



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**Regional Water Authority
Executive Committee Meeting
Final Minutes
October 28, 2009**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Roscoe called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 8:30 a.m. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

Board Members

Andy Soulé, California American Water
Joe Dion, Citrus Heights Water District
Ken Payne, City of Folsom
Bill George, El Dorado Irrigation District
Gray Allen, Placer County Water Agency
Rob Roscoe, Sacramento Suburban Water District (Vice Chair)

Staff Members

John Woodling, Executive Director
Paul Bartkiewicz, Legal Counsel
Rob Swartz
Nancy Marrier
Linda Higgins
Cecilia Partridge

Others in Attendance

Jan Goldsmith. Nicole Krotoski participated via conference phone.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Draft minutes from the Executive Committee meeting held August 26, 2009.

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Payne moved, with a second by Mr. Soulé to approve the consent calendar.

4. AUDIT REPORT FILING POLICY

Section 28 of the RWA joint powers agreement (JPA) provides for a six-month deadline for RWA's independent auditor to complete the annual audit. Because of the time required after the June 30 end of RWA's fiscal year for staff to prepare the financial statements and for the independent auditor to conduct the audit and prepare the annual audit report, and due to the bi-monthly frequency of the regular Board meetings, staff generally is unable to present the audit report to the Executive Committee for initial approval and to file the report with Members and Contracting Entities until January of the following year, which is after the December 31 deadline called for in Section 28 of the RWA JPA. This policy will extend the deadline without having to amend the RWA JPA.

M/S/C Mr. Dion moved, with a second by Mr. Allen, to recommend RWA Board approval of Audit Report Filing Policy 500.12.

5. USBR METER GRANT PROJECT

In August 2009, Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) was notified that it was successful in its application for a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Challenge Grant Program funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. RWA staff helped develop the conceptual project and grant application on behalf of SSWD and four collaborating agencies (El Dorado Irrigation District, City of Sacramento, City of West Sacramento, and Carmichael Water District). During the application, RWA was determined ineligible to apply, so SSWD acted as the lead applicant and is the signatory to the funding agreement.

The project participants have chosen to use RWA as the administrator for the grant (quarter reports, invoicing, compliance guidance, etc.), so a project agreement has been developed. The project agreement has been reviewed by the participants and RWA legal counsel. All funds for administration of the grant are being collected from the project participants, so there is no fiscal impact to RWA. A copy of the draft project agreement was included in the packet. The agreement between SSWD and USBR was not included in this packet because of its large size. Copies can be requested from RWA staff.

Mr. Woodling suggested that RWA should lobby for changes so that future federal funding opportunities should allow eligibility of joint powers agencies to avoid this type of difficult application process and allow us to take full advantage of RWA.

M/S/C Mr. Payne moved, with a second by Mr. Dion, to approve the project agreement for RWA project management of the regional meter acceleration project.

6. CALFED GRANT – SACRAMENTO REGIONAL WEATHER BASED CONTROLLER IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES PROJECT

In August 2009, RWA was notified that it was successful in its application for a \$294,184 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation, CalFed Water Use Efficiency Grant Program. RWA staff collaborated with water agency conservation staff on their top choices for funding and developed the grant application on behalf of El Dorado Irrigation District, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Orange Vale Water Company, and the City of Folsom.

RWA will administer the grant (quarterly reports, invoicing, compliance guidance, etc.), so a project agreement has been developed. All funds for administration of the grant are currently covered through the grant, so there is no fiscal impact to RWA. A copy of the draft project agreement was included in the packet.

M/S/C Mr. George moved, with a second by Mr. Allen, to approve project agreement for RWA project management of irrigation controller grant project.

7. LEGISLATION UPDATE

A lot of work has been occurring behind the scenes, including a number of meetings of the Big Five, to get agreement on a Delta and water legislation package. However, no public dissemination of any bill language has occurred since the end of the regular legislative session on September 11, 2009. Governor Schwarzenegger called a special session on water to set the stage for developing and ultimately voting on the package.

RWA and many of its members have been working individually and as a part of several coalitions to influence the legislation. The greatest concerns for the region include provisions of the bill that would undermine water rights, as well as a mandated 20% reduction in per capita water use. RWA staff has provided proposed amendments to the September 11 version of SB 68, and met with staff for Senator Steinberg to discuss the changes, but received no assurance that the issues will be addressed.

Several letters were submitted by RWA members, a coalition of upstream water rights holders, and a coalition of Sacramento area interests.

Mr. Woodling reported that he and City of Sacramento staff met with Senator Steinberg's staff, who indicated that the new packet would positively address our concerns. However, there remain a lot of concerns with the new packet. At a recent hearing Ryan Bezerra, John Woodling and Rob Roscoe testified. Ron Davis testified on behalf of ACWA and Dan Kelley on behalf of NCWA and noted some of the same concerns. Mr. Woodling has also met with Sacramento Mayor Johnson who is becoming engaged in the water legislation issues. It was noted that Ryan Bezerra has dedicated many hours to the water legislation.

