

**MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2007 OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION OF YOLO COUNTY**

1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair, David Scheuring.

Board members present: David Scheuring-Yolo County Flood Control & WCD, WRA Chair
Duane Chamberlain – Yolo County
Sue Greenwald – City of Davis
William Marble – City of Woodland
Sid England – University of CA Davis
Regina Cherovsky – Reclamation District 2035

Alternate members present: Kurt Balasek – City of Winters, WRA Treasurer
Donita Hendrix –Dunnigan Water District
Jacques DeBra – City of Davis

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

3. PUBLIC FORUM - Bill Brewster, DWR, informed that a workshop will be held on July 10, 2007 Proposition 50, Step 1, Round 2, at 9 am in the Cal EPA Building, 1001 I St. For information go to: http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/grants/irwm/integregio_general.cfm

4. CONSENT ITEMS:

- a. *April 30, 2007 Board meeting minutes.*
- b. *Financial Reports for April-May 2007*
- c. *Request for Associate Membership-Yolo Basin Foundation*

The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the consent items.

5. EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WATER PLANNING & MANAGEMENT

Professor Graham Fogg, UC Davis, Dept. of Land, Air & Water Resources - <http://climatechange.ucdavis.edu/>
The topics of Professor Fogg's presentation on global climate and its potential effects on water planning included: the potential effects of climate change on water resources in California, the new paradigm in water resources management and considerations for Yolo County. Climate change models are great on a global scale and somewhat useful on a national scale, but at the regional/state level the certainty of the model is greatly reduced. He referenced the fourth assessment report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC - <http://www.ipcc.ch/>). The IPCC was established to assess scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant for the understanding of climate change and its potential impacts.

He summarized the report's likely global effects:

- By 2050, high latitudes and some tropical areas will be 10-40% wetter
- Drought-affected areas will expand
- Higher risk of extreme precipitation events and flooding
- Reduced flow from glacial melt, upon which 1/6 of the population depends
- 100% of millions of people exposed to increased water stress

The potential climate change effects on California water resources are:

- More precipitation, less snow
- Greater winter flooding hazard

- Less available water because of timing and less capture by reservoirs
- Greater stress on groundwater, but more groundwater recharge?
- Sea level rise: impacts on Sac.- San Joaquin Bay-Delta, impacts on coastal groundwater basins

Most of the scenarios suggest that California would probably get wetter, but there are scenarios that support areas of California becoming drier, such as Southern California. Projections of warming trends by 2070-2099 indicate a substantial decrease in snow pack (in worst case scenarios) such that runoff will no longer be a reliable water source (California Climate Change Center 2006). Professor Fogg explained historical water availability results for California from UC Davis modeling (Zhu, Jenkins & Lund, 2006). Capturing any excess water for future use is the challenge. Ideal options include water storage (reservoir) or improving management of floodwaters to enhance groundwater recharge. Therefore, it is useful to have a better understanding of groundwater recharge in Yolo County through modeling. Professor Fogg described the subsurface architecture of the groundwater system. Typically the groundwater system is thought to be layered, but it is not. It is more like a network of sandy, gravelly channels that are partially interconnected in some areas and not in others. Water quality is also a concern, which is inter-related to the age and sustainability of groundwater. Nitrate contamination of local wells is already manifesting as a problem.

Key Points Summarized:

- Major decreases in California water supply likely
- High-resolution characterization and management of groundwater might substantially mitigate the problem
- Flooding will be worse, but could be used to enhance groundwater storage
- Declining groundwater quality in many areas will jeopardize subsurface storage and recovery feasibility or efficiency
- Greater Yolo County groundwater basin is tremendous resource, but inadequately understood, particularly with respect to recharge mechanisms¹
- Prudent course of action for Yolo County:
 - Plan for use of groundwater system for subsurface water storage and smarter conjunctive use
 - Develop means of capturing floodwaters for groundwater storage
 - Will require greater knowledge of the subsurface system
 - Protect groundwater quality with a long-term (~100 yr) vision

The Board further discussed local issues related to the topic.

6. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Alf Brandt, Chief of Staff, Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Commission Alf provided the WRA Board with a legislative update on water-related issues, however, he will also address issues related climate change and flooding in the administration. Voters approved \$5 million in flood bond funding and \$2 million in other water-related funding increasing legislative activity. The Delta continues to be a central focus for legislators, although legislative activity is still developing. The Delta Vision task force will be returning with recommendations to the Governor next January.

Bond priorities and budget allocations are currently being discussed relating to flood protection. A Central Valley flood protection plan (a State flood control plan) will be developed over the next several years. There are many “ready-to-go” projects that will possibly be funded later this year. Project accountability is also being discussed with such a large bond to be sure that the money is spent comprehensively and wisely. Many legislators are also encouraging Congress to move away from the project-by-project cost share to allow “crediting.” Currently, the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) funding is depleted for Federal cost sharing.

