



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

RWA Board Meeting
Final Minutes
September 8, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Firenzi called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:00 a.m. as a teleconference and in person meeting. Individuals who participated are listed below:

RWA Board Members

Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District
Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District
Rebecca Scott, Citrus Heights Water District
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom
Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville
Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento
Sophia Scherman, Elk Grove Water District
Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District
Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company
Greg Jones, Nevada Irrigation District
Robert Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company
Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency
Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency
Dan Rich, San Juan Water District
Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

RWA Associate Members

José Ramirez, SRCSD

RWA Affiliate Members

Vanessa Nishikawa, Stantec

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Rob Swartz, Ryan Ojikian, Raiyna Villasenor, Michelle Banonis,

Josette Reina-Luken, Cecilia Partridge, Amy Talbot, Monica Garcia, and Andrew Ramos, legal counsel.

Others in Attendance:

Anne Sanger, Trevor Joseph, Brian Sanders, Jay Boatright, Ligaya Kohagura, Mike Grinstead, Michael Sanders, Paul Helliker, Michelle Carrey and Trevor Kent

Vice Chair Firenzi announced that item 5, Water Loss Regulation Update, will be reported before agenda item 6. The agenda items are reported on the minutes in the order they appeared on the amended agenda.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. AUTHORIZE A TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Ms. Scherman, to authorize a Teleconference Meeting, approve the minutes of the July 7, 2022 Board meeting, approve the revised RWA Board meeting schedule and approve RWA Policy 500.19. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento, William Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Sophia Scherman, Elk Grove Water District, Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Greg Jones, Nevada Irrigation District, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency and Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion passed.

4. RWA HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Peifer gave a presentation on RWA highlights, in particular, discussing RWA work to support the strategic plan. The item was intended to support better communication to and with the Board of Directors and to discuss how the RWA staff does their work. Mr. Peifer discussed the RWA staff's approach to advocacy, and how we achieve the policy and fiscal outcomes that the Board desires. Mr. Peifer discussed how this supports initiatives including voluntary agreements and biological opinions, the American River Basin Study, communication with the media, and building coalitions and alliances to support our interests.

5. SACRAMENTO REGIONAL WATER BANK PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Swartz gave an update on the Sacramento Regional Water Bank Program explaining how the program works as a sustainable storage and recovery program. He presented information on how our reservoir systems are changing and how to adapt to that change. Conjunctive use is a proven method to operate the basin as a reservoir. He explained the barriers to expanding conjunctive use, including operational expenses and the expenses of

infrastructure to support expansion, the updated Water Bank development timeline, and initial thoughts on Water Bank governance.

6. WATER LOSS REGULATION UPDATE

Ms. Talbot provided information on the water loss regulation and how the regulation develops system specific water loss targets for all urban water suppliers based on a State Water Board developed economic model. There will also be several additional reporting requirements. She outlined some concerns and the next steps. The second formal rulemaking process and comment period started on September 2nd. All comments are due to the State Water Board by September 19th at noon. RWA will be submitting a comment letter and participated in the development of a coalition comment letter along with ACWA, CMUA, CWA and CA NV AWWA.

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

Mr. Dugan outlined the revisions that were made to the RWA Policy 400.4 by the Ad Hoc Committee. The focus of the Ad Hoc Committee was the expectation of success for the Executive Director through a process of performance evaluation procedures.

There was discussion on the wording of the bonus policy, the Executive Director's self-evaluation and how that could be shared confidentially with the full board and how many members should be on the Evaluation Committee. After further discussion on the proposed policy revisions, it was determined that the policy be approved as written so the process can move forward this year. The policy will continue to be revisited and reviewed by the Ad Hoc Committee and any board members that have concerns. If substantive changes are needed, a revised policy will be presented to the full board for approval.

M/S/C Mr. Zlotnick moved, with a second by Mr. Greenwood, to approve the proposed revisions to RWA Policy 400.4 and for the Ad Hoc Committee to continue to review the issues for next year's Executive Director Evaluation process. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, William Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Sophia Scherman, Elk Grove Water District, Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Greg Jones, Nevada Irrigation District, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency and Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion passed.

8. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

Mr. Ojakian reported that the legislative session and all legislative action on bills was concluded. The budget contained funding for watershed climate resilience

grants, sustainable groundwater management implementation, conservation and turf replacement, and funding to the Natural Resources Agency that can support Voluntary Agreements. He provided details on some of the higher profile bills including SB 222 that would establish a state-run water rate assistance program upon funding, SB 1157 which would lower the indoor water use efficiency standards, SB 1205 which would require the Water Board to include climate change when issuing new water right permits and AB 2142 which would exempt turf rebates from state taxable income. RWA has an oppose unless amended position on SB 222 and SB 1157, a watch position on SB 1205, and a support position on AB 2142.

9. SPACE PLANNING UPDATE

Due to time constraints, this item was continued to the next RWA Board meeting.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's Report was included in the board packet with information on the release of the American River Basin Study, the reason that legal expenses are higher than expected, awards received by the RWA Water Use Efficiency program and the retirement of Rob Swartz.

11. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Ms. Lee suggested that in the interest of time future discussions on the Executive Director Evaluation Process be agenized for two different meetings.

Mr. Houdesheldt announced the City of Roseville was recognized by the California Association of Public Information Officials for their 50th anniversary of the Barton Road Water Treatment Plant.

Mr. Rich stated that comments made by Pam Tobin at the last Executive Committee meeting were not made on behalf of San Juan Water District.

Vice Chair Firenzi reported on the Mosquito Fire outside of Foresthill regarding the Placer County Water Agency's hydroelectric power system. Currently there is no threat to the hydroelectric power facilities, but generation has been disrupted due to the loss of power transmission lines from the fire.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chair Firenzi adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary / Treasurer