There was discussion about many concerns with the water legislation, the legislative process and the direction it is headed. Mr. Woodling and Mr. Roscoe plan to attend future water meetings at the capitol.

Jan Goldsmith complimented Mr. Woodling on his participation and testimony at the hearing. Ms. Goldsmith voiced her concerns with the water legislation, their understanding of northern California's water rights and the threat to northern California water rights. Ms. Goldsmith reported that Josh Horowitz had written a piece on Proposition 218 and she suggested that the piece be circulated to RWA members.

8. NOVEMBER 12, 2009 RWA BOARD MEETING AGENDA

It was suggested that the legislation update be moved to the end of the agenda because it will probably be a lengthy discussion.

M/S/C Mr. Allen moved, with a second by Mr. George, to approve the November 12, 2009 proposed RWA Board meeting agenda.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Communications Survey – Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan is to “inform and educate members and interested parties by providing a forum for discussion of issues, outreach to stakeholders, and a clearinghouse for sharing information,” including updating the RWA website by December 31, 2009. Staff developed a survey to solicit feedback on the website, newsletters, and water list. Seventy-eight people responded to the survey, and staff is evaluating responses in developing a plan to update the website. A second survey pertaining to meetings and events will be circulated in the near future.

Integrated Regional Water Management Update – Staff are preparing for a Stakeholder Forum on November 4, 2009 to be held at Carmichael Water District from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. The planned update of the IRWM Plan will involve broader participation of stakeholder groups as proposed in a modified governance structure submitted to DWR in the Region Acceptance Process application.

Water Efficiency Program Update – The WEP Public Outreach contract with INcommunications included a research component. A 10-minute telephone survey of 600 people in the region was completed to gauge the knowledge, perceptions and attitudes about water conservation, potential actions people are willing to take to be more efficient outdoors, barriers to those actions and potential incentive programs. Staff and the Public Outreach Subcommittee will develop an outreach campaign based on the findings of from the survey.

The RWA Strategic Plan called for development of a two-year plan for the Regional Water Efficiency Program. Staff has scheduled a workshop on

December 15, 2009 at Sacramento Suburban Water District with RWA general managers and conservation staff to explore the future direction of the program.

Linda Higgins gave an update on the responses to the telephone survey interviews that were conducted. The results of the survey will be taken to the next Public Outreach Sub-Committee meeting with Christine Kohn from INCommunications for discussion and then to the November Water Efficiency Program to get additional input.

Regional Water Security Study Update – The Regional Water Security Tabletop Exercise will be held October 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Carmichael Water District. The exercise will test an existing mutual aid agreement during a simulated catastrophic event. The study is on schedule for completion by December 2009.

Holiday Social/Awards Banquet Update – The annual RWA/SGA Holiday Social and Awards Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2009. Thanks to Paul Bartkiewicz, the guest speaker is confirmed. Jim Mayer is executive director of California Forward, a nonpartisan initiative seeking fundamental reforms to state government. Mr. Mayer was previously executive director of the Little Hoover Commission. He spent more than 12 years as a newspaper journalist in Sacramento, Bakersfield, and Placer County. Mr. Mayer serves on the board of the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Nominations for the Water Statesperson of the Year and Distinguished Service Awards are due October 30, 2009. Provide nominations to Paul Selsky at 916-853-5306 or PSelsky@BrwnCald.com.

Public Presentations – RWA Executive Director Woodling has made a number of recent presentations to inform and educate residents of the region. Auburn Rotary heard a presentation on "water facts and myths" that are driving policy in the state. Cameron Park Rotary received an overview of the Delta and the ongoing development of a Delta fix. Mr. Woodling will be the keynote speaker, presenting a Delta overview, at the *State of Sacramento County* event sponsored by the county and the Metro Chamber on October 30, 2009.

Strategic Plan Update - The RWA Strategic Plan, adopted July 2009, has been finalized and printed. Executive Director Woodling will endeavor to present the plan to each member's governing board over the next several months.

The Strategic Planning Committee re-convened to discuss two issues that came out of the workshop. The committee reconsidered the RWA "unanimous consent" provisions in the joint powers agreement. A summary page of the discussion was included in the packet. No changes are proposed to the JPA at this time; however, formalizing a Legislative and Policy committee may streamline the process of developing, negotiating, and adopting policy positions.

In addition, the committee considered changes to the 20% surcharge policy for participation of non-members in subscription programs. Staff will conduct additional analysis and make a recommendation to the Executive Committee during development of the FY 2010-11 budget.

10. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Roscoe thanked Mr. Woodling for his efforts at the Capitol on the water legislation.

Mr. Dion reported that ACWA/JPIA continues to move forward with their plans to move to a new location. JPIA will continue to keep the current building along with the present tenants.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chair Roscoe adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Nancy Marrier, Board Secretary / Treasurer