

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
Anne Sanger, Chair, City of Sacramento
Tony Firenzi, Vice Chair, Placer County Water Agency
Evan Jacobs, California American Water
Noelle Mattock, City of Roseville
Brian Sanders, City of Sacramento
Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency
Forrest Williams, Sacramento County Water Agency
Greg Bundesen, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District and Sean Bigley, City of Roseville

Others in Attendance:

Ryan Ojakian, Eric Sapirstein, Kristi More, William Roberts, Andy Fecko, Ross Branch, Jim Davenport, Marcus Yasutake, 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.

None.

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Minutes from the January 20, 2021 RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee Meeting

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Jacobs moved, with a second by Ms. Mattock, to approve the January 20, 2021 RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee meetings. Mr. Bundesen, Mr. Sanders and Mr. Williams abstained. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of the remaining 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. Peifer said that there are two letters addressed to administrative officials that are being drafted for consideration by the Water Forum. One letter is on a Delta report and the other outlines general needs for our region.

Mr. Dugan reported that the Metro Chamber is trying to determine what they want to do relative to federal advocacy. They are aware that RWA is representing the region. He has encouraged the chamber to facilitate a presence for the greater business community.

Mr. Yasutake announced that the City of Folsom was selected for a Water Smart General Resiliency Grant by the Bureau of Reclamation. They are working towards the financial assistance agreements.

Chair Sanger said the City of Sacramento received a Water Smart General Resiliency Grant for their groundwater wells.

5. Federal Legislative Review

- a) Update on federal issues of interest to the committee
- b) Review Federal Legislative Tracker; consider priority bills, committee recommendations
- c) Federal outreach recommendations

Mr. Sapirstein gave an update on a direct money package being assembled for water agencies including rate payer assistance, emergency rental assistance, mortgage assistance and the infrastructure due to the pandemic.

Ms. More provided information on the expected return of earmarks. The normal appropriations process will begin in the next couple of months before the release of President Biden's budget request to Congress followed by work at the subcommittees and appropriation committee level. She said that the Legislative Tracker has been updated and is posted on the RWA website. As new bills are introduced, they will be added to the tracker and presented to the Federal Affairs Committee for discussion. It was suggested that bill positions be taken similar to the way other RWA committees use.

Mr. Peifer said that the RWA policy principles are on the RWA website explaining the bill prioritization process and authority that RWA uses. If support letters are needed a vote with the Federal Affairs Committee should be taken before support letters can be presented to the Executive Committee.

It was suggested that bills listed on the legislative tracker be consistent with RWAs prioritization process. The tracker will be posted prior to each Federal Affairs monthly meeting for review prior to discussion at the meetings.

Ms. More gave a summary of bills related to the COVID relief package, tax credit and the WIIN Act. Once the congressional appointments are confirmed staff hopes to have the opportunity to get on their calendars.

Committee members requested that the legislative tracker be attached to the calendar invite/meeting notice for future meetings in addition to posting the tracker on the RWA website.

M/S/C Mr. Zlotnick moved, with a second by Mr. Williams, to authorize staff to initiate a support letter to be presented to the Executive Committee for Rep. Napolitano's bill HR 1015 a bill "To establish a grant program for the funding of water recycling and reuse projects". The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of the remaining committee members present.

6. WRDA Section 219 Work Group Status

Ms. More and Mr. Sapirstein are working on a list of programs that are currently available to fund a variety of different projects including 219. The list of funding programs will be presented at the next Federal Affairs Committee meeting.

Mr. Yasutake said that the City of Folsom has had discussions with Reclamation regarding a 2006 study about different "intake" scenarios and they are looking at potential new intakes and funding sources for them.

7. WIIN Act funding for Water Bank status

There was discussion on identifying what the next steps are for accessing project funding. The Reclamation grant managers should be identified soon then the funding process can begin, it can take up to 1 year before funding is received. Michelle Banonis will head up this work. There will be an update with more to report at the March meeting.

8. COVID-19 Pandemic and Economic Impacts

- a) Infrastructure list update
- b) Next steps

Staff continues to review and refine the infrastructure list.

9. Action Items

Chair Sanger welcomed the new Federal Affairs Committee members including Noelle Mattock, Brian Sanders, Forrest Williams and Greg Bundesen. She thanked Mr. Yasutake for his service as a member of the 2020 committee.

A letter of support on HR 1015 will be drafted and presented to the Executive Committee at their next meeting requesting a position of support.

A meeting with Michelle Banonis will be scheduled with a follow up with the Corps of Engineers and the 219 projects.

10. Public Comment

Mr. Bundesen said that he has been working closely with the Alliance for Water Efficiency on a project to rescind the Trump administrations changes to the energy code that alters flow standards for showerheads, clothes washers and dishwashers.

Chair Sanger mentioned that the ACWA conference is scheduled to begin February 24th with three webinars in March. The webinars are an opportunity to see who is working on water in DC.

11. Next Meeting March 17, 2021

It was suggested that the March 17, 2021 meeting be rescheduled to accommodate the ACWA conference. Staff will work with the Federal Affairs committee members to find a date to reschedule the March meeting.

12. Adjournment

Chair Sanger adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:
