

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
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
Pauline Rocucci, 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
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
Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento County Water Agency
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency
Kevin Thomas, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Ted Costa, San Juan Water District
Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

RWA Associate Members

Ken Payne, El Dorado Water Agency and Ansel Lundberg, SMUD

RWA Affiliate Members

Abigail Madrone, West Yost Associates

Staff Members

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

Others in Attendance:

Pam Tobin, Kristi More, Brian Sanders, Mike Huot, Craig Locke, Mike Grinstead, Paul Helliker and James Graydon

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Tobin, ACWA Vice President, reported that ACWA/JPIA refunded \$1,843.96 to RWA for the Liability Property and Workers' Compensation program. Refunds are based on performance of a prior policy year with a total of \$6.2 million being refunded to members. She mentioned that RWA staff members have attended classes and training that have been offered by ACWA/JPIA.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Minutes from the March 11, 2021 Regular Board meeting

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Ms. Espindola moved, with a second by Ms. Roccucci, to approve the Consent Calendar Item. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Hilary Strauss, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville, Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, John Lenahan, Del Paso Manor Water District, Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation Sophia Scherman, Elk Grove Water District, Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Robert Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento County Water Agency and Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District voted yes. Kevin Thomas, Sacramento Suburban Water District did not vote. The motion carried.

4. FISCAL YEAR 2021 – 2022 BUDGET

Mr. Peifer introduced the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget that includes a 0% increase in total Core and Water Efficiency Program dues from last year's approved budget. This was possible because of significant savings last year due to the COVID 19 crisis, additional revenue brought in by staff, subscription programs and less travel, meeting and office expense. The number of services offered through RWA represent a benefit for agencies rather than doing the same thing through additional staffing at individual organizations.

Ms. Reina-Luken said that the proposed budget is recommended to the RWA Board by the Executive Committee. The Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget includes

RWA Board's direction for additional funding for some of the strategic plan goals that were reviewed in March at the special board meeting for prioritizing the strategic plan. A PowerPoint presentation was given summarizing the RWA budget objectives and the three parts to the budget (the staff report, the actual physical budget, and program budget). The overall expenditure budget is large but is offset with multiple reimbursements. The proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 complies with all RWA budget policies. The PowerPoint presentation highlighted budget changes from the prior year, what the proposed budget accomplishes, and what the budget forecast may look like in the next four years.

Ms. Reina-Luken gave a summary of the unfunded pension liability, how the payments are determined, and how the liability is being paid down. An updated CalPERS valuation report is expected by the end of the first quarter 2022 at which time an update will be presented to the RWA Board.

M/S/C Mr. Schubert moved, with a second by Ms. Carey, to approve the Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022 budget. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Hilary Strauss, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville, Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, John Lenahan, Del Paso Manor Water District, Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation Sophia Scherman, Elk Grove Water District, Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Robert Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento County Water Agency and Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District voted yes. Kevin Thomas, Sacramento Suburban Water District did not vote. The motion carried.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN COMMUNICATION GOAL REPORT

Mr. Peifer said that our communication goals are based on shared values, communicating with one voice on issues of regional significance to strengthen relationships, elevating regional visibility, and influencing and advancing the collective interests of the region. Communication is a means to support the other objectives in the RWA Strategic Plan and the outcomes that we are looking for. Assistance of the members is important as we communicate with policymakers, legislators, and people who have influence over the water business.

Mr. Ojakian said that the public decision makers do not understand what it takes to achieve the delivery of drinkable water to customers. There are two avenues that we need to communicate: 1) the good work we do; and 2) what it really takes to deliver high quality, affordable water at a low cost. There needs to be a consistent message to most effectively get policy improvements.

Ms. Kohn shared the progress that the communications program has been making and talked about the accomplishments in the past year and for the future. The

program is in a strong position by laying a foundation for a strategic, thoughtful multi-year campaign that sets us up for the next three years. Foundational communications program guidance includes communications to members and external audiences. She gave an overview of RWA Strategic Plan goals and objectives, priority communications issues and opportunities, brand building and specific issues like the current dry year. The next steps include more media coverage, digital advertising, ensuring RWA outreach and programs are equitably communicated and continued member communication.

Ms. Espindola said that because not all customers speak English, she suggested that media efforts also include Spanish and possibly Russian. She would like to see this become a priority for RWA.

Ms. Kohn recommended focus groups in Spanish to create a foundation for outreach to non-English speaking communities to include adding a page to the website and working on publications in Spanish.

6. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY STAFFING

Mr. Peifer said that the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) is a standing agenda item for RWA Board meetings and Executive Committee meetings. Gina Bartlett, Consensus Builders Institute, will be the facilitator for this effort. Ms. Bartlett is currently conducting a stakeholder assessment. Staff worked with the Water Forum in obtaining facilitation services with the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) through the Facilitation Support Services Program. After the stakeholder assessment is complete, Mr. Woodling and Mr. Peifer will schedule a special joint board meeting between the three authorities.

7. POLICY 500.18 – NEW RWA MEMBER DISCOUNTED DUES

Mr. Peifer outlined a step-up membership method for recruitment of new RWA members that would give them a 50% discount on their first-year dues and a 25% discount on their second-year dues. They would guarantee their RWA membership for three years and would pay the full dues amount during the third year and every year thereafter.

There was agreement that this is a good idea that gives new members a trial period to see the value of the RWA organization.

M/S/C Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Mr. Dugan, to approve Policy 500.18. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Hilary Strauss, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville, Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, John Lenahan, Del Paso Manor Water District, Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation Sophia Scherman, Elk Grove Water District, Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Robert Hunter,

Orange Vale Water Company, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento County Water Agency and Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District voted yes. Kevin Thomas, Sacramento Suburban Water District did not vote. The motion carried.

8. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

Mr. Ojakian discussed legislation, drought response, and regulatory actions. There is activity focused on stopping AB 377, which would have dramatically revised water quality enforcement; AB 1434 would revise the indoor standard but is not expected to move forward; SB 222 and SB 223 focus on affordability and shutoff prohibitions and are all opposed unless amended. DWR is in the draft stage of recommending changes to the indoor water use efficiency standard, which is part of the larger water efficiency objective, to the legislature. Any change must be made through a change in law.. The California Natural Resources Agency is conducting work to advance the Governor's Executive Order to protect 30% of the state's habitat and biodiversity. There remains an open question as to how this would apply to freshwater. The Executive Order referenced only land and coastal waters. The State Water Board sent out information on drought actions and is expected to schedule a workshop on curtailment methodologies in early May.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Peifer said that dry year coordination meetings with general managers and others is scheduled for this afternoon. There will be discussion on how we approach the water supply conditions that are deteriorating within the American River Basin.

Chair Bigley said that with regard to helping manage the drought, any operational arrangements or partnerships that we develop add to how we communicate as a region. He encouraged everyone to participate in the conversation for the dry year coordination meeting to prepare to navigate as a region working with RWA as our key organization.

Mr. Peifer asked that May 13th at 2:00 p.m. be reserved on everyone's calendar for a possible Special RWA Board meeting.

10. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Greenwood reported that Carmichael Water District has gone through a forensic audit. Ronald Davis has been elected as director for the district.

Ms. Roccucci, City of Roseville, reported on how the drought affects different parts of the region differently. She appreciates the constructive efforts of RWA representing our region and helping us move forward in the water industry.

Mr. Kamilos said that Mr. Ojakian has been working with Elk Grove Water District on SB 427, which is the water theft enhanced penalties bill. It appears that this proposed bill may become law..

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Bigley adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary / Treasurer