



Board of Directors and Officials  
Barbara Balen (TUD) – Secretary  
Randy Fletcher (YWA) – Director  
Jim Holmes (County of Placer) – Director  
Mike Lee (PCWA) – President  
Dan Miller (County of Nevada) – Director  
Paul Molinelli Jr. (AWA) – Director  
Brian Oneto (County of Amador) – Director  
Scott Ratterman (CCWD) – Vice-President  
Vacant – Director

Dave Breninger, retired (PCWA) – Governmental Affairs Official  
Tom Cumpston, Legal Counsel

Jim Branham – Interim Executive Director

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MAY 14, 2021

## ITEM 1

Location:

Amador Flower Farm

- ❖ Call the Meeting to Order – Mike Lee, President at 10:00 a.m.

In Attendance: Barbara Balen, Randy Fletcher, Jim Holmes, Dan Miller, Scott Ratterman,  
Mike Lee

Absent: Brian Oneto, Paul Molinelli, Jr.

Participants: Dave Breninger, Jim Branham, Rayann La France

- ❖ Introductions, Announcements, Agenda Item Changes, Public Comment

### BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Consideration to approve the April 2021 Board Minutes

Motion: Jim Holmes

Second: Dan Miller

Motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** Approved April 23, 2021 Board Minutes

2. Discussion of Process to Fill Board Vacancy

Recommendation: The election be deemed to be for the remainder of the existing term in order to keep the regular election cycle in balance. Further, given the strong participation from existing Board members, therefore making quorum issues unlikely, it is recommended that the election be delayed until after the selection process for the ED is completed.

Motion: Randy Fletcher

Second: Jim Holmes

Motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** Recommendation approved.

### 3. Review of MCWRA Financial Information

Jim Branham presented the process for dues collection. Board members discussed reaching out to member's agencies and possibly expanding membership within Tahoe area (e.g., Tahoe City PUD) and other counties such as Mono.

**Action:**

- a) Jim Holmes will discuss with Cindy Gustafson.
- b) Jim Holmes and Dan Miller will approach contacts at Mono County and others at RCRC meeting.
- c) Scott Ratterman will reach out to Joel Metzger at Utica Water and Power Authority to re-engage as a member.
- d) Ongoing efforts will continue with Nevada Irrigation District.
- e) Jim Branham will explore options with Tom Cumpston on budgeted allocated for legal services during 2021-2022 fiscal year.

### 4. Presentation of Executive Director Assessment Results and Recommendations

**Recommendation:**

- MCWRA should consider hosting a "Mountain Counties Issues Summit" later this summer (assuming in person gatherings are allowed). This could include Executive Members along with key partners and decision-makers, kind of a way to say "we're back." A focused discussion could include current conditions and potential implications relating to drought and developments and opportunities in the forest health arena.
- MCWRA should develop position papers on the key issues affecting its members and the Mountain Counties region, drawing on the substantial work done by MCWRA in the past. These position papers could be used to assist in membership solicitation, as well as education and advocacy efforts.
- MCWRA should consider sponsoring other services to members, such as training workshops on grant writing. This could be especially timely given the significant funding that is being made available at the state and federal levels.
- MCWRA should conduct outreach with key entities who are not currently members, but for whom membership would provide mutual benefit. For example, the Feather River watershed is currently badly underrepresented in MCWRA, yet is of critical importance to the State of California.
- MCWRA should aggressively explore expanding its partnership with groups such as ACWA, RCRC, CSDA, NCWA, RWA and Sierra Nevada Conservancy. There may also be opportunities for new partnerships with the Sierra Business Council, CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts and others as well.

**Action:** Recommendation approved. Additionally, Board members unanimously agreed that MCWRA should consider potential creation of a companion 501 (c) 3 non-profit entity. Three other recommendations were discussed and agreed they should be considered by the Board but acted upon by a new Executive Director in consultation with the Board.

5. Consideration of Process and Timing for Selection of Executive Director (Item 5)

Recommendation:

- A committee of the Board should be formed as the Executive Search Committee. This committee will work closely with the interim ED in reviewing recruitment materials and applications received and interviewing final candidates for the position. It is further recommended that the Board authorize the committee to identify the top three candidates for the Board to consider for the position. These candidates could be interviewed by the full Board or considered by the Board as part of a recommendation from the committee (without interviews).
- The interim ED will work with Board members to identify a member agency who will agree to oversee the advertisement, recruitment and interview process. This agency will effectively function as the personnel department for MCWRA for this process.
- Recruitment materials will be developed, reviewed and finalized by June 21, with a proposed advertisement date of the week of June 28 and a closing date of the week of July 14. Review of applications would occur over the following two weeks, with interviews to be conducted the first week of August. (All of this is dependent on the schedule working for the member agency who agrees to provide this support).
- Ideally a new ED would be on the job in early September.

**Action:**

- a) Recommendation approved.
- b) An Executive Search Committee was formed with Jim Holmes, Scott Ratterman, and Randy Fletcher appointed as members.
- c) Jim Branham will discuss Placer County Water Agency assisting with the recruitment process with General Manager Andy Fecko.

6. Board Member/Executive Director Comments

**Action:** No action taken.

Next Board meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at El Dorado Water Agency office in Placerville, CA.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.