

Vice Chair Sanger called the meeting of the RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee to order at 11:30 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
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency

Others in Attendance:

Ryan Ojakian, Eric Sapirstein, Kristi More, Brian Sanders, William Roberts, Andy Fecko, Jessica Law, Paul Helliker, Ross Branch, Noelle Mattock, 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.

Mr. Peifer said that work continues on the infrastructure list and more energy needs to go into the 219 Working Group.

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Minutes from the December 16, 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 December 16, 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. Ojakian gave a brief update from the Legislative Act Advocacy meeting on the items related to federal affairs. The Advocacy meeting focused on ratepayer assistance for low-income individuals, the results of the water board COVID survey and funding sources and what is the appropriate position for RWA to take in relation to that funding source.

There was discussion on the Water Bill Assistance Program for water utility assistance and rental assistance program. The treasury guidance came out that defines utility and includes water but did not give specifics on an application process.

Mr. Ojakian asked for input from the committee on language that will go into a draft that will ultimately be introduced in the legislature limiting the funds that can go to NGO to 5% of the total the state receives.

Mr. Peifer introduced Jessica Law, Water Forum Executive Director. Ms. Law participated on the call to become informed about the Federal Affairs Committee in an effort to continue to forge relationships and build capacity leveraging one another's agencies assisting each other.

Ms. Law said that she was impressed with the amount of support, dedication and commitment to the Water Forum that she has heard from everyone since becoming the Water Forum Executive Director just three weeks ago.

5. 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) WIIN Act recommendation for Sacramento Regional Groundwater Bank
- d) President-elect Biden appointments; transition activity
- e) Other items

Ms. More reported that with the start of a new congress and administration there was nothing on the legislative tracker this month but expects there will be more to report in February.

Mr. Peifer said that he has learned additional information about the WIIN Act recommendation. There is a lot that needs to be worked through and

developed before contacting the grant administrator from Reclamation and to ultimately receive the funding. It is a very lengthy process.

There was discussion on the anticipated changes with the new administration.

6. Update on WRDA and Section 219 Working Group

Ms. More gave an update on the Section 219 Working Groups. There remains about \$27 million available to be spent. The program has expanded to Sacramento County and is accessible by Placer County and Eldorado County agencies. The expansion includes the projects that can be funded in terms of benefits to include water reliability and resiliency. Part of getting the funds will be working with the Corps of Engineers to identify projects within the region to fund under the program and work through the annual appropriations process and budget process for the Corps.

Mr. Peifer said that Mr. Swartz is developing a list of project needs and identifying project priorities. The next steps are development of the list and then setting a meeting with the Corps sometime in January or February. Another priority is a water temperature management model that might fall within the Section 219.

There was discussion about President Elect Biden's appointments, the transition activity and when should we consider reaching out to the Biden Transition Team with the interests and needs for our region. It was suggested that a letter be developed to articulate what those needs are.

7. COVID-19 Pandemic and Economic Impacts

- a) Update on developing a shorter infrastructure list
- b) Update on power-mapping activity
- c) Next steps

Noelle Mattock gave an update on the activity related to the infrastructure list that is based on the projects and criteria that was laid out. There are 160 projects from around the region that could benefit from federal and state funding. The list will be shared with the committee once it has been refined and validated by Mr. Swartz. The next steps will be to circulate the list to the RWA members then develop a package that articulates our needs and ideas for infrastructure spending to put the Sacramento region and California back to work.

There was discussion on a possible press release about the projects that will meet the needs of a piece of legislation that are being put forth and other opportunities once the list is final.

Mr. Ojakian said that the power mapping activity is a work in progress and is

getting folded into a larger outreach that RWA is conducting.

8. 2021 RWA Federal Affairs Committee

Chair Bigley reported that Dave Underwood, Sacramento County Water Agency has retired. He asked if the current members want to remain on the 2021 committee. It was suggested that the Federal Affairs committee could have members and alternates to ensure a quorum for meetings. He requested all current members notify him if they intend to remain on the committee.

9. Action Items

Chair Bigley recapped the action items to include giving the Executive Director direction regarding activities related to the administration transition, the Section 219 Workgroup will be in place once the strategic affairs plan is in place, the mapping activity is progressing and the 2021 Federal Affairs Committee is to be determined.

10. Public Comment

None

11. Next Meeting February 17, 2021

It was requested that calendar invites be sent to the committee members prior to Federal Affairs Committee meetings.

12. Adjournment

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

By:

Chairperson

Attest:
