

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2011  
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, William Marble.

Board members present: William Marble – City of Woodland, WRA Chair  
Sid England - University of CA, Davis, WRA Vice-Chair  
Cecilia Aguiar-Curry – City of Winters, Treasurer  
Matt Rexroad – Yolo County  
Regina Cherovsky – Reclamation District 2035  
Jim Mayer – Yolo County Flood Control & WCD  
Fritz Durst - Reclamation District 108  
Sue Greenwald – City of Davis  
Gary Schaad – Dunnigan Water District  
Chris Ledesma – City of West Sacramento

Alternate members present: Tim O’Halloran – Yolo County Flood Control & WCD  
Jacques De Bra – City of Davis  
Duane Chamberlain – Yolo County  
Kurt Balasek – City of Winters

Members Agencies absent: Colusa County Water District

Associate members present: Lynnel Pollock – Cache Creek Conservancy

Members of the Public & Agency Staff:

Cindy Tuttle, Yolo County  
Dirk Brazil, Yolo County  
Mark Cocke, City of Woodland  
Liz Houck, City of Woodland  
Kathryn Chandler, Reclamation District 108  
Dave Pratt  
Erik Ringelberg, BSK Associates, representing RD 999  
Max Stevenson, Yolo County Flood Control & WCD  
Stefan Lorenzato, Yolo County Flood Control & WCD  
Yvonne LeMaitre, Yolo County Landowners Assoc.  
Betsy Marchand, Yocha Dehe  
Geoff Johnson, Daily Democrat  
Chad Roberts, Yolo Audubon  
Marty Stripling, River Garden Farms

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the agenda.

**3. PUBLIC FORUM** – There were no comments from the public.

**4. CONSENT ITEMS** - The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved all consent items.

- a. Approved minutes: November 15, 2010 Board meeting
- b. Received financial reports: November-December 2010
- c. Received minutes of Executive Committee: 11/8/10
- d. Received minutes of Technical Committee: 11/4/10
- e. FY 2010-2011 Budget Amendment #1

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2011  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION OF YOLO COUNTY**

**5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- a. *Report from WRA Chair* – Chair Marble reported on the water resources team meeting he attended for the upcoming Sacramento Metro Chamber’s CAP-to-CAP trip to Washington, DC. The water resources team will be emphasizing two or three regional projects this year. The projects will be the Davis-Woodland Water Supply Project, Sacramento’s sanitation district issues and possibly a third project yet to be determined. For the first time, monthly meetings co-chaired by the water resources and flood protection teams will begin coordinating flood and water issues in the greater Sacramento area. They will discuss issues beyond the scope of the CAP-to-CAP trip. Both Bill Marble and Tim O’Halloran will be in attendance.
- b. *WRA Annual Newsletter: The Year in Review 2010* - Donna presented the 2010 newsletter, which highlighted regional projects and regional issues that the WRA focused on during the past year. Each year the newsletter is broadly mailed to elected and city officials, as well as the WRA’s normal distribution list. It is also available on the WRA’s website.

**6. UPDATE on WATER LEGISLATION & REGULATORY ISSUES**

Tim O’Halloran reported that the YCFC&WCD has applied on behalf of the WRA to DWR’s California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program (CASGEM) as the regional monitoring entity. The entire Yolo County area is covered including RD 108. Discussions with RD999 and other local reclamations districts are being held to determine their desired level of participation in the program. Currently all districts within Yolo County were included in the monitoring coverage area submitted to DWR. Tim has also been in contact with the Yolo County Farm Bureau’s Denise Sagara, who was concerned about farmers that may not be currently covered within the WRA’s designated monitoring area. Tim assured her that interested farmers could participate if they contribute financially to the Yolo County Groundwater Monitoring Program. Tim is working with Denise to determine an appropriate contribution level for farmers.

Tim reported that the new legislative session has begun. Senator Simitian’s placeholder bill on water user fees is being tracked through organizations such as NCWA. Senator Huffman is talking about new groundwater legislation. Tim also informed that DWR is writing the regulations for the 2009 water use efficiency legislation. The agricultural component may have monetary consequences depending on DWR’s interpretation of the legislation. RD108 has been very active and vocal in monitoring these consequences. A recently released report from the Delta Watermaster focused on reasonable and beneficial water use that is raising concerns for agricultural water managers. Concerns raised by the report reinforce that local water managers need to be organized and strategic to address upcoming issues.

**7. WRA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (TC) UPDATE**

- a. *Status of Yolo County IRWMP Process Update* - Jacques De Bra, TC Chair, reported there has been excellent participation in the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) update by all TC representatives. A simplified draft list of priority projects to be implemented by 2020 was distributed. Each Integrated Action lead agency provided a 2010 status update on their projects since the IRWMP was adopted in 2007. Jacques explained the draft list and requested comments from the Board. The TC is still receiving updates and will finalize the list for Board approval at a future meeting. Chair Marble noted that the list was not ranked or prioritized in any way. Projects were organized under each of the eight Integrated Actions as designated in the IRWMP. The TC is reviewing draft procedures to approach the prioritizing of projects. Cindy Tuttle summarized the procedure used by the Yolo County Transportation District that the TC is considering. She explained how the priorities were organized based on the funding criteria related to specific funding opportunities. The WRA Technical and Executive Committees will review these guideline procedures for prioritizing as they are developed.

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2011  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION OF YOLO COUNTY**

b. *Status of Westside Regional Water Management Group/Prop. 84 Funding* – The Westside submitted a \$1 million planning grant application to DWR in September 2009. Those funds would be used to develop a Westside IRWMP. Formal award notification is pending later this month. The Westside RWMG established a coordinating committee with representatives from each of the five counties as the working body for the Westside. Chad Roberts requested to be on the Westside mailing list. Chair Marble inquired when funds would be available. Jacques believes it would be 6 to 9 months after the official award announcement.

**8. PRESENTATION: *Responding to Water Policies & Regulations Impacting the Sacramento Valley***

Tim O'Halloran introduced David Guy, the Executive Director of the Northern California Water Association (NCWA). David has been instrumental in developing a regional, sustainable strategic plan to address the many issues facing water managers today and in the near future. David gave an update on the various Bay-Delta activities and planning processes underway due to recent legislation that impacts Northern California. He described how water moves through the Delta and the environmental sustainability issues affecting the Delta system. The objective is to move water through the Delta in a way that benefits fish and other aquatic species while protecting a sustainable water supply for Northern California. The declining Delta smelt population is representative of all Delta species and the declining health of the system. David likens the Bay-Delta in crisis to a tangled web with a myriad of linked elements. Recent legislation affects all water purveyors, water dischargers, and local governments in California. Stakeholders are being affected by threatening water rights and supplies; usurping local land use authority, and creating new challenges for dischargers. Active engagement and sophisticated strategies will be critical to protecting water supplies, while preserving local authorities. David emphasized the two major issues impacting water managers are flows and fees. There could be forced reductions in water flows in order to add water to the Delta and fix problems, which would in turn incur higher costs by assessing fees on diversions and certain land use to fund Delta programs.

In 2009, the Delta Reform Act (a package of Delta legislation) addressed the water infrastructure crisis by requiring the reorganization of the state's management of the Delta watershed. There are numerous State agencies involved in the implementation of the legislation. Determining Delta flow criteria is a cornerstone piece of the planning decisions for the Delta Plan and the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted the new flow criteria in a report to the legislature (but it is not a regulatory action at this time). Based on the flow criteria in the informational report, it would require 6 million acre feet of water to implement the proposal; 4 million would likely come from the Sacramento Valley. The legislature only charged the SWRCB to determine what it would take to satisfy fish in the Delta without regard for all the other needs of the Delta for California. The SWRCB is beginning its regulatory process and is starting with the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. They are doing a technical review of San Joaquin River flows and salinity objectives. The next phase will include the Sacramento River. After the SWRCB sets flow objectives, a water rights proceeding would be implemented that requires stakeholders to forgo diversions, give up stormwater or provide water in some way for Delta needs. NCWA is monitoring this process closely and has suggested to the SWRCB that there be no redirected impacts to Sacramento River. The Delta Watermaster position was created by the Delta Reform Act. This position is intended to enforce the Delta water rights. An initial report was released by the Watermaster that discussed a reasonable use doctrine. The report stated that if you are using agricultural water inefficiently and therefore wasting water, then you would lose that portion of your water rights. David summarized the Delta Stewardship Council's process to develop the Delta Plan. An interim plan was adopted in August 2010. The long-term plan is scheduled to be adopted by January 2012. It has yet to be determined whether/how the flows and fees from the SWRCB will be incorporated in the Delta Plan.

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2011  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION OF YOLO COUNTY**

David discussed a strategy for moving forward and how we can come together as a region to advance the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the Sacramento Valley by enhancing and preserving its water rights, supplies and water quality for its cities and communities. Protecting water rights is very important. There is ongoing litigation on Sacramento River water rights settlement contracts. This is basically an effort by a Federal agency and Bay area stakeholders to undermine Northern California water rights. This is one of many active legal proceedings regarding Sacramento River water rights. David talked about the overarching strategy of regional sustainability and self reliance, which is now part of the State's policy and strategy for Delta management (Water Code §85021). The NCWA Board of Directors adopted a Bay-Delta policy in 2006 with input from water managers throughout the region. David outlined the current advocacy components of the Sacramento Valley strategy to develop a solution for regional sustainability. He discussed each of these components, which are:

- Efficient Water Management (Water Management Task Force developing a technical report)
- Biological Enhancements (aquatic & terrestrial; Sacramento Valley flows, explore new flow options)
- Active Groundwater/Conjunctive Management
- Investments in Flood Protection
- Water Quality Improvements
- Storage Opportunities (Sites Reservoir project)
- Legal/Institutional Framework (fees, fiscal issues, legislative policies)
- Information Management (communications strategy, tours, traditional & social media)

David answered questions from the Board and public. (David's presentation is available on the WRA's website - [http://www.yolowra.org/meeting\\_directors.html](http://www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html)).

- 9. UPDATE from Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency (WDCWA) on WDCWA-Conaway Agreements,** Eric Mische, General Manager WDCWA, gave an update on the recent Conaway Ranch agreements with WDCWA. He gave an overview of the key objectives of the Davis-Woodland Water Supply Project (DWWSP). Negotiations with Conaway Ranch have been ongoing for the past year. The Conaway agreement was negotiated to meet project objectives related to the intake site, pipeline easements and summer water transfer using senior water rights. Eric discussed the objectives of the agreement that included acquiring: permanent senior water rights, a river intake site and arranging for screened intake construction, pipeline and associated right-of-way easements and environmental mitigation land for project construction. The negotiating parties are WDCWA, Conaway Preservation Group, Tri-City Water and Farm, Reclamation District 2035 and the Cities of Davis and Woodland. There were five separate agreements negotiated. Eric discussed the details of each of the agreements in his presentation, which are:

1. Joint Diversion and Intake Agreement with RD 2035
2. Agreement for Conveyance of Real Property and Easements with RD 2035, Tri-City and CPG
3. Water Agreement with Tri-City and CPG
4. Installment Purchase Agreement with City of Davis
5. Installment Purchase Agreement with City of Woodland

The intake facilities will be jointly operated by Conaway and WDCWA. Each party will be responsible for the operation and maintenance costs for their separate facilities. The common facilities have a cost sharing agreement: RD2035 (80% share) and agencies (20% share). RD 2035 will be funding their separate facility through grants (U.S. Bureau of Land Management and CA Dept. of Fish & Game). The cities will fund their separate facilities through rates, bonds and future grant opportunities. Some of the key aspects of the water agreement are: WDCWA buys 10,000 af/yr of senior water rights effective January 2016 with a maximum of 7,500 af available for July through September and the Agency pays \$2,600,000/year for 24 years (2016-39). After 24 years the Agency owns the water rights free and clear. All the agreements are subject to approval

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2011  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION OF YOLO COUNTY**

from the SWRCB and the Bureau of Reclamation, which could take several years. Chair Marble asked Eric to answer questions after the County's presentation. Mr. Mische's presentation is available on the WRA's website - [http://www.yolowra.org/meeting\\_directors.html](http://www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html)).

**10. UPDATE from Yolo County on Yolo County-Conaway Agreement**

Supervisor Matt Rexroad, Yolo County, distributed a copy of the agreement between Yolo County and Tri-City Water and Farm regarding Conaway Ranch that was passed by the Board (3-2 vote) on December 16, 2010 (available on WRA's website). Matt explained that there was much public concern expressed about how quickly the County came to this agreement. The County moved quickly because they saw an opportunity to resolve some of their issues regarding the property. Tri-City also wanted the County to sign-off on the agreement. It was appropriate for the County to do this prior to WDCWA adopting their Conaway Ranch agreements on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Matt expressed that this agreement does not dissolve any existing authorities of Yolo County. He reviewed the major points of the agreement and addressed some of the points of contention expressed by the public. Yolo County does not have jurisdiction over any water transfers owned by a private property owner. He argued that the water transfers under this agreement could legally take place with or without Yolo County at the table. The same concept applies to easements. Currently private property owners have the authority to sell easements, especially to a federal or state agency without County approval. Matt continued to review each section of the agreement. Matt invited Dirk Brazil, Deputy County Administrator, to add any additional comments.

Chair Marble made the point that both of these agencies vetted the adopted agreements in a public meeting and asked the audience not to re-argue issues presented at those meetings. He emphasized that the point of having this topic on the WRA agenda was to inform and educate WRA members and the public about the agreements. He opened the floor for questions and comments on both the WDCWA and Yolo County updates.

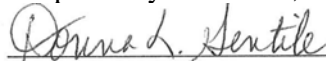
**11. MEMBERS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

This item was not discussed due to time constraints.

**12. NEXT MEETING DATE: March 7, 2011** from 3-5 pm, Woodland Community Center

**13. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna L. Gentile

Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator