



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

APRIL 14, 2023

Location: Placer County Water Agency
144 Ferguson Road; Auburn, CA 95603

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

In Attendance: Scott Ratterman, Barbara Balen, Jim Holmes, Lori Anzini, Mike Lee, Lori Parlin, Sue Hoek, Dan Blaser

Absent: Susan Peters

Participants: Justin Caporusso, Dave Breninger, Rayann La France, Tom Cumpston, Jason Bryant, Assemblymember Joe Patterson, Karl Brustad

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

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Consideration to approve the February 3, 2023 Board Minutes

Motion: Susan Hoek

Second: Lori Parlin

Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Approve February 3, 2023 Board Minutes.

2. 2023 Proposed Legislative Engagement

Jason Bryant of Bryant Government Affairs introduced his firm and philosophy and provided an overview of the legislative process and status of the over 2,400 bills that were introduced before the February 17 deadline. Jason also mentioned that there were about 1,000 “spot bills” that were introduced but won’t have details until they go through committees, appropriations, and revisions. Following the California Legislature’s bill introduction deadline in February, Bryant Government Affairs/Cruz Strategies worked to identify the introduced legislative proposals most impactful to MCWRA Members. These proposals were presented to the MCWRA Legislative

Committee, who then spent time reviewing the proposals against the MCWRA Water Policy Principles and Strategic Priorities.

Justin Caporusso described how the MCWRA Legislative Committee strategically streamlined the MCWRA's legislative engagement to maximize effectiveness and outcome. This included prioritizing the 2023 legislative into three categories: Priority 1: Engage, Priority 2: Watch, and Priority 3: Monitor. Legislative proposals that directly align with MCWRA's Water Policy Principles and Strategic Priorities fall into a Priority 1 status and require various levels of MCWRA legislative engagement. Legislative proposals that indirectly align or are adjacent to our Water Policy Principles and/or Strategic Priorities fall into a Priority 2 status. Priority 3 includes all other water related or forest management related legislative proposals worth monitoring. Justin summarized eight bills of importance and recommended the board of Directors to take Support, Oppose, or Support if Amended positions. There were also eight bills that were discussed as Priority 2: Watch bills that may potentially recommend engaging at a future date.

Motion: Mike Lee

Second: Barbara Balen

Motion passed unanimously.

Action: MCWRA Executive Director will move forward with taking recommended positions on legislative proposals as presented in staff memo including:

- Priority 1: Engage
 - Support
 - Assembly Bill 1152 (Patterson, Joe)
 - Assembly Bill 1554 (Patterson, Joe)
 - Senate Bill 470 (Alvarado-Gil)
 - Oppose
 - Assembly Bill 338 (Aguiar-Curry) – Oppose position taken 03/16 based upon 2022 position (AB 1717)
 - Assembly Bill 460 (Bauer-Kahan)
 - Assembly Bill 1337 (Wicks)
 - Senate Bill 389 (Allen)
 - Support if Amended
 - ACA 2 (Alanis) – Include language specific to fire suppression infrastructure
- Priority 2: Watch
 - Assembly Bill 62 (Mathis)
 - Assembly Bill 397 (Essayli)
 - Assembly Bill 541 (Wood)
 - Assembly Bill 805 (Arambula)
 - Assembly Bill 838 (Connolly)
 - Assembly Bill 1488 (Wallis)
 - Senate Bill 23 (Caballero)
 - Senate Bill 861 (Dahle)

3. California-United Water Conference: Silicon Valley Tour Update

The 2023 California-United Water Conference is scheduled to take place June 21-23, 2023 in Silicon Valley, and will feature a number of panels and speakers and an exciting tour of local innovative water projects. Justin Caporusso provided updates on tour location and details,

estimated expenditures, and sponsorship opportunities. The Silicon valley Tour is being planned in collaboration with Urban Water Institute (UWI), Mesa Water District (Mesa Water), and Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) and will include an evening welcome reception on Wednesday evening, a tour component and a dinner on Thursday, and a closing meeting on Friday morning. Staff mentioned that, at the time of this meeting, there were minimal registrations but four committed sponsors for the event. Dave Breninger complimented past cross threading of agencies within the MCWRA region and suggested inviting representatives from California Farm Bureau.

Actions:

1. Jason Bryant to provide contacts at California Farm Bureau.
2. MCWRA staff will resend the tour invite to the Board of Directors.
3. MCWRA Board Directors to register for the upcoming 2023 Silicon Valley Tour.
4. MCWRA Board Directors to solicit sponsorships from 2022 sponsors and identify new targets for 2023 conference.

4. Executive Member Sponsored Training Program

Justin Caporusso provided updates related to discussions with existing MCWRA members and how MCWRA is continually seeking opportunities to expand its offerings and value proposition to enhance and grow its membership. Since the last Board of Directors meeting, and after meeting with PCWA and YWA General Managers to discuss the “Executive Member Sponsorship Pilot Program,” MCWRA staff determined that the original structure would be cost prohibitive considering the current economic situation and cost of services. However, during the investigative process, other MCWRA Members expressed similar interest in the same training needs. MCWRA staff explored the possibility of providing a two-day training program to any MCWRA Executive Member sponsored agencies/districts and shifting to a corporate sponsorship and registration fee (covered by the MCWRA Executive Member) model. Justin summarized the training program being held in Placer County would cover AB 1234 training, sexual harassment training, and a water rights primer. The event would include a dinner, and opportunities for networking. Scott Ratterman commented on supporting the program and is interested in proposed modules and agenda for review. Barbara Balen suggested sharing a one-page talking points to present to general managers of potential participants.

Motion: Barbara Balen

Second: Susan Hoek

Motion passed unanimously.

Actions: MCWRA Executive Director and contracted staff to develop a two-day training program for sponsored agencies/districts to include covering AB 1234 topics (ethics, Brown Act, and governance), and a workshop to provide a primer on California water rights law.

5. Financial Update and Membership Dues Ad Hoc Committee

Justin Caporusso provided a summary MCWRA’s draft operating budget considering rising costs for accounting, insurance and advocacy fees, conference fees and expenses, and insurance premiums and the general economic situation. Justin mentioned that MCWRA staff held a preliminary budget workshop with MCWRA Treasurer, Lori Anzini, to develop a draft 2023-2024 Operating Budget, which was provided to the Board of Directors. This draft Operating Budget reflects the 2.5 percent increase in Total Annual Membership Dues approved by the MCWRA

Board of Directors in August 2022. MCWRA staff will present the proposed 2023-2024 budget to the MCWRA Board of Directors for review and adoption in June 2023. Justin discussed the need for further consideration to adjusting Membership Dues to keep pace with swiftly increasing organizational costs. MCWRA staff recommended establishing a Membership Dues Advisory Committee (Committee) of three (3) Board and/or Executive Members to 1) audit and review the current membership dues structure, and 2) research and provide a recommendation on updating the membership dues formulas. Lori Anzini, Barbara Balen, and Susan Hoek were identified for the Committee.

Motion: Mike Lee
Second: Lori Parlin

Motion passed unanimously.

Actions:

1. The MCWRA Board of Directors appointed Lori Anzini, Barbara Balen, and Susan Hoek to the Membership Dues Advisory Committee.

6. Fall Event Discussion

Justin Caporusso indicated that ACWRA Region 3 is not planning an event this fall but there may be opportunity to sponsor a MCWRA event. Lori Anzini suggested inviting Assemblyman Patterson and Senator Gill for a tour, potentially coordinating with legislative staff for planning. Barbara Balen advocated for reaching out to Wade Crowfoot's office for an education forum on how the 30x30 conservation goal (i.e., conserving 30 percent of the state's land and coastal waters by 2030) relates to local recognized and unrecognized tribes. She suggested this may be part of a field trip related to fuel reduction within cultural resources. Discussion for a potential Fall event will continue in future MCWRA Board of Directors' meetings.

7. Membership Update

Rayann La France summarized status of MCWRA members. As of the date of the meetings, two Associate members declined to renew memberships. However, one Executive, one Affiliate, and one Associate member were added to the membership roster for the 2022/2023 term. Barbara Balen suggested pursuing membership opportunities for local tribes. Justin Caporusso discussed engaging with Tahoe City PUD in March 2023 and that Nevada Irrigation District and Calaveras Public Utility District are being solicited for joining membership.

8. Reports

- Executive Director:
 - Recognition and appreciation for Blackburn Consulting hosting placer County Reception
 - Summarized Associate Member Webinars including West Yost and HDR Engineering, Inc.
 - Updates on Water Use Efficiency Standards Workgroup included meeting with SWRCB Members Dorene D'Adamo and Nichole Morgan in late-February and an upcoming meeting with SWRCB staff in mid-April
 - Meetings/Presentations/Speaking Engagements
 - UWI Spring Conference in late-February
 - Sierra Business Council in mid-February

- Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Program in early-March
- ACWA Legislative Symposium in late-March
- ACWA Conference is scheduled for mid-May
- Notes regarding 2023 in-person meeting locations:
 - June 23 – in conjunction with Silicon Valley Tour
 - August 4 – hosted by El Dorado Water Agency
 - October 13 – hosted by Amador Water Agency
- Governmental Affairs Official: 1) commented on overall transition, growth, and movement of MCWRA as an organization and provided overall compliments, and 2) asked Jason Bryant about current negotiations for changes in legislative staff and which he confirmed that heads of staff would likely stay but staff may change within agencies.
- Board Members:
 - Lori Parlin: 1) supportive of potential future rafting trip, and 2) suggested engaging with legislators on resources and watershed value including value of California water, forest, etc.
 - Susan Hoek: to attend Nevada Irrigation District's Board meeting and will discuss MCWRA membership.

Next Board meeting time and location is scheduled for June 2, 2023 via Zoom.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.