



[Board of Directors and Officials](#)
Mike Lee (PCWA) – President
Scott Ratterman (CCWD) – Vice-President
Barbara Balen (TUD) – Secretary
Paul Molinelli, Jr., (AWA) – Treasurer
Randy Fletcher (YWA) – Director
Jim Holmes (County of Placer) – Director
Dan Miller (County of Nevada) – Director
Lori Anzini (EID) – Director
Lori Parlin (County of El Dorado) – Director

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

[Justin Caporusso – Executive Director](#)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

ITEM 1

OCTOBER 21, 2022

Location: Murphys Historic Hotel: Gold Room, 457 Main Street Murphys, CA 95247

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

In Attendance: Mike Lee, Scott Ratterman, Barbara Balen, Randy Fletcher, Lori Parlin

Absent: Jim Holmes, Dan Miller, Paul Molinelli, Jr., Lori Anzini

Participants: Justin Caporusso, Rayann La France, Tom Cumpston

❖ Introductions, Announcements, Agenda Item Changes, Public Comment

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Consideration to approve the August 5, 2022 Board Minutes

Motion: Randy Fletcher

Second: Lori Parlin

Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Approve August 5, 2022 Board Minutes.

2. Presentation: Calaveras County Water District (Michael Minkler, General Manager)

Michael Minkler, General Manager of Calaveras County Water District, provided a general overview of CCWD's ongoing and recently completed projects.

3. Water, Wildfire, and Wine Reception Debrief

Justin Caporusso, MCWRA Executive Director, provided a debrief of MCWRA's Reception, which occurred following Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Region 3's Water, Wildfire, and Wine event in Murphys, CA on Thursday, October 20, 2022. MCWRA worked with ACWA Region 3 and the Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) to host the Reception at the Historic Murphys Hotel. The Reception was free of charge to attendees. The debrief included and summary of number of registrants, collected sponsorships, and estimated expenses.

Barbara Balen offered positive feedback complimenting the synergy between ACWA and MCWRA. Public comments expressed encouragement for collaboration in the future.

4. Strategic Plan Update

Justin Caporusso provided an update on the progress and status of the Strategic Plan, which is currently under development. Staff anticipates presenting the Strategic Plan 2022-2024 to Board of Directors at the December 2, 2022 meeting.

5. California Water Curtailment Cases (Tom Cumpston, Legal Counsel)

Tom Cumpston provided a summary of water curtailment cases in California, including California's Sixth District Court of Appeals unanimously upholding a trial court's ruling that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) lacks statutory authority to curtail pre-1914 water rights due to lack of water availability during drought conditions. The memorandum prepared by Tom reviewed the case and its holding, discussed how the SWRCB might respond, and recommended strategies for MCWRA to defend its interests.

Action: Distribute memorandum to MCWRA membership for informational purposes.

6. Board of Director Proposed Election Schedule – ACTION

Justin Caporusso summarized MCWRA's Board of Directors Proposed Election Schedule for soliciting nominations to re-elect and/or replace members with expiring terms and any member changes due to General Election results. Currently, there are four board member and two local elected terms expiring for MCWRA Board Members. The proposed election schedule involves 1) coordinating with the Governance Committee for nominations, 2) soliciting Executive Membership (Chief Executives) for nominations for additional Board Members, 3) reviewing qualifications of submitted candidates and select nominees from those qualified, 4) issuing ballots to Chief Executive of each Executive Member organization, and 5) tabulating and announcing election results. Board members discussed potential nominations to maintain regional representation for MCWRA.

Motion: Randy Fletcher
Second: Barbara Balen

Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Approve proposed election schedule.

7. Membership Dues Structure Advisory Committee – ACTION

In addition to summarizing recently adopted policy dedicating 2.5 percent of total annual membership revenue to Retained Earnings, effective Fiscal Year 2022-23, Justin Caporusso reviewed the need to revisit the current structure for membership dues and suggested considering an annual escalator to support the increased costs of doing business. It was recommended to establish Membership Dues Structure Advisory Committee (Committee), comprised of three Board and/or Executive Members, with the purpose of 1) auditing and reviewing the current membership dues structure, and 2) researching and providing a recommendation on updating the membership dues formulas.

Membership Dues Structure Advisory Committee will be Barbara Balen, Randy Fletcher, and Scott Ratterman. Staff will coordinate with the Committee to schedule a meeting in November to discuss and evaluate potential changes to the dues structure.

Motion: Lori Parlin
Second: Barbara Balen

Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Establish Membership Dues Structure Advisory Committee to discuss and evaluate potential changes to the dues structure.

8. 2023 Board Meeting Calendar – ACTION

Staff proposed the adoption of an official Board Meeting Calendar in an effort to organize MCWRA Board Member commitments for the 2023 calendar year and address MCWRA business items in a timely manner. The 2023 proposed Board Meeting Calendar includes six (6) meeting dates, meeting the first Friday of every-other month (excluding holiday weekends), avoiding a July meeting date, and holiday weekends. It was suggested that, moving forward, the Board meetings commence at 9:00 AM. Justin Caporusso summarized local benefit for regularly scheduled in-person meetings, throughout the MCWRA region, with a small-scale event the evening preceding the Board meeting.

Motion: Randy Fletcher
Second: Barbara Balen

Motion passed unanimously.

Action:

- Update October 6, 2023 meeting to October 13, 2023
- Schedule all 2023 meetings to being at 9:00am
- Adopt 2023 Board Meeting Calendar
- Staff will reach out to Board members and membership to seek and schedule meeting locations and identify potential supplemental programming/events to augment the Board meetings the evening prior.

9. Legislative & Government Affairs Update

Justin Caporusso provided an update on recent legislative & government affairs including AB 1717 and CEQA/NEPA exemptions. It was also discussed that Bryant Government Affairs/Cruz Strategies (Legislative Advocacy Team) would be introduced at the next Legislative Committee. This introduction would initiate discussion to evaluate firm to potentially provide government affairs support.

Additionally, Randy Fletcher requested reaching out to California Farm Bureau for collaboration. Justin and Randy discussed connecting in early 2023 to discuss local, county, and state groups for farmers.

10. Membership Update (Rayann La France)

Rayann La France provided a summary of current status of Membership Dues for Fiscal Year 2022/2023, which included reviewing dues payments and dues payment commitments. After reviewing the list of uncollected dues, Lori Parlin requested that, due to financial hardships because of the Caldor Fire, staff not reach out to Grizzly Flats Community Services District for dues payment. Board members discussed exploring options to possibly apply for grant funding, have members grandfathered in, or waiving membership dues under exceptional circumstances.

Action: Add approval to waive membership dues for Grizzly Flats Community Services District to next Board meeting agenda.

11. Reports

- Executive Director: Justin Caporusso referenced recent speaking engagements including the UWI Conference and El Dorado Taxpayers Association (both in August 2022) and upcoming speaking opportunities such as the Placer Business Alliance DC Summit in November and UWI Spring Conference in February. Justin also talked about opportunities for Associate members to conduct webinar trainings to Executive Membership. An Associate Member Workshop Survey has been distributed and Justin will follow-up with interested partners.
- Board Members: None

Next Board meeting time and location is scheduled for December 2, 2022 at 9:00 AM and will be held via Zoom.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.