

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2015
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION OF YOLO COUNTY**

1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

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

Board members present: Bill Marble - City of Woodland, Chair
Robb Davis – City of Davis
Duane Chamberlain - Yolo County
Beverly Sandeen – City of West Sacramento
Sid England – University of California Davis
Roger Cornwell – Reclamation District 108
Jim Mayer – Yolo County Flood Control & WCD

Alternate members present: Tim O'Halloran – Yolo County Flood Control & WCD, WRA Treasurer
Mike Hall – Reclamation District 2035

Associate members present: Robin Kulakow – Yolo Basin Foundation

Member agencies absent: Dunnigan Water District
City of Winters

Public & Agency Staff: David Guy - Northern California Water Association (NCWA)
John Young – Yolo County
Tim Busch – City of Woodland
Kristin Sicke – Yolo County Flood Control & WCD
Bob Schneider - Tuleyome
Betsy Marchand – Yocha DeHe Wintun Nation
Dave Pratt
Lynnel Pollock

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

3. PUBLIC FORUM: No public comments.

4. CONSENT ITEMS: The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the consent items.

- a. Approved minutes: September 14, 2015 Board meeting.
- b. Received minutes of Executive Committee (EC): 9/1, 10/5/15
- c. Received minutes of Technical Committee (TC): 9/3, 10/1/15
- d. Received financial reports: September-October 2015
- e. Approved Nominating Committee recommendations for 2016 annual Board officer elections and Board appointments

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. Report from the WRA Chair: Chair Marble acknowledged Robin Kulakow will be retiring from the Yolo Basin Foundation after serving as the Executive Director for about 25 years. She has been participating in the WRA on behalf of Yolo Bypass activities for that same time. There is a cake available to commemorate her retirement.

6. RECEIVE AUDIT REPORT: Fiscal Years Ended 6/30/15 and 6/30/14

Rick Johnston, Perry, Bunch & Johnston, CPA, gave a report on the recent audit his firm conducted. The audit has been reviewed by the Executive Committee. Rick will review the major points of the two-year audit and answer any questions. He referred to the Independent Auditor's Report on agenda

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page 35 that states their opinion of the financial statements reviewed. They issued a unqualified opinion with no major issues found or adjustments needed to the WRA's financial accounting procedures. Rick then reviewed and explained the actual fund statements and balance sheets for both years' audited. He gave an overview of the Notes to the financial statements, many of which are standard items. Overall it was a clean audit and he commended Donna on her conscientious accounting of the WRA's operations. Chair Marble thanked Rick for his audit services.

7. UPDATE ON WATER LEGISLATION & REGULATORY ISSUES

- a. Delta Update: Update was given as part of David's report below.
- b. Legislation and Regulatory Update: David Guy, Northern California Water Association, reported that the Governor issued another drought Executive Order this past Friday, reminding people that California is still experiencing drought conditions. He extended many of the provisions from last year's drought proclamations. DWR finalized the first of their regulation packages on the basin boundary adjustments that are now in effect. Regulations on what defines a sustainable water management plan were also released by DWR. David reviewed the Proposition 1 funding for counties and water entities pursuing SGMA implementation. This information is available on DWR's website.

NCWA/North State Alliance submitted comments on California Water Fix and he distributed the letter sent to the Natural Resources Agency in October. He highlighted the pending change petition process before the SWRCB from DWR and the Bureau Reclamation to change the point of diversion from the South Delta to the North Delta. Hearings should begin in April.

Federal drought bill discussions are continuing in Washington DC. Congressmen Garamendi and McClintock are part of a core group working on this legislation, so Northern California interests will be well represented in addition to Senator Feinstein.

The NRDC and others filed two motions in their lawsuit against the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors (SRSC) challenging the validity of their water rights settlement contracts executed in 2005 with the Bureau of Reclamation. He distributed the statement of the SRSC regarding the lawsuit and NRDC's misrepresentation of their actions regarding beneficial purposes. David also distributed a project brochure about the Sacramento Valley Salmon Recovery Program that details how multiple partners are working together to advance salmon projects in the Valley and lists the SRSC priority projects for 2015-16.

David reported that there is water currently in the rice fields for decomposition, which is also good news for the Pacific Flyway water fowl. This water is in large part due to the SRSC who deferred some of their contract supplies with the Bureau through December. He anticipates more flooding of rice fields this year than last year. David answered questions about the water bond and SB 88. He also distributed an editorial by Fritz Durst published in the Sacramento Bee, "*Collaboration maximized water resources in drought, 10/18/15*". All handouts will be posted on the WRA's website.

8. WRA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE UPDATE, Elisa Sabatini, Committee Chair was unable to attend today's meeting.

- a. Technical Committee (TC) Activities and Westside IRWMP Update – Tim O'Halloran summarize TC activities from the report included with the agenda. Tim would like the Board to receive the same WEAP presentation by David Purkey. He will schedule if for the January 11th meeting.

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Donna reported that all agreements for FY15-16 project funds have been executed with agencies receiving allocations. Tim gave an update on the Yolo County Subsidence Network Monitoring event schedule for spring 2016 funded by the WRA and participating partners.

- b. Project Update: Yolo Bypass Integrated Action - Robin Kulakow, Yolo Basin Foundation (YBF), thanked the WRA for their financial support of YBF's efforts since 2007. She summarized a selected list of projects and programs that the YBF participates in on behalf of the Bypass (handout posted on WRA's website). Land use activities span agriculture, flood protection, wetlands management, recreation, and education. Other planning activities include the Lower Sacramento River/Delta North Regional Flood Management Plan (RFMP) and the related Corridor Management Framework that has initiated the implementation of a local outreach strategy. She summarized some of the studies and reports being conducted in relation to the Bypass by various state and federal agencies. She discussed the habitat restoration and fish passage EIR/EIS underway by the Bureau of Reclamation and DWR. Robin has been instrumental in coordination and communication between the local, state and federal partners during her tenure at the YBF. She explained the activities of an ad hoc group that includes Yolo Bypass landowners that functions as a planning team for projects impacting the Bypass. She also reviewed a grant from CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to further ecosystem restoration in Lower Putah Creek. The YBF is also the community liaison to the Delta Conservancy Board. Betsy Marchand mentioned YBF's recent successful fundraising event that also acknowledged Robin's retirement.

9. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA), Tim O'Halloran, Yolo County Flood Control & WCD

- a. Facilitated Public Outreach Update: Tim O'Halloran acknowledged the efforts of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to finalize the contract/work order between the DWR and Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP) on behalf of the WRA to utilize the facilitation support services to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Yolo County region. The Scope of work (Work Order included in the agenda packet) has been submitted to DWR for review. Although the WRA is not a contract signatory, we are very much in control of the process. The Work Order is slated to be completed by June 30, 2016 and the ~\$55,000 budget is provided by DWR. Tim highlighted and discussed one of the critical tasks, which is *Task 3: Prepare and Ratify a County-level GSA Governance Structure*. Another important detail to be addressed is the process is defining the basin boundaries for the GSA and deciding whether adjustments are to be requested. It will also be determined who should apply for the boundary adjustments. Tim mentioned the SB 13 legislation that clarifies the overlapping areas of agencies seeking GSA status. Tim opened up the discussion to the WRA Chair and Ad Hoc Committee members for comments.

Chair Marble commented he was glad that the Yolo County Farm Bureau and the Yolo Landowners Association were both represented on the Ad Hoc Committee and that their input was received and incorporated. The final CCP agreement and work order is a product of this collaboration. Robb Davis commented that Dave Ceppos engenders confidence as a facilitator and with his knowledge of SGMA issues. Task 3 is a well-developed process and seeks proactive engagement of the all the stakeholders. Not only will governance options be explored, but this will lay the groundwork for development of the GSP. Jim Mayer commented he was also satisfied with the final work order and public engagement process. If the work plan is as well executed as presented not only will we have clarity of the governance structure, but also confidence, trust and agreement in the planning process. Robb added that Dave Ceppos is very skilled at bringing parties into agreement and helping them work toward mutual interests. CCP's

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facilitation services are more than just hanging flipcharts on the wall and have people put dots on them. They are about negotiating a mutually acceptable solution to challenging problems.

Tim proposed that the Ad Hoc Committee be transformed to a Steering Committee for the remainder of the process. The Board approved the Steering Committee transformation and that Tim O'Halloran continues as the Point of Contact for the CCP agreement and SGMA process.

- b. Other SGMA related issues: Nothing additional discussed separately from the above agenda item.

10. AQUIFER STORAGE & RECOVERY (ASR) PROJECT, Tim Busch, City of Woodland, reported that Woodland is one of two communities in California utilizing the ASR technology and the first to actually store water in our ASR wells. He gave some history on the City's water supply operations. Woodland relies on groundwater 100% and they currently have 19 wells supplying water to the community. The water is safe to drink, but the quality is declining with increasing nitrates, selenium and chromium-6 levels. Water quality regulations are becoming stricter and it is becoming harder for the wastewater treatment plant to maintain compliance with State standards, especially chromium-6. The cities of Woodland, Davis and UC Davis began developing a surface water project many years ago, which is now under construction. The City will switch to Sacramento River Water in the summer of 2016 with the completion of the surface water treatment plant project. All groundwater wells will be turned off to convert to surface water sources. Tim illustrated the ASR infrastructure with a map of Woodland's future water system. ASR Well #28 has been completed and ASR wells #29 and #30 should be completed by the end of next year. Ultimately there will be five operating ASR wells. Tim explained balancing winter and summer water supply demands and surface water rights restrictions. He discussed the reasons why the ASR project was developed and how it benefits Woodland's water supply needs. The local geology is very suitable for an ASR program. The five ASR wells will allow the ability to store approximately 5,500 acre-feet per year at buildout (~1.8 billion gallons). Tim explained how this stored water can be utilized in the summer and stored for use in times of drought. In the summer, the City and its residents use approximately 5-6 million gallons/month, so 1.8 billion gallons translates into a 3-4 month's supply if it was used exclusively.

The City and West Yost performed injection testing at Well #28 with Lawrence Livermore Labs. They used a Xenon gas tracer to differentiate between injected groundwater and native groundwater sources. The testing determined there was a 98% recovery rate of water injected into the aquifer. Tim illustrated ASR methods graphically to depict stored surface water, native groundwater and the various types of aquifer ground materials (clay, sand, soil, gravel) and their properties. He explained how groundwater moves in the aquifer at different depths. Tim discussed the many requirements for filter pack media for ASR wells, which has typically been gravel. A Germany company manufactures a better filter pack material made of glass beads that has more effective permeability. Additionally, the glass beads deter bacterial growth and maintain a cleaner water quality. Glass beads are becoming more of an industry standard and only added \$20,000 to the overall project cost for those two wells. Tim answered questions. Tim's PPT presentation can be viewed at: http://www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html.

11. MEMBERS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Future Agenda Item: Tim O'Halloran will schedule a presentation from David Purkey on Stockholm Environment Institute's WEAP model at the January Board meeting as discussed in Agenda Item # 8a.

12. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, January 11, 2016 from 3-5 pm, Woodland Community & Senior Center.

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13. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna L. Gentile
Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator

ACRONYMS and ABBREVIATIONS

DWR – California Department of Water Resources
EIR/EIS – Environmental Impact Report/Statement
GSA – Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP - Groundwater Sustainability Plan
IRWMP – Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
MOU – Memorandum of Understanding
NCWA – Northern California Water Association
NRDC – Natural Resources Defense Council
SGMA – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board
WEAP – Water Evaluation & Planning System
YCFB – Yolo County Farm Bureau