



#### Board of Directors and Officials

Scott Ratterman (CCWD) – President  
Barbara Balen (TUD) – Vice President  
Jim Holmes (County of Placer) – Secretary  
Lori Anzini (EID) – Treasurer  
Mike Lee (PCWA) – Director  
Lori Parlin (County of El Dorado) – Director  
Sue Hoek (County of Nevada) – Director  
Don Blaser (YWA) – Director  
Susan Peters (AWA) – Director

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

Justin Caporusso – Executive Director

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

## **ITEM 2**

AUGUST 4, 2023

Location: El Dorado County Water Agency  
1107 Investment Blvd., Suite 240  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

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

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

Absent: Lori Anzini

Participants: Justin Caporusso, Rayann La France, Tom Cumpston, Kyle Ericson

❖ Introductions, Announcements, Agenda Item Changes, Public Comment

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### 1. Consideration to approve the June 2, 2023 Board Minutes

Motion: Jim Holmes

Second: Lori Parlin

Motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** Approve June 2, 2024, 2023 Board Minutes.

#### 2. Membership Update

Staff provided the Board with the Membership Dues status for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 and requested that Directors identify a member target to connect with the Executive Director. There were three Executive members and two Associate members identified as potential new members. Supervisor Hoek indicated that Nevada County would be working with water districts moving forward and a meeting with Nevada Irrigation District's General Manager (Jennifer Hanson) and Division V Director (Rich Johansen) is scheduled in September. Supervisor Hoek requested an updated Membership Packet be prepared for the meeting. Justin Caporusso

mentioned that an updated Membership Packet would be sent to Calaveras Public Utility District's General Manager (Travis Small). He also mentioned that the City of Roseville will not be becoming a member, but that Tahoe City Public Utility District should be added to the list for outreach. Dave Breninger suggested that East Bay Municipal Utility District be added to the list of potential new members. Director Scott Ratterman and Justin Caporusso are scheduled to present to Union Public Utility District on August 16. An opportunity to discuss membership with Sierra Pacific Industries is open for Dave Breninger and Justin Caporusso this month.

Justin mentioned that the ad-hoc committee would be meeting to discuss rate increases and strategy. The Association's reserve includes an escalator built into dues for fallback, but an assessment for lobbying and additional operational expenses will also be discussed.

Motion: Jim Holmes

Second: Barbara Balen

Motion passed unanimously.

**Action:**

1. Directors to identify a member target(s) to introduce and connect with the Executive Director for an introductory meeting.
2. Rayann La France to send an updated Membership Packet for Nevada Irrigation District to Supervisor Hoek in advance of September meeting.
3. Rayann La France to send an updated Membership Packet for Calaveras Public Utility District to Justin Caporusso.

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

Staff provided an overview of June tour and included discussions on positive feedback, challenges, and proposed actions for future events. Positive feedback from attendees related to program content and speakers, tour stops and presentations, format of the Friday AM roundtable, and managing only one bus for transporting attendees. The smaller group of participants allowed easier logistics for transporting and announcements, plus afforded better networking opportunities. Some challenges included settling on a theme and location later than ideal and the Association's fiscal year strained budget for planning logistics. Director Balen mentioned that San Francisco Public Utilities Commission have great facilities including a powerhouse that could be considered for future events. Director Ratterman mentioned that East Bay Municipal Utility District has several projects in our backyard that could be considered in the future as well.

Directors discussed expenses and logistical challenges and if hosting an event in the Bay Area is needed or if having these annual tours in Northern and Southern California is sufficient for the mission of the partnership.

The Association is working with CA-United Water partners to select dates and send invitations out early for the June 2024 tour.

4. Legislative Update

Staff provided an update on legislative actions related to the Association. Justin Caporusso summarized that legislative proposals that directly align with the Association's Water Policy Principles and Strategic Priorities fall into a Priority 1 status and will require various levels of

MCWRA legislative engagement. Legislative proposals that indirectly align with 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. At the time of the Board meeting, Priority 1 proposals included supporting AB 1152, AB 1554, and SB 470, opposing AB 338, AB 460, AB 1337, and SB 389, and supporting ACA 2 if amended. Justin reminded the Board that all advancing legislative proposals must be passed out of the Legislature by September 14, 2023, and either signed or vetoed by the Governor within 30-days. He mentioned that the Association continues to work independently and with its coalition partners in opposition to AB 338 (Aguiar-Curry), and, at the time of the meeting, engagement opportunities remain in Appropriations, via floor debates, and then via a veto request if sent to the Governor for signature. Director Ratterman requested a summary table of legislation be included in future Board packets for review.

