

Chair Sanger called the meeting of the RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee to order at 11:00 a.m. as a teleconference meeting.

1. Roll Call

Individuals in attendance are listed below:

Committee Members in Attendance:

Anne Sanger, Chair, City of Sacramento

Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District

Noelle Mattock, City of Roseville

Sean Bigley, City of Roseville

Brian Sanders, City of Sacramento

Greg Budesen, Sacramento Suburban Water District

Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

Jeni Buckman, legal counsel

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Toni Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Evan Jacobs, California-American Water and Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency

Others in Attendance:

Kristi More, Ryan Ojakian, Eric Sapirstein, Michelle Banonis, Robert Williams, Jim Peifer and Cecilia Partridge

2. Public Comment

Chair Sanger opened the meeting for anyone who had anything that they would like to share with the Federal Affairs Committee.

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Minutes from the January 19, 2022 RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee Meetings.

A quorum was not present at the time the minutes were presented for approval. The January 19, 2022 minutes will be included on the March 16, 2022 Federal Affairs meeting agenda for approval.

4. Disclosures and Regional Coordination

Mr. Peifer said that the Sacramento Bee wrote an editorial in support of the Groundwater Bank. There have been numerous interviews in print and through the media with attention on the drought. Congresswoman Matsui sent a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation requesting continued funding assistance of the Sacramento Regional Groundwater Bank.

Mr. Bigley reported that the City of Roseville is close to finishing a grant application to the Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. The application is for a solar battery backup project that is part of their water treatment plant.

5. Confirm RWA FAC member appointments – Chair Dan York

This item will be included on the March 16, 2022 Federal Affairs meeting agenda.

6. Chair York's Vision for 2022

This item will be included on the March 16, 2022 Federal Affairs meeting agenda.

7. Federal Legislative Review – Potential action may be taken

a) FY 22 Budget Timeline & FY23 kick off

Mr. Sapirstein said that there would be additional funding for programs in the infrastructure bill. The Buy American provisions will be triggered in May.

Ms. More said that the FY23 budget preparation process will begin soon that will include budget requests.

Chair Sanger suggested RWA FY23 earmark requests to senator offices be drafted .

b) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – water provisions summary

Chair Sanger said that RWA requests and agendas should be coordinated for the Washington, DC advocacy trips. It would be beneficial to have an on the Hill Water briefing for presentation to new staff in the House and Senate.

c) WRDA Section 219 Work Group Status

Ms. More said that we are waiting for final determination on the status of submitted projects for receipt of funding from the Sacramento area account. She would like to put a directive together with language clarifying our request for environmental infrastructure and our local sponsor perspectives. She is updating materials to circulate information about our different programs,

particularly the new programs. There was not a lot of new funding included in the infrastructure package for water resources or water projects in general.

Mr. Sapirstein said that the EPA has issued guidance on the process for how states submit implementation plans for approval stating how the monies they receive can be used.

8. WIIN Act Funding for Water Bank Status

Ms. Banonis reported that the Memorandum of Agreement is working its way through the signature and Reclamation approval process.

Chair Sanger said that a letter was sent to our Regional Director requesting \$30 million for Water Bank funding.

9. Action Items

The ACWA and Cap-to-Cap Conferences will be coordinated amongst the members so both conferences are adequately covered. The ACWA DC conference has been deferred until July.

The ACWA Federal Affairs Committee meeting is scheduled for March 1st at 10:30 a.m.

A RWA Coffee Chat with Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth is scheduled for March 7th at 10:00 a.m.

A survey and evaluation of the Federal Affairs Committee is in progress.

The updated Federal Legislative Platform will be circulated.

10. Public Comment

None.

11. Next Meeting March 16, 2022.

12. Adjournment

Chair Sanger adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:
