



**Regional Water Authority**  
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

---

RWA Board Meeting  
Final Minutes  
January 14, 2021

## 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  
Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District  
Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District  
David Wheaton, 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  
Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento  
Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento  
Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City  
Diana Langley, City of Yuba City  
Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation District  
Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District  
Mark Madison, Elk Grove Water District  
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District  
Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District  
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company  
Robert Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company  
Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency  
Tony Firenzi, 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**

Brett Storey, Placer County, José Ramirez, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation, and Ken Payne, El Dorado Water Agency

**RWA Affiliate Members**

Kelye McKinney, Charles Duncan and Abigail Madrone, West Yost Associates

**Staff Members**

Jim Peifer, Rob Swartz, Ryan Ojakian, Josette Reina-Luken, Amy Talbot, Cecilia Partridge, Monica Garcia and Ryan Bezerra, Legal Counsel

**Others in Attendance:**

Raymond Riehle, Rich Plecker, Pauline Roccucci, Pam Tobin, John Woodling, Peggy Vande Vooren, Paul Helliker, and Bruce Kamilos

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Schmitz reported that Tom Gohring, longtime Executive Director at the Water Forum, has announced his retirement. His replacement is Jessica Law.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a. Minutes from the November 12, 2020 Regular Board meeting
- b. Adopt proposed RWA Board Meetings Scheduled for 2021
- c. Accept the 2020 RWA Financial Audit Report

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Dugan moved, with a second by Mr. York, to approve the Consent Calendar Items. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District, David Wheaton, 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, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, 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 Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company, Robert Dugan, 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.

**4. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY STAFFING**

Mr. Peifer gave a power point presentation. The Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority approached the RWA to provide staffing services to that organization similar to how staffing services are provided to SGA. The interest is in moving away from having Sacramento County staff the organization. He gave a brief overview of the origins of groundwater sustainability agencies in our region. He provided information on the options that the proposal provides including promoting efficient operation through cost sharing, shared staff, equipment and facilities.

After several meetings of the three organizations, an MOU was adopted by the RWA, SGA and SCGA. Any potential changes in either operation or governance need to be financially beneficial and neutral to each authority. Better coordination, successful implementation of SGMA, improved and expanded services including additional financial recordkeeping, board packets and staffing levels continue to be discussed.

There was discussion on the expected timeline to provide additional information to the Board. Mr. Peifer stated that we are pursuing facilitation services to assist in bringing out issues related to the future changes to the organizations. Chair Schmitz indicated feedback would be brought back to the 3 x 3 Committee for consideration.

## **5. POLICY 500.3 REVISIONS – SUBSCRIPTIONS PROGRAM FEE POLICY**

Mr. Peifer said that Policy 500.3 was originally developed to address agencies that were non RWA member water agencies that chose to participate in the Water Use Efficiency Program. The non-member agencies were charged an additional 20% on the subscription program and an additional 20% on what the non-members dues would be. The revisions to Policy 500.3 are to update the policy to encompass all RWA subscription programs for agencies that are not RWA members or associate members.

M/S/C Mr. Houdesheldt moved, with a second by Mr. Wheaton, to approve Policy 500.3 revision to the Board of Directors. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District, David Wheaton, 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, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, 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 Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company, Robert Dugan, 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. 2021 POLICY PRINCIPLES**

Mr. Peifer said that annually RWA Policy Principles are updated as appropriate.

Mr. Ojakian said that there were two changes made to the Policy Principles on the issue of affordability. The Water Board conducted a survey with agencies focused on the impacts of the COVID pandemic on rate payers, delinquency, and debt accumulation. The policy changes are to get in front of the issue as much as possible before there is specific regulatory or legislative action. The Policy

Principles allow the Executive Director to take an action on a legislative or regulatory action.

M/S/C Mr. Wheaton moved, with a second by Mr. Zlotnick, to approve the 2021 Policy Principles. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District, David Wheaton, 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, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, 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 Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company, Robert Dugan, 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. 2021 FEDERAL AFFAIRS PLATFORM**

Mr. Peifer said that the proposed updated 2021 Federal Affairs Platform was enclosed in the board packet. The platform was presented to the Federal Affairs Committee and the Executive Committee and is now recommended to the RWA Board of Directors for adoption. After the graphics are complete, the platform will be converted into a brochure that will be attached to election congratulation letters to members of Congress. The brochure will also be utilized to educate members of Congress and the new Administration officials on what our needs are.

M/S/C Mr. Jacobs moved, with a second by Mr. York, to approve the 2021 Federal Legislative Platform. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District, David Wheaton, 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, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, 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 Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company, Robert Dugan, 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.

## **8. ELECT 2021 RWA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Board of Directors elected the following members to the 2021 Executive Committee:

- Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
- Sean Bigley, City of Roseville
- Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento
- Bill Roberts, City of West 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

## **9. ELECT 2021 RWA CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

The Board of Directors elected the Chair and Vice-Chair from the membership of the Executive Committee.

Sean Bigley was elected as the 2021 Chair.  
Dan York was elected as 2021 Vice-Chair.

M/S/C Mr. Zlotnick moved, with a second by Ms. Espindola, to approve the election of Sean Bigley as Executive Committee Chair and the election of Dan York as Executive Committee Vice-Chair. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

## **10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Peifer said that RWA is interested in providing more support to the small and medium sized agencies by creating a list serve for general managers who would like to ask questions of their colleagues. Questions can range from legislative questions to HR policies and can be posted on the RWA website. The question will be distributed to all general managers on the list with a reply directly to the person who asked the question.

Mr. Peifer congratulated RWA 2020 award winners. The awards were presented to Kristin White and Kerry Schmitz for the Water Statesperson of the Year, Tom Gohring and David Underwood for Distinguished Service and Mark Madison was presented a Special 2020 Award. The Regional Water Management Award was presented to the 2020 Regional Groundwater Substitution Water Transfer Team.

## **11. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Greenwood said that Carmichael Water District continues to try to fill a board member position.

Mr. Yasutake thanked Ms. Schmitz for her work as the 2020 Executive Committee Chair.

Ms. Carrey reported that the City of Sacramento is at 99% metered.

Mr. Roberts reported that the City of West Sacramento is 75% metered. He congratulated all the award winners.

Mr. Madison said that Elk Grove Water District is working to advance legislation to increase fines for water theft.

Mr. Schubert thanked the 2020 Executive Committee for their leadership.

Mr. Smith said that although he is stepping down as an Executive Committee member, he plans to continue to be engaged in RWA activities. He feels that the RWA is becoming more relevant and important.

Chair Schmitz thanked everyone for their work and support in 2020. She congratulated the award recipients.

Mr. York congratulated the award recipients. He said that Mark Madison has been an excellent support sharing his expertise and opinions. He thanked everyone for their continued support for him to remain on the Executive Committee.

## **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Schmitz adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

By:

---

Chairperson

Attest:

---

Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary / Treasurer