



[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

DECEMBER 2, 2022

Location: Zoom

- ❖ Call the Meeting to Order – Scott Ratterman, Vice President at 9:00 a.m.

In Attendance: Scott Ratterman, Barbara Balen, Paul Molinelli, Jr., Jim Holmes, Lori Anzini

Absent: Mike Lee, Randy Fletcher, Dan Miller, Lori Parlin

Participants: Justin Caporusso, Dave Breninger, Rayann La France, Tom Cumpston

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

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Consideration to approve the October 21, 2022 Board Minutes

Motion: Barbara Balen

Second: Paul Molinelli, Jr.

Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Approve October 21, 2022 Board Minutes.

2. Advocacy & Government Affairs Support Proposal: Bryant Government Affairs/Cruz Strategies

Justin Caporusso summarized MCWRA history with outside individuals/organizations to assist with government affairs efforts, including legislative and regulatory advocacy. He noted that MCWRA staff and the Legislative Committee have spent the past several months searching for and communicating with various legislative advocates to provide similar services. Bryant Government Affairs and Cruz Strategies submitted a proposal to MCWRA in October and subsequently, the Legislative Committee unanimously recommended advancing their proposal to the MCWRA Board of Directors for consideration and adoption. It was recommended to the Board to approve acceptance of Advocacy & Government Affairs Proposal from Bryant Government Affairs/Cruz Strategies between January and June 2023 and authorize MCWRA Executive Director to enter into a contract for professional services.

As requested by Lori Anzini, Justin Caporusso confirmed that the \$20k contract amount was within MCWRA's budget for the 2022/2023 fiscal year. Dave Breninger commented that the contract amount was comparable to past contracts for advocacy and lobbying support. Barbara Balen, Scott Ratterman, and Jim Holmes shared sentiment on moving forward with re-engaging an advocacy/lobbyist group moving forward.

Motion: Jim Holmes

Second: Lori Anzini

Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Approve/accept Bryant Government Affairs/Cruz Strategies proposal for Advocacy and Government Affairs services through June 2023.

3. 2023 Board of Director Meeting Hosts

Justin Caporusso reminded the Board that the 2023 Board Meeting Calendar was adopted during the October Board of Directors meeting and includes four in-person meetings. In an effort to maximize time during in-person meetings, and provide the most value for MCWRA Members, Justin Caporusso requested participation from Board members throughout the MCWRA region host local receptions/events the evening prior to each MCWRA Board Meeting.

Barbara Balen submitted confirmation of interest for Tuolumne Utilities District via email in November. Jim Holmes offered to host a meeting and suggested to work directly with his office to coordinate. Justin Caporusso also noted that Lori Palin had previously stated interest in hosting, possibly in April 2023. Although official locations and details were not confirmed, and one regional location still needs to be identified, there was consensus among the Board that the in-person meetings should occur within Placer, Amador, El Dorado, and Calaveras counties.

Motion: Jim Holmes

Second: Lori Anzini

Motion passed unanimously.

Action:

- Justin Caporusso to assign Board Member hosts to support on-the-ground logistics and planning efforts including:
 - Jim Holmes and staff for Placer County participation
 - Andy Fecko for Placer County Water Agency
 - Ken Payne and staff for El Dorado Water Agency

4. 2023-2025 Strategic Plan

Justin Caporusso debriefed the Board on status of the Draft Strategic Plan was circulated in advance for review and input. A planning session for updating the Plan took place for in August 2022 under a Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee that was established to assist with development of the Strategic Plan and provide direction to the facilitator and Executive Director ahead of finalization of the draft Strategic Plan. Lori Anzini and Barbara Balen commented on highlighted objectives and growing relevancy of MCWRA, and both requested updated portraits be incorporated. Tom Cumpston suggested using the term "headwaters" instead of "watershed." Dave Breninger noted that MCWRA website was not displayed on the Draft Strategic Plan and suggested it be

incorporated. Scott Ratterman suggested a post card be created as a quick hand out for meetings and events.

