



Regional Water Authority
Executive Committee Meeting
Final Minutes
August 24, 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

Audie Foster, California American Water
Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Ryan Ojakian, Rob Swartz, Monica Garcia, Josette Reina-Luken, Cecilia Partridge, Michelle Banonis, Raiyna Villasenor and Andrew Ramos, Legal Counsel

Others in Attendance

Paul Helliker, Brian Sanders, Jay Boatwright, John Woodling, Vanessa Nishikawa, David Fairman, Chuck Poole, Pam Tobin, Jessica Law, Darin Reintjes and Anne Sanger

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 3a. Authorize a Teleconference Meeting
- 3b. Minutes of the July 27, 2022, Executive Committee meeting
- 3c. Approve the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program Agreement

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Ewart moved, with a second by Mr. Bigley, to approve the consent calendar items, authorize a Teleconference meeting, minutes of the July 27, 2022 Executive Committee meeting and approve the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program Agreement. Audie Foster, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency and Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes. The motion passed.

4. CLOSED SESSION

4a. CLOSED SESSION – PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Government Code §§ 54954.5(e), 54957(b)(1)

Title: Executive Director

4b. CLOSED SESSION – CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Government Code §§ 54954.5(f), 54957.6

Agency designated representatives: Dan York and Tony Firenzi

Unrepresented employee: Executive Director

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

This matter was not taken up at this time. The discussion will continue at the next Executive Committee meeting.

6. COMPENSATION SURVEY

Mr. Peifer said that in order for the compensation study to progress, the study will be split up to address reclassification for staff positions and the comparison of agencies.

Chair York said there is an opportunity to split the staff and Executive Director compensation studies into two different paths to concentrate on the staff portion. He recommended utilizing 14 agencies for consideration to proceed with the staff position comparisons and conduct the Executive Director portion separately.

M/S/C Ms. Espindola moved, with a second by Mr. Ewart, to provide direction to RGS on comparable agencies for the salary survey. Audie Foster, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency and Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes. The motion passed.

7. RWA POLICY 400.4 REVISIONS – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PERFORMANCE REVIEW EVALUATION

Mr. Peifer said that setting priorities one meeting ahead of what the draft policy states would be preferred. He suggested that everything in parentheses under "Setting Priorities for the Following Year" be stricken from the policy.

M/S/C Mr. Ewart moved, with a second by Ms. Espindola, to consider Ad Hoc Committee revisions and make recommendations on revisions to Policy 400.4 to the RWA Board of Directors with the removal of all parentheses in the section "Setting Priorities for the Following Year" items 1 through 4. Audie Foster, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency and Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes. The motion passed.

8. WATER EFFICIENCY RESERVE POLICY (DRAFT RWA POLICY 500.19)

Mr. Peifer said that the draft Water Efficiency Reserve Policy 500.19 was revised to include suggestions from Golden State Water Company.

M/S/C Ms. Espindola moved, with a second by Mr. Bigley, to recommend approval of draft RWA Policy 500.19 – Water Efficiency Reserve Policy to the RWA Board of Directors via Consent Calendar. Audie Foster, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency and Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes. The motion passed.

9. MAJOR PROJECTS MANAGEMENT SERVICES SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Peifer said that the Board previously adopted this program to address the need for a coordinated effort within the region on the management of surface water and related regulations. He also provided information on the Biological Opinion Subscriptions Services agreement.

Ms. Banonis said that the program is intended to support member agencies to cooperatively participate in various regulatory and administrative processes including Voluntary Agreements, Biological Opinions, and likely Delta Conveyance. To ensure confidentiality, members of the Major Projects Management Services (MPMS) Subscription Program signed a Common Interest Agreement (CIA). Information shared for the MPMS program may not be available to members who are not a party to the CIA.

There was discussion on the benefits of working together with a common message. There is interaction at the state and federal level with sensitive topics and messages. It was discussed that the MPMS has some member challenges, but that it offers an important process to engage in statewide issues of regional importance through the support of the RWA. Mr. Peifer addressed the role of legal counsel with regards to the expenses incurred for this program.

It was suggested that additional work be done to consider restructuring the MPMS agreement into a different format to address various member needs and to allow more flexibility in program implementation.

10. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

Mr. Ojakian summarized RWA's positions on the following bills: SB 1157, would lower the indoor water use efficiency standards in existing law, currently the RWA position is oppose unless amended; SB 1205, requiring the State Water Resources Control Board to consider climate change in water rights permits, RWA has a watch position; SB 2201, which would revise the well application permit process to require sign-off by

a GSA and a well-by-well analysis, as specified by the well permit applicant, RWA has a support position; and SB 222 establishing a low-income water rate assistance program upon appropriation in legislation, RWA has an oppose unless amended position. All bill positions remain unchanged. The legislative year ends at midnight on August 31st. There is an expectation that there will be funding in the budget for watershed resilience.

Mr. Peifer explained the Executive Director's authority and the process required if a bill position is taken or changed and an emergency action was required outside of the executive committee.

- No motion was required; all RWA bill positions remain unchanged.

11. AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATES

Mr. Peifer gave a status update on the current ad hoc committees. The 3X3 committee memorandum of understanding was rescinded by the SGA and will be presented to the RWA with the same recommendation. At that time, the item can be removed from the list. The RWA Policy 400.4 Ad Hoc Committee item can be removed from the list as the revisions have been approved. The RWA Policy 200.3 Ad Hoc Committee developed a proposal that presented conflicts with the RWA Joint Powers Agreement; the committee will revisit their effort. The Executive Director Performance Review Committee will disband. The remaining committees will be moving forward with updates to be presented at future meetings.

12. RWA SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING AGENDAS

Mr. Peifer said that on the September 8, 2022 agenda, RWA Highlights has been added as a new item that will include a slide presentation showing what RWA is currently working on that is of value to members and recent accomplishments, with the intent of improved communication. Approval to revise the RWA Board meeting schedule will be on the September 8th consent calendar to add an RWA Regular Board meeting on September 29th to accommodate Chair York's schedule.

M/S/C Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Mr. Bigley, to approve the RWA September 8, 2022 and September 29, 2022 Board Meeting Agendas. Audie Foster, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency and Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes. The motion passed.

13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Peifer commented on an award-winning publication by Ms. Debbie Arrington that was prepared for the RWA Water Use Efficiency Program. A recent Sacramento Bee drought article written by Dale Kasler mentioned the water bank.

Mr. Peifer reported that Mr. Swartz has announced his retirement. Mr. Swartz has had many successes with RWA and SGA. RWA is moving forward with recruiting a replacement.

14. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Ewart commented that we should find a way to formally recognize Mr. Swartz's contributions he has made to the organization as he retires. Ms. Schmitz concurred with the recommendation.

Chair York thanked the Executive Committee members and the public for their patience during the long meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair York adjourned the meeting at 12:06 a.m.

By:



Chairperson

Attest:



Board Secretary