third Monday in January, Martin Luther King Junior Day.

M/S/C Mr. Zlotnick moved, with a second by Mr. Schubert, to approve amendments to RWA Personnel Rules (Policy 400.1) effective January 1, 2021. Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District, Ray Riehle, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Ray Leftwich, City of Lincoln, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento, Martha Guerrero, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District, Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Robert Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company, Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District and Dan Rich, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried.

4. MAJOR PROJECTS AND RESILIENCE MANAGER SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAMS

Mr. Raffety entered the meeting.

Mr. Bigley gave observations with respect to where RWA is today. During the Strategic Planning process, it was apparent that the board expects a lot out of RWA, the Executive Director and RWA staff. There is a gap between what those expectations are and the current resources with respect to the ability to carry out and implement the list of activities that staff resources have committed to. Staff is diligently working weekends and evenings to complete work for the benefit of the region. The evidence is that there simply is not enough capacity right now to do everything that has been committed to and needs to be done. For the region to be successful, we need to have the capacity to be able to work through the processes to be able to implement successfully. To be successful, additional expertise is needed by an individual that can help our region. Over the past several years, we have been engaged in a volunteer effort with some RWA participation in advocacy at the federal level. There is an opportunity if our resources are organized appropriately for a voice in California water policy. It is important that we are able to sustain the progress we have already made thus far. We need to have a discussion about what resources we need to be successful for both capitalizing on opportunities and being prepared for future threats.

Mr. Peifer gave a PowerPoint presentation on the challenges for our water supply including regulations, climate change, response to the challenges and staff band width. The proposal would be a subscription program to hire a highly qualified staff person with California water experience who could help with the process. The Major Project Management Services Program provides services to facilitate the members needs on water supply regulatory matters, including for example, the Water Quality Control Plan. The Resilience Program provides additional staff band width to execute elements of the Strategic Plan, including elements that improve water supply reliability. There is interest by our member agencies to obtain federal funding assistance, The process to apply for funding and implement activities is

time consuming and cannot be adequately accomplished with current staffing levels.

Mr. Bezerra said that there is a possibility to reduce legal costs with the addition of a Major Projects and Resilience Manager taking over some responsibilities. The practicalities of consultants with a major project agreement would be to support the Joint Defense Agreement, agency efforts on the Bay Delta and those agencies retaining their own consultants.

Ms. Carrey noted that the major project management services agreement will allow our region to become organized and get us to what we need from the Water Quality Control Plan. The Resilience Program will allow us to be better positioned to get the Water Bank up and running. It is important to be ready to capitalize on opportunities to deal with future challenges. The subscription program will not increase core dues.

Mr. Zlotnick said that one of the things RWA will need to do is ensure that the interests of members and contracting entities who do not participate are not adversely affected.

After discussion it was agreed that after the words “work plan” that the word “amendments” be inserted in the last sentence. Mr. Peifer and Mr. Bezerra will work together on substantive edits to finalize the document.

M/S/C Mr. Houdesheldt moved, with a second by Mr. Dugan, to recommend approval of the Program Agreements with the edit to the last sentence. Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District, Ray Riehle, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Ray Leftwich, City of Lincoln, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento, Martha Guerrero, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Michael Raffety, El Dorado Irrigation District, Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District, Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Robert Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company, Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District and Dan Rich, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried.

5. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT

Ms. Talbot reported that a Request for Proposal (RFP) that included regional public outreach and a communications consultant was released. The RFP was sent to four firms and resulted in two responses that were evaluated by RWA staff and an RFP evaluation team. The firms were evaluated and scored on criteria including staff qualifications, past experience, references, strategic approach and fee schedule. The evaluation team recommended IN Communications as the

preferred contractor. The Water Efficiency Program and Communications budgets cover the cost of the consultant for the next calendar year. The Master Services Agreement allows for additional work based on budgeting and time availability.