Motion: Jim Holmes

Second: Barbara Balen

Actions:

- Justin Caporusso to move forward with finalizing the Strategic Plan with the following changes:
 - Update Lori Anzini and Barbara Balen's portraits
 - Update "watershed" to "headwaters"
 - Incorporate website link on Strategic Plan
- Justin Caporusso to work on summary post card

5. Board Director Recruitment and Nomination Update

Justin Caporusso discussed status of recruitment process for nominating new Directors as there are five Director positions up for election. It was discussed that, upon approval from MCWRA's Executive Members, Jim Holmes and Scott Ratterman would be re-appointed, and representatives from Yuba Water Agency, Nevada County, Amador Water Agency would take over the appropriate Director seats. MCWRA is currently collecting background information and developing the ballots for the Governance Committee to review prior to distributing to the Executive Membership for votes. It is anticipated that votes would be counted and then announced in mid-January 2023.

6. Fee Structure Advisory Committee Update

Justin Caporusso is currently working with the Membership Dues Structure Advisory Committee (Committee) to review MCWRA's current and historical fee structure and evaluating potential changes to the dues structure. As a result of obtaining helpful and productive feedback from Associate members, Justin suggested exploring the option of an annual escalator for membership. He also noted that membership dues from Associate members, which are based on number of employees, have not been verified. There is not a system in place to cross-check the number of employees or company/contact information during membership renewal. Scott Ratterman voiced appreciation to the Associate members that provided input, and Barbara Balen agreed that the fee structure needs to be cleaned up. Randy Fletcher, a member of the Committee, is retiring at the end of the year and asked about remaining as a consultant of sorts to continue participating the Committee. Tom Cumpston confirmed that the Bylaws allow Board members to continue serving as committee members on a "volunteer" basis. Dave Breninger concurred that a volunteer category should be established to recognize efforts where appropriate.

7. Board Director Recognition

This agenda item was not discussed and will be added to a future agenda.

Action: Add Board Director Recognition to future Board of Directors meeting agenda.

8. Reports

- Executive Director: Justin Caporusso acknowledged Valley Water and South Tahoe PUD as new members and mentioned the status of recruitment of Nevada Irrigation District, CA Farm Bureau, and Tahoe City PUD. Recent speaking engagements included the Placer Business Alliance DC Summit in November. Upcoming speaking opportunities include the UWI Spring Conference in February and also as a moderator/potential panelist in Washington D.C. to discuss forest management. Justin Caporusso attended CA State Wildfire Task Force Regional Meeting and ACWA Fall Conference. Justin Caporusso is currently following up with the seven partners who showed interest on the Associate Member Workshop Survey.
- Governmental Affairs Official: Dave Breninger restated appreciation of Bryant Government Affairs/Cruz Strategies and support to maximize its services. Dave Breninger asl attended the CA State Wildfire Task Force Regional Meeting and mentioned that it was well attended and hope for future similar events. Dave Breninger recounted Secretary Crowfoots attendance and recommended that MCWRA keep in contact for future events and presentations. He also suggested collaborating with South Tahoe PUD for future in-person Board meeting.
- Board Members:
 - Scott Ratterman: expressed appreciation to Justin Caporusso for advocacy and exposure of MCWRA and expanding its opportunities and involvement.
 - Jim Holmes: announced and congratulated Justin Caporusso as Director-at-Large for Placer Business Alliance.
 - Barbara Balen: mentioned that a statue of missionary Junipero Serra being replaced in Sacramento with a monument dedicated to Native American tribes and also that the Tribal Water Summit is scheduled for April 2023. She expressed that it may be a good opportunity for looking at principles as they may relate to local tribes. Barbara Balen encouraged Board members to look into meetings and participation.
 - Paul Molinelli, Jr.: thanked Justin Caporusso and Board for continued work and demanding attention within MCWRA.

Next Board meeting time and location is scheduled for February 3, 2023 at 9:00 AM and will be held via Zoom.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.