

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lorance called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Carmichael Water District. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

### **RWA Board Members**

Steve Nugent, Carmichael Water District  
Joseph Dion, Citrus Heights Water District  
Dave Kane, Citrus Heights Water District  
Walt Sadler, City of Folsom  
Spencer Short, City of Lincoln  
Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville  
Dan Sherry, City of Sacramento  
Debra Sedwick, Del Paso Manor Water District  
Bill George, El Dorado Irrigation District  
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District  
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company  
Michael Schaefer, Orange Vale Water Company  
Sharon Wilcox, Orange Vale Water Company  
Gray Allen, Placer County Water Agency  
Brian Martin, Placer County Water Agency  
Ed Crouse, Rancho Murieta Community Services District  
Rob Roscoe, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Vice Chair  
Neil Schild, Sacramento Suburban Water District  
Pam Tobin, San Juan Water District

### **Staff Members**

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

**Others in Attendance:** Steve Frost, Deana Donohue, Mark Salmon, Frank Bradham, Guillermo Garcia, Jim Crowley, David Isaacson, Ed Kriz, Chuck Rose, Sandy Kozlen and Keith Wallace.

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### **3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

The minutes from the RWA Regular Board meeting held July 9, 2009.

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Ms. Tobin moved, with a second by Mr. Dion, to approve the consent calendar items.

### **4a. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Final minutes of the June 24, 2009 and draft minutes of the August 26, 2009 RWA Executive Committee meetings were included in the packet for informational purposes.

### **5. NOVEMBER RWA BOARD MEETING TIME AND LOCATION CHANGE**

El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) has graciously offered to host the November RWA Board meeting. In order to accommodate travel time to Placerville, the start time of the meeting will be moved from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m.

M/S/C Mr. Nugent moved, with a second by Ms. Tobin, to approve moving the starting time and location of the November 12, 2009 RWA Board meeting. The meeting will be held at El Dorado Irrigation District at 9:30 a.m. (to accommodate travel time to Placerville).

### **6. DELTA LEGISLATION UPDATE**

A major focus of the Legislature in the final weeks of the session has been water and Delta related legislation. A package of five bills, numbered Preprint SB1, SB2, SB3, AB1 and AB2 (corresponding to SB 12, SB 229, SB 458, AB 39, and AB 49, respectively) were released in late July. The Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee held joint hearings on August 18, 2009 and August 25, 2009 to solicit input on the bills. Governor Schwarzenegger, in a letter to the Legislature, vowed to veto the bills if they did not represent a comprehensive fix that included funding for infrastructure. RWA, as well as many members individually, commented on the legislation. A conference committee was convened on September 2, 2009 to finalize the bills.

Mr. Woodling suggested that our focus needs to be on these bills because they do not offer a solution for the water community and do not support the principles that RWA adopted. The bills are not fixable as they are and need to be rewritten. There was discussion on how the Delta legislation will affect fees and water rights. It was agreed that the RWA members need a strategy on how to act and react as a region due to the negative direction

these bills are headed. Chair Lorance suggested that as many general managers as possible attend the water meetings scheduled for the next couple of days to show a united front. It was agreed that Mr. Woodling should attend as many of these meetings as possible.

## 7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Federal Grant Funding** – RWA was notified that it was successful in its application for a \$294,184 grant from the CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant Program administered by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region. The grant will be used to offer incentives to customers to install evapotranspiration (ET) based irrigation controllers. El Dorado Irrigation District, City of Folsom, Orange Vale Water Company, and Sacramento Suburban Water District will be participating in the program. A draft funding agreement has been received from Reclamation. RWA was also successful in coordinating a grant proposal that was awarded \$5 million from Reclamation for accelerating the installation of meters in the region. Sacramento Suburban Water District served as the applicant on behalf of themselves and the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento, El Dorado Irrigation District, and Carmichael Water District.

**Grant Funding Update** – RWA recently received payments from the state for invoices submitted under several grant programs, including \$639,000 from the Proposition 50 IRWM Grant, \$411,522.50 from the Proposition 13 Conjunctive Use grant, and \$226,202.79 for toilet rebates. We were also notified that we could continue work under the Proposition 50 planning grant, and the SGA contaminant study will move forward as well. We are still waiting for a notice to proceed on the \$2 million Water Efficiency grant awarded last August.

**Strategic Plan Update** – The RWA Strategic Plan, the core of which was adopted at the July 9, 2009 Board meeting, was being finalized for printing. A final draft version was included in the packet.

**Regional Water Efficiency Program Update** – The WEP Public Outreach contract with Incommunications includes a research component. A telephone survey of area residents will be conducted this month to gauge 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. The survey will also provide benchmarking data about exposure to water efficiency messages and insight into best methods for reaching customers. Staff and the Public Outreach subcommittee provided feedback and reviewed draft survey questions. Interviewing will begin the week of September 14, 2009 and the final draft report will be available by the next RWA board meeting.

Staff has approved the site plan for the new WEP website that will incorporate a search feature, "Who is my water provider?" utilizing Google Maps.

RWA will host a California Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) Facilitator Training Workshop with the Water Education Foundation in November. The program facilitates and promotes awareness, knowledge and stewardship of water resources through the dissemination of classroom-ready teaching aids to teachers and the establishment of internationally sponsored Project WET programs. The Water Education Foundation is the California Coordinator for Project WET. Project WET is funded by grants from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, and the U.S. Geological Survey, California Water Programs.

Linda Higgins will represent the region as a Director on the California Urban Water Conservation Council. The position was formerly filled by Charlie Pike then Lisa Amaral with the City of Roseville. The Board of Directors meets quarterly for closed session discussions then updates the rest of membership during quarterly plenary meetings held throughout the State. RWA is a Group 3 non-voting member of the Board of Directors. Staff is also participating on the CUWCC's new BMP reporting database committee which will shape the two-year reporting database for all CUWCC signatories, Water Forum signatories, and Bureau contractors.

RWA partnered with the Sacramento River Cats and Raley Field to promote water efficiency and showcase Raley Field's audit to incentivize other local businesses and homeowners to evaluate their water usage. WEP participants were provided with 1,000 ticket vouchers as incentives to customers for the completion of a Water-Wise House Call. River Cats promoted the program with an E-blast, information on their website, and provided a video board slide of the Be Water Smart logo at all 72 home games. Signage promoting toilet rebates were developed and placed in all restroom stalls. The River Cats report that approximately 20% of the ticket vouchers were redeemed.

The RWA Strategic Plan called for development of a two-year plan for the Regional Water Efficiency Program. Staff will convene a workshop in the fall with RWA general managers and conservation staff to explore the future direction of the program.

**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 has developed a survey to solicit feedback on the website, newsletters, and water list. A second survey, regarding meetings, workshops, and events will follow in a month.

**Integrated Regional Water Management Update** – With the authorization to proceed on the Prop 50 planning grant, staff will be working with our consultant to scope out work with the remaining grant budget and complete these tasks by the end of the calendar year. Staff has met with a few stakeholder groups and is planning for an inaugural stakeholder forum in the fall. The initial results of the Region Acceptance Process were posted by DWR on September 1, 2009. Our American River Basin Region was recommended for approval. DWR will hold public hearings on the recommendations.

**Regional Water Security Study Update** – RWA has received its first reimbursement from the grant (\$16,152) to fund consulting support on a regional water security plan. A draft of the security plan is expected in September and a tabletop training exercise to test mutual aid agreements is being developed for October. The final plan is still on schedule for completion in December 2009.

**Holiday Social/Awards Banquet Update** – The annual RWA/SGA Holiday Social and Awards Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2009. Ideas for speakers should be forwarded to RWA staff.

**Lower American River Flow Standard** – RWA Executive Director continues to serve on the FMS Steering Committee. A special water caucus meeting was held July 14, 2009 to re-evaluate the Water Caucus commitment to preparation of the EIR for the flow standard. Purveyors support the implementation strategy proposed by Water Forum staff with minor modifications, including 1) a check in with caucuses after modeling assumptions are compiled, 2) a commitment not to move to the modeling phase without concurrence of NMFS and Reclamation on the operational changes that may be necessitated by the salmon and steelhead biological opinion, and 3) delaying issuing the Notice of Preparation until these details are clarified. RWA staff and Water Forum staff and consultants met with NMFS and Reclamation on August 14, 2009, and there was agreement of all parties that we should jointly pursue clarifying the impacts of the biological opinion.

**RWA Office Status** – ACWA JPIA has made a decision to move their offices to Roseville. RWA staff will explore various alternatives for office space over the next several months.

## 8. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. George reported that EID's new general manager, Jim Abercrombie, is now on board. Mr. Abercrombie was the former general manager of Amador County Water.

Mr. Sadler announced that the comment period on the proposed cleanup plan by Aerojet is open until October 1<sup>st</sup>. There was discussion on whether Aerojet's proposed plan contains everything necessary for an effective cleanup. Ms. Lorance suggested we try to get unanimous agreement on a plan to address the Aerojet cleanup.

Ms. Tobin suggested that since it is not always possible to reach unanimous agreement on all subjects, it may be time to reevaluate the RWA policy on unanimous agreement. Mr. Woodling said that the next step should be to see if our policies and procedures will support our future needs. Chair Lorance directed that we reconvene the Strategic Planning Committee to look at alternatives for the unanimous vote policy on external issues. Chair Lorance also suggested we look at the 20% surcharge for subscription programs and the policy for non-member participation to see if it is still the appropriate level to achieve our goals. The Strategic Planning Committee will report back to the Executive Committee in the next couple of months.

Mr. Schild commented that currently each agency has a different method of conveying a water conservation message to their customers. Mr. Schild requested that the RWA produce a consistent package where the basic format is agreed upon by all agencies, but could be modified individually without changing the basic format. This would assist in giving one credible, consistent message to educate customers on water conservation. Mr. Roscoe added that in 2010 agencies will be updating their Urban Water Management plan. This could provide the opportunity to get together with one consistent message.

Mr. Roscoe reported that the Sacramento Suburban Water District has been selling water through a groundwater substitution program to the state drought water bank. They have invoiced the state and are hopeful that funds will be forthcoming soon.

Chuck Rose announced that Cal LAFCO is putting together a planning program for 2025. They are attempting to keep informed of everything that the legislature is doing and are forming a new board within LAFCO, electing staff members who will address each of the legislative issues on a regional board.

Mr. Kozlen commented that there's a draft position out from ACWA on climate change.

## Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Lorange adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

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Nancy Marrier, Board Secretary / Treasurer