Justin also mentioned that the Legislative Committee has also identified California Air Resources Board's Advanced Clean Fleet Regulations, Air Quality Regulations, and Forest Management Principles as avenues for engagement on behalf of the Association.

Staff is working with The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and Placer County Water Agency on a legislative tour of the French Meadows Project with tentative dates for the joint legislative tour were identified as October 4, 2023 and October 11, 2023, but final dates are to be secured. Additionally, staff is working on targeted legislative helicopter tours of the forested watersheds within Yuba, Placer, and El Dorado Counties. These tours would be spread out based upon helicopter availability. PCWA has graciously offered use of their contracted helicopter to support these tours.

Motion: Jim Holmes

Second: Lori Parlin

Motion passed unanimously.

**Action:**

1. Approval to remove the Association's "Opposition" position on SB 389 and move forward with a "Neutral" position.
2. Justin Caporusso to create a simple table showing legislation under consideration including type, author, explanation, and suggested engagement (e.g., support, oppose, neutral).

5. Fall 2023 Event Discussion

Justin Caporusso announced that there would not be an ACWA Region 3 event this fall, but the Association is in the early stages of planning an event somewhere along the 80-corridor, likely in Placer County. Potential topics for the conference may include Water Use Efficiency Standards, forest management, tribal relations, and 30x30 California and Utilization of Nature-Based Solutions. There would also be a legislative update during the conference. Director Peters noted that "affordability" was a topic of conversation during the Silicon Valley Tour and would like to include discussion on that, if possible. Director Balen discussed inviting members from local tribes within the Mountain Counties region to support the mission and build partnerships, noting that potentially creating a membership category for tribes could be explored. Additional details on the Association's fall event are forthcoming.

## 6. MCWRA in the News

Justin Caporusso shared two publications over the past quarter that featured the Association: Irrigation Leader Magazine (May 2023) and Orange County Register (July 2023). He explained that educating target audiences on the statewide need of protecting California's headwaters has been adopted as a Key Priority for the MCWRA Board. Also mentioning that one strategy to advance this priority is to identify opportunities for media engagement on topics of interest and relevance for the Association. Board members were encouraged to review and share article(s) as appropriate.

## 7. Reports

- Executive Director:
  - The Executive Member Sponsored Training Program will be hosted by Placer County but delayed until 2024. Tom Cumpston will be working on content for the training, which will include ethics and water rights education.
  - Associate Member Webinars are currently being scheduled. Presenting members include West Yost (postponed), ESA (October), and HDR Engineering, Inc. (December). Fieldman, Rolapp & Associates presented on 08/16 and there were 17 registrations at the time of this Board meeting.
  - Meetings/Presentations/Speaking Engagements since the last Board meeting
    - Rural Alliance Inc.
    - CA-United Water Conference
    - Legislative Committee
    - AB 338 Engagement
      - Senate Labor
      - CNRA
      - Senate Appropriations Committee Consultant
  - Notes regarding 2023 in-person meeting locations:
    - October 13 (Old School House in Plymouth) – hosted by Amador Water Agency
      - Reception on October 12 at the Foundry
    - November 16 (Auburn)
      - [Fall 2023 Water Forum](#)
  - Other notes:
    - December Board meeting will be held via Zoom.
- Governmental Affairs Official
  - Dave Breninger: membership dues structure being reviewed and evaluated for changes; Grass Valley/Nevada County may be another entity to possibly reach out to as potential new member
- Board Members:
  - Scott Ratterman: talked about possibly speakers for upcoming events including Kevin Phillips to provide insight on fire preparedness (e.g., unprepared, what happened, other ideas)
  - Barbara Balen: mentioned recent announcement of PG&E closing tree-trimming program as it was determined ineffective in fire mitigation; also asked for feedback and recommendations for

- independent consultant for storage for ditches – Supervisor Hoek and Tom Cumpston to provide contact information for recommended firms
- Sue Hoek: registered for 2nd Annual Nevada County Sustainability Summit in Martis Valley on September 27

Next Board meeting time and location is scheduled for October 13, 2023 (hosted by Amador Water Agency) at Old Sutter Creek Grammar School 1870, 121 Cole St, Sutter Creek, CA 95685.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.