M/S/C Mr. Zlotnick moved, with a second by Ms. Guerrero, to approve the Executive Director entering into a Master Services Agreement with IN Communications. Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Ray Leftwich, City of Lincoln, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento, Martha Guerrero, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Michael Raffety, El Dorado Irrigation District, Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District, Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Robert Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company, Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District and Dan Rich, San Juan Water District voted yes. David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District vote no. The motion carried.

6. FEDERAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Bigley gave a Federal Affairs Standing Committee information update. To prepare for the upcoming election process and the uncertainty and politics that come from that, the committee deliberated and asked the Executive Director to send a letter to key Appropriations Committee members on the House side and members of our congressional delegation requesting inclusion of the recommendation for the groundwater bank in the Continuing Resolution (CR). There was also a call for member agencies to submit letters. Due to the political environment related to the election, leadership and congress ended up adopting a clean CR that ensure federal agencies were funded for an interim period of time. Once some type of federal budget action is taken, we will advocate to move forward. The committee reviewed the Water Supply Forecasting Program bill that proposes for the Department of Interior to have some level of participation in the program and allows for advanced satellite technology to be utilized. The technology is able to accurately predict snow, water content in the mountains, and provide more real-time information to agencies and other entities to make water allocation decisions. Having accurate forecasting and calculations would result in more accurate allocations which means more water that can be used to serve customers. The recommendation of the committee was to have the Executive Director submit a letter in support. We have been engaged in a second round of successful meetings with Congressional offices to advance the RWA federal platform. We continue regular interaction with Congressional offices which is critical to move our collective access forward. After the election, we will schedule another round of Congressional meetings. The Federal Affairs Committee is preparing for any potential transition activities that could occur.

The next phase of activities for the committee is building an effort that gets our local elected officials more engaged and educate with what is important from an RWA standpoint, our priorities with respect to infrastructure, and other policy areas.

Mr. Ojakian and some of our consulting resources are working through a power mapping exercise that gives information on state/federal policymakers that we are trying to engage with to amplify our advocacy with the key policymakers on the state and federal level.

7. LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE

Mr. Ojakian gave an information update saying that the legislation session ended August 31st. RWA does not have an opposition position on any of the bills that are being tracked. There is a bill related to Workers' Compensation and one concerning COVID-19. There was an effort to take action on wildfires which also included some funding for water infrastructure efforts. The legislature will be back in session in December with a lot of waiting to see what happens on the federal level. On the regulatory side, the Water Board is working on defining what are at risk systems as part of the drinking water program. The Water Board is considering revising questions for the Electronic Annual Report for 2020 through affordability. The Department of Water Resources released the Urban Water Management Guidebook last week.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Peifer highlighted the Strategic Plan mission, vision, values and goals that were included in the packet. Chair Schmitz scheduled a meeting with the Sacramento Emergency Operations coordinator to discuss the widespread power outage plan and determine where the RWA may be involved. If the region experiences widespread power outages greater than seven days, how would we react and how would the water agencies connect with the Sacramento County Emergency Operations Center.

Mr. Lundberg, Water and Power Contracts Specialist with SMUD, said that he will be a liaison and resource as needed between RWA and SMUD.

Mr. Peifer said that the Asian Chamber is interested in discussions prioritizing infrastructure as an investment for the region.

The Water Loss regulations are expected in September. We continue to pursue modification of the Water Loss model to get the modifications to our satisfaction while thinking about alternative compliance methods. Ms. Talbot is working on this issue.

9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Ms. Carrey said that the City of Sacramento water transfer has been going well. The proceeds from the water transfer will be going back into their groundwater improvement project.

Mr. Smith reported that Placer County Water Agency experienced another power shut off at two of their plants and at other raw water facilities. All of their plants have backup power systems which ran as designed. They are watching closely the area that has recently been burned and areas that continue to burn.

Ms. Tobin said that she took Mr. Madison's comment and touched base with ACWA to do some promotion of RWA's work in organizing the member agencies discussions on maintain operations under the COVID-19 crisis.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Schmitz adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary / Treasurer