



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 1

FEBRUARY 2, 2024

Location: Zoom

- ❖ Call the Meeting to Order – Scott Ratterman, President at 9:07 a.m.

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

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

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

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Consideration to approve the October 13, 2023 Board Minutes

Motion: Susan Peters
Second: Mike Lee

Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Approve October 13, 2023 Board Minutes.

2. Legislative/Advocacy Update

2.1 Legislative Advocacy Days

Justin Caporusso provided an overview of potentially organizing annual Legislative Advocacy Days to deliver legislative platforms and priorities directly to decision makers in Sacramento. The format of this type of event could vary, but a Legislative Advocacy Day would provide MCWRA Members with the ability to unite at the Capitol to meet with targeted legislators and staff on issues of MCWRA priority. One option for this type of event would include a briefing, guest speaker and lunch, followed by an afternoon of pre-arranged legislative visits. Another option could be a two-day gathering, arriving Tuesday with a reception and then holding advocacy

outreach on Wednesday, which would likely require sponsorship/budget allocations. Jason Bryant discussed target legislators and regional delegation to provide outreach and education to, specifically meeting with legislators vs meeting with staff and how both meetings could be beneficial, depending upon the individual. Although MCWRA has never participated in an event like this previously, Justin stated that MCWRA Legislative Committee moved to recommend that the Board of Directors approve directing MCWRA staff/consultants to move forward with the planning and execution of a MCWRA Legislative Advocacy Day (or days) to be held Spring 2024.

Dave Breninger mentioned the added benefit would be to narrow down and focus on MCWRA principles. Lori Anzini suggested that the MCWRA Legislative Day doesn't conflict with ACWA Legislative Days, and Justin mentioned that the schedule is yet to be determined and the organization would do its best to not conflict, but the dates would be specific based on the legislative calendar. Barbara Balen mentioned past partnerships with Sierra Nevada Conservancy to script/breakouts to target groups with packets/leave behinds, etc. Justin reminded the group that last year, MCWRA participated in a "lobby day" called Sierra Day at the Capitol and plans to participate in 2024 again. Several potential dates were provided. Jim Holmes mentioned that Tuesdays are not typically good days for Supervisors to participate. Susan Peters suggested two days so that Board members could participate in at least one of the days.

Motion passed unanimously.

Action: MCWRA staff/consultants will move forward with the planning and executing a MCWRA Legislative Advocacy Day (or days) to be held Spring 2024.

2.2 Fall 2024 Legislative Tour

Justin Caporusso discussed working with Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil's (SD 4) office on co-hosting a MCWRA Legislative Tour during the Fall 2024 legislative break in September. Similar to the French Meadows Project legislative tour, the purpose is to showcase the Mountain Counties region's unique water systems and highlight our region's specific challenges and needs. Justin mentioned that location recommendations (e.g., agencies or sites to visit) ideally include a water system that illustrates unique nature of agencies represented within MCWRA and something of interest to 6-8 legislators and staff. The ideal format would be a half-day event and include group transportation from the Capitol, lunch, tour, then back in Sacramento in the evening.

MCWRA Board members and participants discussed tour recommendations and legislator invitations. Barbara Balen complimented the French Meadows tour but expressed concerns with time constraints leaving from Sacramento, which could exclude areas outside of the Highway 50 and 80 corridors. Justin mentioned that Calaveras, possibly Utica would be an option for an on-site presentation for the recovery of the flumes. Don Blaser discussed Yuba Water Agency's new operations center in Dobbins as an option to consider but it's not likely going to be completed this year. In addition, Yuba County falls outside of Senator Alvarado-Gil's District. Dave Breninger suggested working with Marie Davis from PCWA and possibly Mark Luster from SPI to speak during this event regardless of which watershed the event takes place.

3. Events/Forums/Workshops

3.1 Spring/Fall 2024 Event(s) Brainstorm

Since MCWRA has historically hosted various events for its members, occasionally partnering with other Associations or Agencies, the Board was invited to discuss and propose direction on 2024 event(s). For background, MCWRA hosted/co-hosted the 2023 California United Water Conference (Silicon Valley), a Legislative Tour of the French Meadows Project (Placer/EI Dorado Counties), a Fall 2023 Water Forum (Placer County), and various receptions, webinars, and workshops throughout 2023.

Justin Caporusso opened up the discussion and invited feedback on the Fall 2023 Water Forum. Lori Parlin enjoyed the event but noticed that a number of attendees left after lunch; a half-day event in the future to keep participants more focused should possibly be considered. Barbara Balen appreciated the networking opportunities and acknowledgement of the sponsors and suggested that maybe there were too many topics for this specific event.

Scott Ratterman mentioned a “sponsorship package” for organizations to sponsor multiple events under one dollar amount, which could spread the funds over multiple events/tours. Justin mentioned that planning out events for the year would give MCWRA the chance to offer these types of fundraising opportunities. Dave Breninger offered comments on The Ridge as a nice venue but wonders if other locations along Highway 50 are available to explore for future events. Barbara suggested Lake Natoma Inn in Folsom (which is not within the MCWRA footprint) as an option, and Lori Parlin suggested the El Dorado Water Agency’s facility when they host the plenary events. Lori Anzini and Justin will connect offline for additional suggestions to look into.

4. Ad Hoc/Working Group Update(s)

4.1 CARB Advanced Clean Fleet Regulations Working Group Update

Justin Caporusso mentioned that a working group has been established for CARB’s Advanced Clean Fleet Regulations that are in effect. The Working Group is active and recently met with CARB presenting a one-pager outlining concerns, challenges, and exemptions. The next step is to develop a secondary document that provides key examples of recent (within last 5 years) events that involve PSPS, wildfire, and weather where power was out for more than 24 hours and start to collect data on challenges of electrification of fleet. The document would also describe why the existing exemptions are problematic. Additional proposed exemptions for the regulations are also being developed. A legislative angle may lead to regulations being reopened, which would provide opportunity for outreach to legislators around unique concerns and issues. MCWRA is also working with ACWA on this topic to expand messaging.

Susan Peters updated the group that AWA’s Larry McKinney is working with local transportation commission to take a combined approach on how to proceed with regulations (e.g., charging stations) to work collaboratively to not duplicate efforts. Lori Parlin mentioned working with RCRC as recent meetings with PG&E and gathering data from CPUC on this topic.

4.2 Forest Management Ad Hoc Committee

Justin Caporusso described the activities of the Forest Management Ad Hoc Committee, led by Rich Farrington, which is currently developing Forest Management Principles to mirror MCWRA

Water Policy Principles. The Board members can expect to see the updated document before the next Board meeting in April.

4.3 Climate Bond Working Group

Justin Caporusso mentioned the desire to pull together Climate Bond Working Group to follow the Climate Bond(s) and develop proposed positions and recommendations for Legislative Committee and Board of Directors consideration. A formal nomination for Chair was not received from the Legislative Committee; however, Larry McKenney (AWA) and Tony Firenzi (PCWA) have both offered their leadership support. The Working Group would be open to full MCWRA membership (no capacity limit). Jason Bryant mentioned that the Assembly has no less than three climate bond vehicles and the Senate has at least one.

Motion: Lori Parlin

Second: Barbara Balen

Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Approve the formation of the Climate Bond Working Group

5. Strategic Plan 2023-2025 Update

5.1 2024 Advocacy Platform

Justin Caporusso mentioned that the 2024 Advocacy Platform will be developed once the landscape of legislative proposals are introduced (February 16 deadline). MCWRA Legislative Committee and Board of Directors meetings have been strategically aligned to review proposals and provide recommendations for level of engagement on legislative proposals.

