



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

RWA Board Meeting
Final Minutes
November 12, 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

Evan Jacobs, California American Water
Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District
Ron Greenwood, 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
Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento
Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento
Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento
Diana Langley, City of Yuba City
Michael Raffety, El Dorado Irrigation District
Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation District
Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District
Paul Schubert, Golden State 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

Vanessa Nishikawa, Stantec

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Rob Swartz, Ryan Ojakian, Josette Reina-Luken, Amy Talbot, Cecilia Partridge and Andrew Ramos, Legal Counsel

Others in Attendance:

Ed Marlow, Victoria Maryatt, Sean Nguyen, Pauline Roccucci, Pam Tobin, Craig Locke, Paul Helliker, Brian Sanders, David Wheaton, Andy Fecko, Bruce Kamilos and Christine Kohn

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

3. FOLSOM LAKE COLLEGE ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

A presentation was given by Ed Marlow, PE Adjunct Professor and Victoria Maryatt, Dean of Career Education on the programs offered by Folsom Lake College. The college offers Potable Water and Wastewater Treatment Programs courses and introductions to water, wastewater and recycled management. The goal of the college is to prepare students for positions in water or wastewater treatment fields. The college offers assistance for placement of students with local water agencies.

Mr. York said that Sacramento Suburban Water District has hired program graduates and has been happy with their job performance.

Mr. Peifer said that one of the things that came out of his listening sessions is the difficulty agencies have locating, hiring and retaining operators. The internship and apprenticeship programs offered by Folsom Lake College may help fill that need.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Minutes of the September 10, 2020 Board of Directors meeting
- b. Annual Review of RWA Investment Policy (Policy 500.2)

Ms. Reina-Luken gave a review of the RWA Investment Policy that was presented to the Executive Committee. After discussion the Executive Committee recommended approval by the RWA Board.

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Houdesheldt moved, with a second by Mr. Dugan, to approve the Consent Calendar items. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Raymond 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, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Diana Langley, 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, 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.

5. REVISIONS TO RWA POLICY 400.2 (EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION POLICY) AND RWA POLICY 40.5 (JOB DESCRIPTIONS)

Mr. Peifer said that at the last RWA Board meeting an item was adopted for the Major Projects Management Services Program and Resilience Program. To move forward with hiring, we need to include the pay scale to compensate the individual and adopt a job description for the position. The Executive Director has the authority to write the job description and the RWA Board has the authority to put it into policy. Once adopted, the job description will be included in Policy 400. The pay scale was set at an amount that will attract very highly qualified candidates who have extensive knowledge of California water and the regulatory context at the state and federal government levels. The candidate should be familiar with our interests within the State Water Resources Control Board and have the ability to work on grants, improving resilience for us, and working with Reclamation and the Corps of Engineers.

There was discussion on how the pay scale for this position was set and the list of duties that will be expected. A candidate will be offered a salary that is appropriate for their level of experience. After discussion, it was agreed that the position title be changed from Resilience Manager to Manager of Strategic Affairs.

Bruce Houdesheldt left the meeting prior to the vote. Pauline Roccucci voted as the alternate representative for the City of Roseville.

M/S/C Mr. Schubert moved, with a second by Mr. Harris, to approve revisions to Exhibit A, RWA Policy 400.2 and approve revisions to RWA Policy 400.5 changing the job title to Manager of Strategic Affairs. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Raymond Riehle, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Ray Leftwich, City of Lincoln, Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville, Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Diana Langley, 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, 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.

6. RWA COMMUNICATIONS PRIORITIES FOR 2021

Mr. Peifer said that the recently adopted Strategic Plan will be produced as a brochure by Christine Kohn, In Communications, who is finalizing the brochure, including graphics. Ms. Kohn will be working on the communication goal component of the Strategic Plan.

For RWA to be successful, it is important for our relationship with the State Legislature, regulators, lawmakers and their staff to know what our message is and for us to speak with one voice. To improve member communication, Ms. Kohn has produced a list of questions to ask members how they would prefer to receive communications and information. This will help in building member support and systems for communicating with one voice to make sure we are meeting agency needs. In addition, we will be addressing communicating with external audiences and members of Congress and the Legislature and utilizing news media. A focus group will be formed to test messages and how our communication resonates. A toolbox will provide our members a venue to utilize some of the communications improving our regional visibility.

The communications program will help build a power mapping exercise to focus our connections with the state legislature to be in a position to ask for the things we need. More time will be spent deciphering key messages, branding statements, a fact sheet and website support. Media outreach and social media are key and are becoming increasingly important in our communication efforts.

Ms. Kohn said that as we prioritize the issues there are many things that RWA, and the region can be focused on. This is a starting point to form a focused strategic communications effort.

Mr. Peifer asked for input from members. Updates will be presented to the board as all areas of the communications progress.

M/S/C Ms. Roccucci moved, with a second by Mr. Dugan, to approve Communications Priorities for 2021. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Raymond Riehle, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Ray Leftwich, City of Lincoln, Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville, Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Diana Langley, 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, 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.

7. OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Mr. Peifer said that the RWA investment fund is in a trust managed by CalPERS for setting money aside for active and future retiree health benefits. He provided information on the impact of remaining with Strategy One which is an aggressive strategy and the possible impact of moving to a more conservative strategy.

The Executive Committee recommended no investment changes be considered at this time due to the continued economic uncertainty. Quarterly updates to the Executive Committee and RWA Board were suggested. This topic will be revisited during the budget preparations.

Ms. Josette Reina-Luken gave an update on strategy options offered by CalPERS and how they would affect RWA.

8. RWA ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Peifer said that this item has been presented to the Executive Committee. The RWA adopted a new planning goal to evaluate RWA staffing, operations and financing models for opportunities to improve long-term organizational sustainability and efficiency. There have been discussions about this in the context with the 3x3 group, the addition of a Manager of Strategic Affairs and other services requested by RWA members like the Meter Consortium.

The Executive Committee suggested hiring a consultant to provide assistance in evaluating staffing and organizational efficiency to consider in the next two or three years. An Ad Hoc Committee including Ron Greenwood, Robert Dugan, Marcus Yasutake, Paul Schubert, Michelle Carrey and Tom Gray, was formed to evaluate the RWA dues structure.

9. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Peifer gave an update on the next steps for the 3x3 committee saying there has been discussion on staffing and costs. Information has been provided to RWA, SCGA and SGA on the potential benefits that have been identified for all three organizations from a staffing perspective. Mr. Woodling will be assembling material including issues to present to each board for further direction and discussion. Briefings will follow to the Executive Committee, RWA Board, SGA Board and SCGA Board.

The RWA representatives on the committee (Kerry Schmitz, Paul Schubert, and Cathy Lee) gave their perspectives to the RW Board on discussions to date..

This will continue to be a standing agenda item providing updates and opportunities for input for the process.

10. POTENTIAL RWA MATERIALS AND SERVICES PURCHASING PROGRAM

Mr. Peifer said that Mr. York recommended an RWA Purchasing Program to pool resources together for purchasing power and to receive better quotes/bids to lower costs for items that agencies purchase. RWA has a history of providing successful programs for the benefit of member agencies like the Chemical Purchasing Program. An Ad Hoc Committee has been formed including Brent Smith, Dan York, Michelle Carrey, and Tony Barela. A survey was circulated to agencies requesting input on the items purchased and if they would benefit from a purchasing program. A meeting will be scheduled with specific purchasing staff from interested agencies.

11. FEDERAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Bigley gave an update on the significant items that the RWA Federal Affairs Committee has been working on. Effort has been put towards preparing RWA for potential action within Congress and at the Federal level investing in infrastructure as a means to spur job creation and towards immediate COVID release measures. There is anticipation with the change in the administration and Presidential office. There may be opportunities in 2021 for discussions with respect to infrastructure investments. There have been interactions with members of congressional offices to express our proposed plan and determine what the next steps are.

The committee is advocating for the continuation of the recommendation for \$870,000 for funding the Sacramento Regional Water Bank. We are ensuring that the funds make it into an appropriation bill, so the funding is brought to the region. Preparations for transition after the elections have been made by focusing on the types of briefings and other meetings that we need to begin over the coming months to engage incoming policymakers at the Federal level. We are watching to see who will be assuming the Senate seat vacated by Vice President-Elect Harris to make contact with that office.

The Federal Affairs Committee is working with a Section 219 group to explore an opportunity for potential funding working with several RWA member agencies.

A 2020 track change version of a Federal Legislative Platform will be presented to the Executive Committee for adoption early in 2021. This will allow us to focus on some of our key policy areas of interest for the committee.

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Peifer reported on his small and medium agency outreach program. He and RWA Chair Schmitz have interviewed small and medium agency general managers to find out what they are interested in getting from RWA and how we can support

them. The input from the agencies revealed that they would like better networking opportunities allowing conversations for problem solving and joint coordination, such as how to participate in a purchasing program. Agencies are facing some statewide issues such as power outage and COVID non-payment.

13. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Greenwood, Carmichael Water District reported that Director Roy Leidy will not be running for reelection.

Mr. Bigley said that City of Roseville voted on a measure that limits their ability to retain water outside of their service area.

Ms. Roccucci said that Bruce Houdesheldt has returned as a Councilmember for the City of Roseville. Scott Albert and Tracy Mendonsa complete the Concil. John Allen decided not to run again.

Ms. Carrey said that the City of Sacramento Department of Utilities was awarded the US EPA award for Education and Outreach efforts. A presentation to their water committee included a six month running program that provided home repair assistance to customers and disadvantaged communities with over 600 free waterway house calls. Sacramento Tree Foundation workshops have been held. The water transfers have gone well and the City of Sacramento provided invoices to the buyers for an amount over three and a half million dollars.

Mr. Roberts, City of West Sacramento, said that Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency water transfer went very well.

Mr. Raffety, El Dorado Irrigation District, reported that this is his last RWA meeting as a representative since he was not reelected to their board.

Mr. Nelson, Elk Grove Water District, said that there are not changes to their board.

Mr. Dugan, Placer County Water Agency, said that there are some important issues relative to their headwaters. He shared analysis of where the California electorate is headed for our region.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Schmitz adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary / Treasurer