



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**RWA Board Meeting
Final Minutes
March 11, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bigley 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
Audie Foster, 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
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
Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City
Diana Langley, City of Yuba City
John Lenahan, Del Paso Manor Water District
Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation District
Sophia Scherman, Elk Grove Water District
Bruce Kamilos, 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
Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency
Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento County Water Agency
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency
Dave Jones, 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, and Ken Payne, El Dorado Water Agency

RWA Affiliate Members

Kelye McKinney and Abigail Madrone, West Yost Associates, Ed Winkler, HDR, Inc. and John Woodling, GEI Consultants

Staff Members

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

Others in Attendance:

Pauline Roccucci, Andy Fecko, Craig Locke, Bob Reisig, Mark Madison, Mike Grinstead, Paul Helliker, Jon Goetz, Rebecca Scott and Rob Roscoe

Mr. Peifer introduced Michelle Banonis as the new RWA Manager of Strategic Affairs.

Chair Bigley reported that the Federal Affairs Committee has worked on an infrastructure list relative to economic recovery. Mr. Swartz has been requested to review and vet the list of projects that will be shared with the RWA Board at a future meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CLOSED SESSION – CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9, subdivision (d)(4): One case, concerning Bay-Delta water quality control plan.

Mr. Peifer gave instructions for the Executive Committee members to participate in the Closed Session.

4. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

There was unanimous approval for the Common Interest Agreement relative to this matter from all members present in the closed session.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Minutes from the January 14, 2021 Regular Board meeting
- b. Adopt the revised RWA Board Meetings Schedule for 2021

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Houdesheldt moved, with a second by Mr. Greenwood, to approve the Consent Calendar Items. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake,

City of Folsom, Sean Bigley, 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 Sophia Scherman, Elk Grove Water District, Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Joe Duran, Orange Vale Water Company, Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency, Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District and Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District voted yes. John Lenahan, Del Paso Manor Water District abstained. The motion carried.

6. RWA DUES STRUCTURE AND ALLOCATION

Mr. Peifer said that last year Chair Schmitz appointed a Dues Ad Hoc Committee to reconsider the RWA dues structure, which has remained the same for the past 20 years. The committee has proposed a new dues structure that provides a declining block rate with a discount for agencies that are not within the American River Watershed.

The Dues Ad Hoc Committee members are Tom Gray, Michelle Carrey, Robert Dugan, Paul Schubert, Ron Greenwood and Kerry Schmitz.

California American Water noted that they and other larger organizations will be keeping an eye on the dues structure in the future.

M/S/C Mr. Wheaton moved, with a second by Mr. Kennedy, to approve the Recommended Dues Structure and Allocation. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Diana Langley, City of Yuba City, John Lenahan, Del Paso Manor Water District, Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation Sophia Scherman, Elk Grove Water District, Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Joe Duran, Orange Vale Water Company, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District and Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District voted yes. Audie Foster, California American Water voted no. The motion carried.

7. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY STAFFING

An update on the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) is a standing agenda item for RWA Board meetings and Executive Committee meetings. Staff is working with the Water Forum to obtain facilitation services that would be paid for through the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Facilitation Support Services Program. Staff expects a facilitator to start working with the staff from the SGA and SCGA in the near future. After the facilitator starts working on the program,

planning for a joint board meeting between the three authorities will begin. The purpose of the joint board meeting is to discuss benefits and issues regarding potential integration of SCGA into the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) with RWA staff providing services to all three agencies.

8. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

Mr. Ojakian said that the background information included in the board packet focused on legislative issues with the focus remaining on the impacts of COVID-19. The legislature has limited the number of bills that they are going to introduce. There are three focus issue areas for the legislature including response to health and economic response to COVID, addressing wildfire, and homeless/housing affordability. Bills of interest are SB 222 relating to low-income water rate assistance, SB 223 that would expand on existing water shut off restrictions, AB 1434 would revise the indoor portion of existing water use efficiency requirements, SB 45 that is a \$5.5 billion resilience bond, and SB 1500 is a \$6.7 billion resilience bond.

9. SPACE PLANNING AD HOC COMMITTEE

Chair Bigley said that at this time RWA staff is mostly working remotely due to the pandemic, but in the near future additional office space will be necessary to accommodate staff growth within the organization. He suggested appointing a Space Planning Ad Hoc Committee to focus on the issue and provide recommendations to the Executive Committee for the immediate and near-term office space needs of the RWA. The committee would also provide recommendations to the Executive Director regarding procurement of office space for the RWA over the next five years.

Chair Bigley appointed himself, Dan York, Ron Greenwood and Tony Firenzi to the Space Planning Ad Hoc Committee.

There was discussion on what the current RWA office space needs are and what the future needs will be.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Peifer thanked the presenters and everyone who participated in last Friday's Coffee Chat.

There will be a Special RWA Board meeting March 19th beginning at 3:00 p.m. to work through the Strategic Plan priorities. The meeting is for discussion of current and new resources and to receive feedback from the Board.

A Dry Year Drought Planning meeting earlier this month had a productive discussion including how agencies can work together, support each other, and updating mutual aid agreements. Meetings will be scheduled to have additional

discussions periodically. Staff is working on dry year messaging for RWA members.

11. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Greenwood reported that Matt Medill is the new Carmichael Water District Engineering Manager. The district is recruiting for an Accountant. The Vista Tank Project is at an estimated construction cost of \$9.5 million.

Ms. Carrey reported that the City of Sacramento has successfully completed the 2020 regional groundwater substitution transfer and there are buyers for 2021. The City of Sacramento is beginning the process of looking into moving forward with the 2021 transfer.

Mr. Kamilos introduced Sophia Scherman as the RWA representative for Elk Grove Water District. She is in her second term as Board President.

Ms. Roccucci said that Troy Bergstrom is the new City of Roseville Police Chief. The city will be recruiting for a new City Attorney.

Chair Bigley said that the City of Roseville has been undertaking exploratory drilling to determine where they would potentially place six new aquifer and recovery wells within the city limits. This effort will double their wells over the next five years.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Bigley adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary / Treasurer