5.2 Water Rights Webinar

Justin Caporusso provided an overview of the December 7, 2023 Water Rights Webinar hosted by Tom Cumpston, mentioning the that there were 73 registrants for the engaging and educational virtual webinar. The recording of the webinar has been posted to MCWRA's website for on-demand playback. Tom Cumpston discussed narrowing down topics and offering more detailed presentations in the future.

5.3 Forest Management Principles

Discussed above.

5.4 California-United Water

Justin Caporusso provided an overview of California-United Water partnership. MCWRA took on financial responsibility and contractual responsibility for 2023 Silicon Valley Tour and is still waiting for over \$5k in registration fees revenue. The planning committee worked with Urban Water Institute on taking larger role on organizational overhead and obligations, but UWI went through an administrative change that took longer than anticipated. MCWRA is not confident with holding an even in Southern California this year. Instead MCWRA is looking into a half-day event prior to the UWI conference already scheduled for August, which would be open to California-

United Water distribution list. MCWRA would potentially take on the administrative role again when the event is hosted within our region.

5.5 Water Storage and Supply

This topic will be discussed during future meetings.

6. Admin

6.1 Membership Dues Update

Rayann La France provided an update on membership dues, indicating that 95% of dues for fiscal year 2022-2023 have been collected. There has been one Executive member and two Associate members that have declined renewal; however, one new Executive member has been added to the membership. Pending and potential new memberships were also discussed. Justin Caporusso and Scott Ratterman presented to the Calaveras Public Utility District in December; this is the only agency that MCWRA is expecting to make a decision on joining within the next quarter.

Dave Breninger suggested that MCWRA invite Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA) to discuss membership. Scott Ratterman concurred, mentioning that John Coleman is scheduled to start working at CCWD (leaving EBMUD) in a couple months. Mike Lee asked about the status of Tahoe City PUD and Justin referenced meeting with them last year.

Action: Add UMRWA, Tahoe City Tahoe City Public Utility District, and North Tahoe Public Utility District to list of potential future members.

6.2 Mid-Year Budget Update

A Statement of Activity % of Total Revenue year to date was provided to the Board for review and information.

6.3 April 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Update

Justin Caporusso summarized schedule for in-person and virtual meetings for 2024. The first in-person meeting will be held on April 5, 2024 in Tuolumne County with a sponsored Reception the evening prior. Barbara Balen provided status on reception planning, potentially being held at the Columbia State Park and City Hotel, and TUD hosting the Board meeting on April 5. MCWRA is working on a sponsorship package.

Lori Parlin brought up potentially moving MCWRA Board meetings to a different Friday moving forward due to conflicting commitments.

Action: Staff will issue Doodle Poll to potentially move MCWRA Board meetings from the first Friday to the second Friday of the month beginning in June.

6.4 Bryant Government Affairs Agreement

Justin Caporusso provided information on background on MCWRA's contracts with outside individuals/organizations to assist with government affairs efforts, including legislative and regulatory advocacy. The MCWRA Legislative Committee moved to recommend that the Board

of Directors approve executing a six-month contract with Bryant Government Affairs for legislative advocacy services in late-January. The scope of the 2024 agreement was expanded to include strategy and consulting on a Legislative Advocacy Day (pending MCWRA Board approval), but the terms remain unchanged from prior agreements.

Motion: Lori Anzini
Second: Jim Holmes

Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Execute six-month contract (January – June 2024) with Bryant Government Affairs for legislative advocacy services.

7. Reports

- Executive Director:
 - Banking transition to be completed on February 6, 2024
- Governmental Affairs Official
 - Dave Breninger: Potential for establishing volunteer-basis Ambassador designation for Board members that want to continue staying involved with MCWRA
 - Justin Caporusso: 1) can be added to future agenda; 2) need to start thinking about succession
 - Tom Cumpston: Bylaws include provision for Honorary Life Membership for anyone who has rendered conspicuous service to the organization
- Board Members
 - Scott Ratterman: recall effort was not successful as of January 30, 2024

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Next Board meeting time and location is scheduled for April 5, 2023 at Tuolumne Utilities District in Sonora, CA.