¹ Post meeting note: Yolo County groundwater basin modeling is being conducted by the YCFCWCD in coordination with the WRA and DWR. Reference document: *Yolo County Integrated Groundwater and Surface water Model: Model Development and Calibration* (WRIME – May 2006).

California is (and will be) spending far more than our cost share on Federal projects. Therefore, legislators are petitioning for Congress to require the ACOE to allow California “credit” for funding toward future projects.

The recent water bonds have also generated more support for Assemblywoman Lois Wolk’s floodplain land use bills (AB 5 and AB 162). The Governor has told the building industry association that he is going to assign a bill this year that has floodplain land use. Current discussion questions the development of housing (new and existing) particularly in the deep floodplain areas, such as Natomas. Assemblywoman Wolk hopes to receive WRA member agencies’ support of these bills. <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a08/legislation.htm>

Funding allocation and responsibility for flood protection is changing, partially because the ACOE is no longer doing the same amount of work. Who is responsible for what is still being determined on the local, State and Federal level. The ongoing discussion includes whether there a role for cities and counties in developing their own flood protection. There are so many pieces related to flood protection that there is discussion about creating one comprehensive bill, but nothing has been formulated yet. Proposition 1E is primarily flood protection. The Proposition 84 grant program provides funding for many water-related issues such as: water quality (storm water, assistance to disadvantage communities), water conservation and also includes some flood protection. (http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/sdb/prop84/index_prop84.cfm).

Assemblywoman Wolk also has a climate change and water resource bill (AB 224) that is garnering broad support from urban communities and some rural. AB 224 would require DWR to include an analysis of the potential effects of climate change as part of its statewide water resource management responsibilities. The bill is asking local agencies to acquire pertinent information from DWR, identify how (or whether) climate change is affecting local water resource planning and incorporate these changes in developing planning documents. Alf provided a local example. In the last 10 years, the community of Merced has experienced water resource changes due to global warming. Peak snowmelt has shifted 2 weeks earlier, when they are still in their flood envelope. They are working to change their flood envelope and graph with the ACOE to save some of this flood runoff.

Floodplain storage is becoming a subject of dialogue by DWR, especially in the San Joaquin Valley that does not have the developed bypasses of the Sacramento Valley. The concept is managing for uncertainty and/or planning for change, because communities may not be able to rely on historical patterns the same way we have in the past. Alf testified in Congress recently about climate change and water resources, along with a former ACOE General and a Natural Resources Defense Council representative. All three made one key point, which is that we need to move away from the project-by-project viewpoint and treat these as “systems.” For example, levees can’t be fixed in one area without addressing other parts of the system, because it is all regionally interrelated. Alf answered questions from the Board.

Groundwater quality and storage is another issue that resurfaces in legislation. An editorial on *California’s Water Future-21st Century Solutions* (L. Wolk and J. Huffman), printed in the San Francisco Chronicle, was distributed by Assemblywoman Wolk’s field representative Janamarie Salocks. The editorial discusses cleaning up groundwater contaminants and potential storage solutions.

Alf relayed a question from Assemblywoman Wolk, what are Yolo County’s priorities? She does not want a laundry list of projects and legislature will not be earmarking funding for specific projects. There will be 2007 legislation for integrated regional water management; however the guidelines will not be finalized until later this year or early next year.

7. ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2007-08 BUDGET

a. Technical Committee (TC) Budget Recommendations – Jacques DeBra reviewed the three project recommendations to be funded in the 2007-08 year for a total of \$75,000 with \$22,000 remaining in

unallocated project fund reserves. The TC is also recommending rolling over \$30,000 for two foundational actions from this fiscal year into next fiscal year.

b. Proposed WRA Budget Fiscal Year 2007-08 – The Board reviewed the draft 2007-08 budget at the April meeting without the project recommendations. The administrative budget is similar to preceding years. The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the budget as presented.

8. INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

a. Executive Summary, May 2007 – The IRWMP Executive Summary is now available. The Board accepted the Executive Summary for distribution. The Board acknowledged a professional final product and thanked all those who worked on the summary.

b. Member Agency Adoption Schedule – The IRWMP must be adopted by August 1, 2007 by the WRA Board, if a Proposition 50, Round 2 Implementation Grant application is submitted by the WRA (to gain a DWR point scoring advantage). All the member agencies will have to adopt the IRWMP prior to the July WRA Board meeting.

9. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT & INFORMATION

- a. The Executive Committee was focused on development of the Executive Summary and tracking funding.
- b. The Administrative Coordinator had nothing additional to report.

10. MEMBERS' REPORTS:

The University of CA Davis, YCFC&WCD, Yolo County, Reclamation District 2035, Dunnigan Water District and the cities of Winters, Davis and Woodland gave brief updates on their agencies' recent activities.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: WRA Board adoption of IRWMP, presentation on Winters Putah Creek Park master plan, and possible presentation by RD2035 on a floodplain expansion study.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, July 23, 2007 from 3-5 pm.** City of Winters, Community Center.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Gentile

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WRA Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator