

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bigley called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 8:30 a.m. as a teleconference meeting. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

Executive Committee Members

Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville
Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company
Tony Firenzi, 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 and Cecilia Partridge

Others in Attendance

Brian Sanders, Greg Zlotnick, Craig Locke, Andy Fecko, Charles Duncan, Kelye McKinney, Alan Driscoll, Pam Tobin, Kevin Thomas and Paul Helliker

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Minutes of the December 14, 2020 Executive Committee meeting
- b. Adopt the proposed Executive Committee Meeting Schedule for 2021
- c. Approve the Proposition 1 Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Implementation Grant Program Agreement

Motion/Second Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Schubert moved, with a second by Mr. York, to approve the Consent Calendar items. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

4. DEVELOPMENT OF FISCAL YEAR 2021 – 2022 BUDGET

Josette Reina-Luken, Finance and Administrative Services Manager, gave a presentation regarding the upcoming fiscal year (FY) 2022 budget development process, including CalPERS projected total unfunded liability.

Last year's RWA Chair, Chair Schmitz, appointed an Ad Hoc Dues Committee in November 2020 to review how member dues are allocated. A recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee is expected to be presented at the February EC meeting for consideration of FY2022 budget incorporation.

5. AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATES

Mr. Peifer gave an information update on the activities of four ad hoc committees. The committees include the Dues Committee, 3x3 committee, a purchasing committee and a holiday social committee that was not utilized in 2020.

Mr. Peifer requested input and feedback from the Executive Committee members on any of the committees. The RWA will celebrate a 20th year anniversary in 2020. An email message to the Executive Director was requested to convey any thoughts for a celebration.

6. STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. Bigley provided information on the major initiatives and what we need to do for implementation of the RWA Strategic Plan. The focus is on realistic prioritization, understanding the limited resources available to work with, and what we want to achieve in 2021. Collaboration, information sharing, supporting our small and medium size agencies by undertaking a listening tour to understand what is important to them, and leveraging social media opportunities are all part of the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Peifer gave a presentation on the Strategic Plan objectives. Priorities include work towards completion of the water bank, state and federal funding, projects to increase reliability and resilience, water loss regulations protecting our members against problematic, and costly regulatory and legislative mandates. He explained the prioritization process and color coding to evaluate the status of priority objectives.

It was suggested that a workshop be scheduled to discuss the Strategic Plan in detail with Board participation.

7. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

Ryan Ojakian, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager, reported that the legislature has reconvened and will be introducing bills prior to the February 19th bill introduction deadline. Much of the focus in the Legislature has been on "early"

budget actions. Water ratepayer assistance is among the early budget action issues. Funds have been approved by the Federal government for ratepayer relief; the proportioning of funding to California has not yet been determined. The top issues in the Legislature this year are likely to be related to housing, homeless and wildfire.

Mr. Ojakian provided information on AB 11 and AB 51 that would create region climate adaption plans. AB 59 will seek to shift the legal balance of power between water agencies and developers related to connection and capacity charges. SB 45 is a \$5.5 billion resilience bond. We are focused on the inclusion of conjunctive use language into that bond measure. Bills SB 222 and SB 223 deal with water rate assistance and conditions under which water shut off can occur.

A support if amended position was recommended on AB11, AB 51,, and SB 45. An oppose was recommend on AB 59 and an active watch position was recommended on SB 222 and SB 223.

M/S/C Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Ms. Schmitz, to adopt a support if amended position on AB11, AB 51, and SB 45, an oppose on AB 59, and an active watch position on SB 222 and SB 223. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

8. FEDERAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Bigley gave a brief update on the Federal Affairs Committee activities. With the new administration and changes in the agency level and in congress, the committee will start ramping up activities related to infrastructure and engaging in federal rate payer assistance initiatives. The committee has been working on a prioritized list of projects with a reasonable time expectation. Consultants have been working on a power mapping exercise to begin building local and state support for RWAs efforts. Participation in the Federal Affairs Committee was encouraged.

9. URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Amy Talbot, Water Efficiency Program Manager, reported on the urban water management plan timeframe. DWR released a draft guidance document on how agencies should be putting together certain sections. There is a list of new requirements that include a drought risk assessment, water reliability assessment, and an updated watershed contingency plan outline.

A RWA Urban Water Management Plan Committee was formed with a variety of agencies. RWA hosted webinars on three topics. A link to the materials was included in the packet.

Ms. Talbot is developing a template with information on what the regional water efficiency program has achieved from 2016-2020 for inclusion in individual agency urban water management plans.

10. WATER EFFICIENCY PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. Talbot gave an update on the grant funded Smart Controller Program that has been running since April 2020.

The program will be hosting several Public Outreach meetings to consider messaging for a potential dry year/drought scenario and that will steer clear of indoor hygiene-related water use/reductions due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. RWA staff, member agency staff, and consulting support are working to determine messaging for 2021.

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Peifer reported Michelle Banonis has accepted the RWA position of Manager of Strategic Affairs and will begin on February 22nd. We are looking forward to implementing the resilience and major project management services programs.

An example of summary minutes was enclosed in the packet. Mr. Peifer asked for input on moving to summary minutes rather than verbatim minutes. After discussion, it was decided the summary minutes would be more efficient and it was agreed to move to the summary minutes format for the next meeting. If the summary format is acceptable, it will be recommended to the RWA Board.

A Special Board meeting will be scheduled for March 5th as an educational event. Staff has invited Jerry Brown to present on Sites Reservoir, James Corless will give a SACOG presentation, and Tony Firenzi with Charles Duncan will give a presentation on River Arc.

12. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Ms. Schmitz said that she is looking forward to working with Mr. Bigley and Mr. York. She thanked them for stepping up as 2021 Chair and Vice Chair and is looking forward to their leadership.

Mr. Firenzi commented that the direction given by the Chair and Vice Chair prior to the Strategic Plan presentation was very good.

Ms. Carrey said that the City of Sacramento is exploring their participation in the 2021 groundwater substitution transfers and deciding if they will offer to resume their role as seller's agent on behalf of other agencies in the region for groundwater substitution transfers.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bigley adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary