



**Regional Water Authority
Executive Committee Meeting
Final Minutes
September 28, 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

Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
William 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, Monica Garcia, Josette Reina-Luken, Cecilia Partridge, Michelle Banonis, Raiyna Villasenor and Andrew Ramos, Legal Counsel

Others in Attendance

Paul Helliker, Ken Miller, Cathy Lee, Anne Sanger, Patty Howard and Jay Boatwright

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ken Miller, President of San Juan Water District's Board of Directors addressed comments made by Board Member Pam Tobin at the August RWA Executive Committee meeting. San Juan Water District looks forward to working together with other agencies and RWA.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR:

3a. Authorize a Teleconference Meeting

3b. Minutes of the August 24, 2022, Executive Committee meeting

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Ewart moved, with a second by Ms. Espindola, to approve the consent calendar items, authorize a Teleconference meeting and approve minutes of the August 24, 2022 Executive Committee meeting. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of 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. 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

Chair York reported that the recommendation from the closed session to present to the RWA Board for consideration is for a 5% merit increase. In closed session the Executive Committee chose to recommend a 5% onetime discretionary bonus in the amount of \$11,196.

M/S/C Mr. Firenzi moved, with a second by Ms. Espindola, to approve the recommendation from the closed session for a 5% salary increase per the agreement and a 5% discretionary bonus. Audie Foster, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, William Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency and Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency voted yes. Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted no, as he opposed the discretionary bonus portion of the compensation adjustment. The motion passed.

6. EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION SURVEY AND RECLASSIFICATION STUDY

Mr. Peifer gave an update on the progress of the RWA Employee Compensation Survey and Reclassification Study. He said that one of the reasons for the study was to examine staff positions. RWA has increased programs, but administrative support for those programs has not increased. Recruitment and retention are important and need to be balanced with revenue. The study may show that current positions may need to be reclassified, expanded, or modified.

Patty Howard, Regional Government Services (RGS) Lead Advisor provided information and a presentation on the methodology, background, and analysis for three current positions. She made suggestions for the Finance and Administrative Services Manager I, Principal Project Manager and Project Research Assistant positions with a summary of recommendations. The next step for RGS is to complete an Employee Compensation Survey.

There was discussion on what the fiscal impact of the recommendations for the salary adjustments would be on the budget. This information will be presented after the Employee Compensation Survey is complete.

M/S/C Mr. Ewart moved, with a second by Mr. Bigley, to direct staff to present the RGS recommendation to the RWA Board for their consideration including a discussion of fiscal impacts. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of 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. The motion passed.

7. RWA POLICY 200.3 REVISIONS – PROCEDURES FOR THE SELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms. Schmitz, Ad Hoc Committee, Chair presented a proposed shortened annual election process that has been reviewed by legal counsel and is consistent with the RWA Joint Powers Agreement. The new procedures would provide more diversity in the Executive Committee. Under the proposal, the Vice Chair would become the Chair, and ballots would be sent to members to determine the Vice Chair and Executive Committee members. Nominees would be determined through a preferential nomination methodology. RWA would compile a list for Board consideration in January and the incoming Chair would select two additional Executive Committee appointees.

There was discussion on whether there should be more than two elected officials on the Executive Committee and if it would be more efficient to use this process beginning in November or try testing it first and use the process next year. If the process goes forward this year, there will need to be a Special RWA Board meeting scheduled in October to approve the revisions to Policy 200.3.

M/S/C Mr. Firenzi moved, with a second by Mr. Greenwood, to consider Ad Hoc Committee revisions and make recommendations on revisions to Policy 200.3 to the RWA Board of Directors. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of 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. The motion passed.

8. AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATES

Mr. Peifer gave a status update on the current Ad Hoc Committees. After meeting, the RWA Policy 200.2 Ad Hoc Committee is drafting comments for the Executive Director's review and input. It is expected that the revisions will be presented to the RWA Board in November. The RWA Policy 400.4 Ad Hoc Committee has some follow up work to do on their revisions. The Employee Compensation Survey Oversight Ad Hoc Committee is dormant until another task is handed down by the Executive Committee. The Space Planning Ad Hoc Committee will be engaging soon.

as the current building lease expires in August 2023. The Purchasing Committee is currently dormant. The Awards Committee will become active as the holiday season approaches. The Water Quality standing committee meetings have been well received. Lunch sponsorship for the meetings is being requested of agencies.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Peifer announced that Trevor Joseph has accepted the Manager of Technical Services position with RWA beginning October 10th.

There will be a retirement celebration for Rob Swartz on October 13, 2022.

Mr. Peifer is working with James Corless at SACOG to gather the regional Executive Directors to discuss climate change options and possible state and federal support.

Mr. Peifer attended a meeting in Southern California with Managers throughout the state to discuss adapting to climate change. The event was hosted by Western Municipal Water District.

Staff is working with partners in the region to gain support for legislative requests, especially funding to make our region more sustainable.

Mr. Peifer will be appearing before the Grand Jury in October. The topic of the request is the state of water needs in Sacramento County. He will be providing RWA and SGA perspectives on issues related to the region's interests and groundwater management.

10. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Ewart said that substitution transfers are progressing as planned, thanks to all the partners.

Mr. Greenwood stated that Carmichael Water District has concerns over their groundwater situation and are glad to be moving forward with the water bank. The agency received funds to drill two new wells.

Chair York gave an update on discussions between Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) and Carmichael Water District to potentially combine the two agencies. An analysis report will be provided to the boards to determine if they want to proceed. SSWD is also in discussions with Del Paso Manor Water District for potential consolidation.


ADJOURNMENT

Chair York adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

By: 

Chairperson

Attest:



Board Secretary