

Vice Chair Sanger 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  
Anne Sanger, Vice Chair, City of Sacramento  
Dave Underwood, Sacramento County  
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District  
Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

### **Committee Members Not in Attendance:**

Sean Bigley and Robert Dugan

### **Others in Attendance:**

Ryan Ojakian, Eric Sapirstein, Kristi More, Brian Sanders, William Roberts, Christine Kohn, Jim Peifer and Cecilia Partridge

## 2. Public Comment

Vice Chair Sanger opened the meeting for anyone who had anything that they would like to share with the Federal Affairs Committee. There were no comments.

## 3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Minutes from the October 21, 2020 RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee Meeting

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Zlotnick moved, with a second by Ms. Lee, to approve the October 21, 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**

Vice Chair Sanger offered an opportunity for committee members who wanted to present disclosures or ideas related to items that should be coordinated on from a regional basis.

Mr. Jacobs reported that the Southern District of California American Water was contacted by USEPA about a utility and customer survey they are conducting.

#### **5. General Federal Update**

Mr. Sapirstein gave a federal update saying it appears an FY21 spending bill is in the works. There has been discussion on ideas on how to get funds released but none is anticipated until after the election.

It is expected to have additional information on funding options to present at the December Federal Affairs Standing Committee meeting.

#### **6. Discussion of Proposed 2021 RWA Federal Affairs Platform**

Vice Chair Sanger said that the 2021 RWA Federal Affairs Platform has been posted on the RWA website with the 2020 version and the edits that were made. The platform will be a living document. It was recommended that the document be presented to the RWA Executive Committee at the December meeting and then to the full RWA Board in January 2021.

Mr. Peifer said that where appropriate clarifications or additions may be made to the platform document. There is flexibility to advocate our interests in the coming year.

There was discussion on the unknowns with the upcoming administration and the need to be flexible to update the document.

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Zlotnick moved, with a second by Mr. Underwood, to adopt the 2021 RWA Federal Affairs Platform with the understanding that there will be some minor tweaks to the language including appropriate clarifications or additions without any substantive change in meaning. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all committee members present.

#### **7. Water Policy and Legislative Review**

- a) Review Federal legislative Tracker; consider priority bills, committee recommendations
- b) Call for federal bills for next RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee

- c) Update on potential pathway for WIIN Act recommendation for Sacramento Regional Groundwater Bank
- d) Other items

Ms. More said that the only change between the October and current Federal Legislative Tracker is the reference to the letter of support RWA sent for the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Authorization Act. The Senate Appropriations Committee released drafts of their appropriations bills that will be added to the tracker. Links have been included to the full Senate energy, water and interior environment appropriation bills. Senator Feinstein's offices is looking for ideas and recommendations to incorporate into a new bill and for the next congress. It was suggested that ideas be provided to Senator Feinstein as well as other house sponsors as they move forward to develop those bills.

Any significant changes may not be available to report until the January 2021 Federal Affairs Standing Committee meeting. There was discussion on a letter that was sent by the Interior to Congress that identifies several projects including the water bank. It is understood that there will be changes to report in January on bills and project funding options.

Mr. Peifer said that in the NGO community there is interest in making sure that the water bank receives funding. There might be an opportunity to make sure that if there is a new letter that comes from the Biden administration that the administration understands that there is broad stakeholder support for the water bank.

## **8. Transitions in Congress and White House**

We will be dealing with changes as we transition into the new administration. Considering the many appointments that go into the new administration we should identify and focus on the ones that we are interested in. There was discussion on the different positions to consider and focus on once the appointments have been announced.

It was noted that the new appointees will become busy very soon so the earlier we introduce them to the things that we want the better. It was suggested that a congratulatory letter be sent to President elect Biden and/or his transition team laying out some of the things that were outlined by AWWA. This approach was also suggested for new members of congress explaining who we are and what we are interested in. The next step would be to schedule virtual meetings beginning in January.

## **9. COVID-19 Pandemic and Economic Impact**

Vice Chair Sanger noted that surveys are going out on the economic impacts

and recovery of the pandemic. The more the economic losses can be quantified the stronger an argument we will have to get funding streams when they are available.

Mr. Ojakian said that there is an expectation that there will be efforts to have a conversation to address affordability.

#### **10. Proposed Section 219 Working Group**

Ms. More reported that a list of projects will be developed for the 219 working group to consider for funding for the Sacramento area. The 219 working group includes Greg Zlotnick, Eric Sapirstein, Kristi More, Anne Sanger, Jim Peifer and Rob Swartz. A meeting will be scheduled for the group to meet prior to the next Federal Affairs Standing Committee meeting in December.

#### **11. Action Items**

Vice Chair Sanger recapped the action items to include scheduling a 219 Working Group meeting and the Federal Affairs Platform that will be recommended for approval at the January RWA Board meeting,

#### **12. Public Comment**

None

#### **13. Next Meeting December 16, 2020**

#### **14. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Sanger adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

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