

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schmitz called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 8:00 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
Dan Rich, San Juan Water District

Staff Members

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

Others in Attendance

Brian Sanders, Greg Zlotnick, Anne Sanger, John Woodling, Cathy Lee, Craig Locke, Bob Reisig, Bruce Kamilos, Terrie Mitchell, William Roberts, Ken Payne, James Grayson, Andy Fecko, José Ramirez, Charles Duncan, Kelye McKinney, Jon Goetz and Peggy Vande Vooren

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Minutes of the October 28, 2020 Executive Committee meeting

Motion/Second Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Yasutake moved, with a second by Mr. Bigley, to approve the October 28, 2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes. 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 Rich, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

Mr. York entered the meeting.

4. RWA 2020 AUDIT REPORT

Ms. Vande Vooren, Gilbert Associates, Inc. gave a presentation of the RWA 2020 audit report explaining the Executive Committee Meeting Summary, the Required Communications and the actual audit report. She gave a summary of the Required Communications and an overview of the audit. The auditor's opinion is a clean unmodified opinion for 2020. Discussion about interactions with management was included in the packet. There were no suggested accounting policies for RWA to implement, no audit adjustments and no findings to report. Estimates and judgements in the financial statements include pensions and OPEB actuarial valuation. She explained the balance sheet and income statement that includes a statement of our net position and assets. The supplementary document provides additional information on the pension plans. There is an additional opinion at the back of the report with government auditing standards where compliance and internal control elements are incorporated.

M/S/C Mr. Yasutake moved, with a second by Mr. Schubert, to recommend RWA Board acceptance of the 2020 RWA financial audit report. 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 Dan Rich, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

5. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY STAFFING PRESENTATION

Mr. Peifer gave an information update with a presentation that has been given to the SGA and SCGA. A Memorandum of Understanding created by the 3x3 committee was adopted by SGA, RWA and SCGA. The 3x3 committee includes the chair and vice chair of the authorities and a member that is independent of the other two authorities. SCGA is interested in a staffing arrangement that does not include staffing from Sacramento county.

The 3x3 committee has been discussing what a staffing relationship would look like and identifying any fatal flaws. Benefits would include improved regional coordination on groundwater banking and other issues, coordinated SGMA compliance, opportunities for sharing staff to right-size all three organizations,

staffing plans and associated costs showing comparison charts for current and possible future staffing scenarios including the new Manager of Strategic Affairs position. Additional costs to consider will be additional board meetings, board packets, more complicated audits, and additional legal counsel. It may be necessary to hire a deputy director due to the administrative complexity to manage three agencies.

There is more to be discussed and explored with pros and cons to the arrangement with the similarities and differences between the two groundwater authorities. There is a possibility of reducing costs through the sharing of staffing, legal and consultation services. A disadvantage will be the requirement for a renegotiated Joint Powers Agreement.

Mr. Woodling said that Mr. Peifer's presentation shows the amount of effort that has gone into the merger idea through the 3x3 meetings. The idea would be to provide good governance and coordination with the agencies.

Mr. Peifer noted that there is interest in a workshop to provide additional staffing information to the SGA members. The SGA Board gave direction to explore what a consolidated organization would look like. There was support from the Executive Committee members to further analyze the potential for a consolidation of the two authorities. .

Mr. Yasutake left the meeting.

6. Policy 500.3 revisions – subscriptions program fee policy

Mr. Peifer provided information saying that this policy addresses how non-RWA members would be assessed a fee for participation in the Water Efficiency Program. An adjustment to this policy is being driven by concerns from some members to address how non-members participate in other RWA subscription programs. The proposal is to assess non-members, who otherwise could be RWA members, a 20% fee on top of what they would pay for the subscription program.

Chair Schmitz noted that it is important for the policy to be broader because there is great value to non-members who participate in these programs. It is also important for agencies to understand the benefits of RWA membership. There was discussion that there should be a higher percentage assessed to non-members.

M/S/C Mr. York moved, with a second by Mr. Bigley, to recommend approval of Policy 500.3 revisions to the Board of Directors. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, 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 Dan Rich, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

7. WATER BANK PHASE 2 SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAM AGREEMENT

Mr. Swartz gave an overview on the last phase of planning for the regional water bank. One of the key recommendations of the 2019 Regional Water Reliability Plan was to continue planning for the establishment of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank. Staff has been gaining an understanding of the activities that we need to complete to allow us to continue to do groundwater substitution transfers.

A completed Phase 2 program draft agreement was included in the packet that incorporates comments from perspective participating agencies and RWA legal counsel. The program will be funded completely by participants.

M/S/C Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Mr. Bigley, to approve Sacramento Regional Water Bank Project, Phase 2 Program Agreement. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, 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 Dan Rich, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

8. 2021 POLICY PRINCIPLES

Mr. Ojakian reported that the 2020 and 2021 Policy Principles are similar. The only changes were the addition of two new policy principles to support ratepayer assistance programs if funded from progressive sources of revenue and without the use of a water tax and support for ratepayer debt relief and/or prohibitions on late fees and penalties only if water agencies are made whole from state or federal funds. The document with track changes was included in the packet.

M/S/C Mr. Bigley moved, with a second by Mr. York, to recommend approval of the 2021 Policy Principles to the Board of Directors. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, 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 Dan Rich, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

9. 2021 FEDERAL AFFAIRS PLATFORM

Mr. Peifer said that the Federal Affairs Platform is updated annually for presentation to the Executive Committee for recommendation for approval by the RWA Board. Ms. Sanger has worked on the development of the Federal Affairs Platform and has made it available on the RWA website.

Ms. Sanger said that the Federal Affairs Platform explains who we are, the challenges we will see in the future and the policies and funding that will facilitate us being able to address those challenges. The policies and projects will support conjunctive use and the elements of the Water Forum. The next funding package out of Washington is not certain. The Federal Affairs Committee is prepared to make the most of any Federal infrastructure funding when available.

M/S/C Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Ms. Carrey, to recommend approval of the 2021 Federal Legislative Platform to the Board of Directors. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, 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 Dan Rich, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

10. MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Peifer requested feedback from the Executive Committee on whether we should change the format of meeting minutes to more of a summary. It was suggested that a new meeting summary format be produced and presented to the Executive Committee for consideration.

11. JANUARY 14, 2021 RWA BOARD MEETING AGENDA

M/S/C Ms. Carrey moved, with a second by Mr. Bigley, to approve the January 14, 2021 proposed RWA Board meeting agenda. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento, Paul Schubert 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 by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Peifer reported that there will be a coffee and conversation meeting hosted by the Executive Director and the 2020 RWA Chair. There will be a link sent out with an RSVP request for those who want to attend.

The RWA is planning to conduct focus groups with residential water customers to test RWA messaging and materials. The focus groups will provide a foundation for Public Relations Programs by helping RWA to understand the public's perception of, climate change, water banking, water quality and water transfers. RWA has developed an editorial calendar that will guide our external media outreach.

In January, we will report on COVID-19 impacts on water utilities and water affordability based on the State Water Board's survey results. The goal is to be prepared for the State Water Board discussing impacts and help shape expected legislation.

The Water Forum's 20th Anniversary artwork that celebrates the Lower American River and the regions progress toward the co-equal goals is scheduled to be installed this week. The mural can be viewed virtually at www.waterforum.org.

RWA has participated in the Asian Chamber of Commerce State Sprints efforts. The Asian Chamber is working with the Metro Chamber attempting to raise the profile of the region and identify what types of infrastructure should be asked for by the region.

We will begin the hiring process for the future Manager of Strategic Affairs.

Marisa Tricas with the City of Roseville has been active starting the Young Professionals Program.

At the January Executive Committee meeting, we will begin a discussion on how we operationalize the Strategic Plan and put it into action.

A COLA adjustment for staff of 1.6% is based on the November CPI for small Western Cities.

The State Water Board has released the updated water loss regulation and associated economic model. A rulemaking workshop is scheduled for December 16th to give an overview of the release materials and receive stakeholder comments. It is unclear if the standards will improve when supplier specific data is entered into the model versus the default State Water Board model version. The State Water Board anticipates the formal rulemaking process will begin in January with formal adoption of the final regulations expected by June 2021.

13. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Greenwood reported that due to COVID-19 concerns for employees and their families, Carmichael Water District (CWD) has developed a schedule for staggered shifts for staff at their water treatment plant. CWD has Engineering Manager and Distribution Operations positions open.

Mr. Schubert and Mr. York wished everyone Happy Holidays!

Mr. Rich, San Juan Water District, reaffirmed interest in a joint workshop with the RWA and SGA to further discuss the SCGA staffing issues.

Chair Schmitz thanked Mr. Peifer for his work on the Water Forum and his efforts to date with processing the awards. Due to COVID-19 restrictions a 2020 holiday social will not be held. An awards event and announcement will be held virtually.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Schmitz adjourned the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary