



**Regional Water Authority
Executive Committee Meeting
Final Minutes
January 26, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair York 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

S. Audie Foster, California American Water
Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento
Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City
Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Ryan Ojakian, Rob Swartz, Ryan Ojakian, Monica Garcia, Cecilia Partridge and Andrew Ramos, legal counsel

Others in Attendance

Brian Sanders, Bob Reisig, Cathy Lee, Paul Helliker, Greg Zlotnick, Tom Hennig, Jay Boatwright, Angela Frost, Paul Schubert, Charles Duncan, Anne Sanger, Robert Dugan, William Lauritsen, Kevin Thomas and Kelye McKinney

- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT** - Members of the public who wish to address the committee may do so at this time. Please keep your comments to less than three minutes.

None

Chair York commented that his vision for 2022 is to enhance teamwork and collaboration in the region.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Foster moved, with a second by Mr. Bigley to separate the consent calendar items. S. Audie Foster, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West

Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency and Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes.

3a. Authorize a Teleconference Meeting

M/S/C Mr. Foster moved, with a second by Mr. Greenwood to authorize a Teleconference meeting. S. Audie Foster, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency and Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes.

3b. Minutes of the December 13, 2021, Executive Committee meeting

M/S/C Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Mr. Bigley to approve the December 13, 2021 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency and Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes. S. Audie Foster, California American Water, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento and Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City abstained.

4. **STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES**

Chair York provided information on the 2022 standing and Ad Hoc committees.

The 3 x 3 committee was formed to facilitate a resolution for staffing the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) and potential consolidation of the SGA and SCGA. The 2022 members of the 3 X 3 committee are Kerry Schmitz, Tony Firenzi and Chair York.

The 2022 members on the Ad Hoc Committee to revise RWA Policy 400.4 that prescribes how the Executive Director's annual review process is conducted are Robert Dugan, Sean Bigley, Marcus Yasutake, Brett Ewart and Caryl Sheehan.

An Ad Hoc Committee to oversee the potential office space for additional staff to the RWA and SGA was appointed by Chair York to include Ron Greenwood, Tony Firenzi, Audie Foster and Chair York.

Appointed to the 2022 Purchasing Ad Hoc Committee to oversee a potential joint purchasing program are Michelle Carrey, Tony Barela, Todd Eising, Rebecca Scott and Chair York.

The Water Quality Committee facilitates information sharing and related activities between RWA member agency staff. The membership consists of operators and

related agency staff who engage in water treatment. Mark Severeid, City of Sacramento was appointed Chair.

The 2022 Awards Committee will include Kerry Schmitz, Paul Schubert and Paul Selsky.

The Chair, Vice Chair and voting members of the Federal Affairs Standing Committee will remain unchanged for 2022.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

Mr. Peifer gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting different objects and progress of the Strategic Plan. Some objectives are moving forward while others are deferred or taking longer to accomplish. He focused on RWA staffing, operations, financing models and reviewing policies. He wants to look at policy for supporting programs for the benefit of economies of scale in the areas of research studies, planning and implementation. He gave examples of how the meter collaboration could be of benefit to members. Aligning interests between RWA, SGA and SCGA needs additional work.

There was discussion on the high priority objectives and if there is a possibility of hiring part time staff to assist with work on some of the objectives. There is interest in collective purchasing power and coordination between the various GSAs. Evaluating the Federal Affairs efforts and vision was seen as a positive idea. The Federal Affairs Committee works strategically for the region to find funding opportunities. It was noted that the Federal Affairs Committee is just one of the volunteer efforts in the Strategic Plan.

6. EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION STUDY AND POSITION RECLASSIFICATIONS

RWA Policy 400.2 requires a compensation survey to be completed every five years. The 2017 compensation survey was included in the packet. It is expected that the compensation survey will take several months to complete. The objective is to recruit and retain highly qualified employees. Mr. Peifer proposed three new employee classifications to better define positions.

After discussion, the motion was amended to have the first part of the action to read "Undertake Compensation Survey with oversight and facilitation by the Executive Committee or a dedicated ad hoc committee if assigned by the RWA Chair."

M/S/C Mr. Ewart moved, with a second by Ms. Espindola amending the motion to direct Executive Director to: 1) Undertake Compensation Survey, with oversight and facilitation by the Executive Committee or a dedicated ad hoc committee if assigned by the RWA Chair; 2) develop position classifications for Government Relations Manager, Finance and Administration Manager II and Administrative Analyst; and 3) include new position classifications in the Compensation Survey. S. Audie Foster, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District,

Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency and Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes.

7. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

Mr. Ojakian said the focus in the legislature this year will be addressing the drought. The policies on the table are related to turf grass and indoor water use efficiency. RWA supports bills AB 921 that is related to flood control in West Sacramento and SB 230 that is related to the establishment of a constituents of emerging concern program in the State Water Resources Control Board that are two-year bills that are moving through the legislative process. The Governor's proposed budget of \$750 million for drought resilience included \$100 million for water conservation planning and projects and \$75 million for turf replacement. The proposal includes a place holder for \$250 million, the use to be determined after wet season water supply conditions are known. AB 463 addresses work on conduits that cross over multiple properties and has been amended to address concerns over who has the final say when work is approved.

M/S/C Ms. Espindola moved, with a second by Mr. Bigley to Support SB 463 as amended and encourage legislators to engage and carry a bill forward addressing the indoor water use standard. S. Audie Foster, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency and Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes. Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency did not respond to the voice vote.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

RWA staff and members met with the Sacramento Bee Editorial Board discussing conservation and investing in facilities to adapt to climate change.

Ms. Talbot has been invited to speak at the Prague International Water Loss Conference.

Mr. Peifer has been appointed Chair of the ACWA Federal Affairs Committee.

The regular RWA board meeting in July will be rescheduled to accommodate the ACWA DC Conference.

Staff is encouraging Yuba Water Agency and Nevada Irrigation District to become new RWA members.

9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Foster reported that most of the California American Water staff will be returning to the office January 31st.

Mr. Bigley said that City of Roseville was able to take advantage of floodwater that was made available by the Bureau of Reclamation for them to enter recharge operations.

Mr. Ewart said the City of Sacramento is working with partner agencies to look for opportunities to move surface water. The Fairbairn Water Treatment Plant is expected to come back online soon which will provide opportunities.

Mr. Roberts reported that City of West Sacramento is looking for alternative water supplies. They are expecting to begin bringing back staff to the office the second week of February.

Ms. Espindola said that she is on several committees and is encouraged by the collaborative work within our region. The work that agencies do ties into the relationship with our drinking water and disadvantaged community members.

Chair York said that Sacramento Suburban Water District was looking into taking advantage of flood control water from the Bureau of Reclamation.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bigley adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Board Secretary