

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2016
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
Cecilia Curry - City of Winters, Vice-chair
Duane Chamberlain - Yolo County
Beverly Sandeen – City of West Sacramento
Roger Cornwell – Reclamation District 108
Robert Thomas – Reclamation District 2035

Alternate members present: Tim O’Halloran – Yolo County Flood Control & WCD, WRA Treasurer
Mike Hall – Reclamation District 2035
Mabel Salon – University of California Davis
Kurt Balasek – City of Winters

Associate members present: Heather Nichols – Yolo County Resource Conservation District
Jeanette Wrynski – Yolo County Resource Conservation District
Mark Salmon – Parsons Brinckerhoff

Member agencies absent: Dunnigan Water District
City of Davis

Public & Agency Staff: Elisa Sabatini, Yolo County, WRA Technical Committee Chair
David Guy - Northern California Water Association (NCWA)
Kristin Sicke – Yolo County Flood Control & WCD
Betsy Marchand – Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
Omar Carrillo - Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
Dawn Calciano – City of Davis
Esther Conrad – Stanford University
David Purkey – Stockholm Environment Institute
Dave Ceppos – Center for Collaborative Policy
Brent Meyer – City of Woodland
Judy Schrader
Dave Pratt
John McKean

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: November 15, 2015 Board meeting.
- b. Received minutes of Executive Committee (EC): 11/2, 12/7/15
- c. Received minutes of Technical Committee (TC): 11/5/15
- d. Received financial reports: November-December 2015
- e. Receive *The Year in Review:2015* WRA Annual Newsletter
- f. Adopted Resolution #1601: Acknowledging Sid England’s Retirement

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

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- a. Report from the WRA Chair: Chair Marble gave a special thanks to Tim O'Halloran and Elisa Sabatini for their continued work on education and implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) on behalf of our region and the WRA.

Bill commented on two items on the Consent Agenda Item. He acknowledged the WRA's Annual Report and commended Donna and the Executive Committee for their efforts to create this annual update on WRA activities. He also so acknowledged the Resolution in recognition of Sid's retirement who was a stellar member of the WRA for many years. He would have attended today if he had not already had a post retirement vacation planned!

- b. Correspondence received: Carrie Shaw, Putah Creek Council, thank you for WRA project fund allocation to support the Putah Creek Fall Clean-up project.

6. UPDATE ON WATER LEGISLATION & REGULATORY ISSUES

- a. Delta Update – Cindy Tuttle, Yolo County, informed that after 9 years she will be leaving the County this month to take the position of Director of Parks & Recreation for the City of West Sacramento. She recognized Tim O'Halloran for sharing his knowledge and time to educate her on many water and flood issues during her time with Yolo County. Cindy gave the following update on Delta projects. Work continues on the Corridor Management Framework Plan, which is a component of the Regional Flood Management Plan. Last December the Yolo County Board of Supervisors hired MBK Engineers to submit a \$1.5 million application to State's Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program to begin a feasibility study to provide 100-year flood protection for Clarksburg, Knights Landing and the town of Yolo. At tomorrow's Board meeting, they will be considering a multi-jurisdictional Memorandum of Agreement, which includes WSAFCA, SAFCA, Reclamation District 2068, Solano County Water Agency, Solano and Yolo counties. These agencies will be the Local Agency participant in the Sacramento River Flood Project General Re-evaluation Report (GRR). The Sacramento River GRR is the Army Corps of Engineer project who is also partnering with the State. WSAFCA will be the lead agency on this monumental project. Typically these agencies operate individually in this arena and it is noteworthy that this is a collaborative formal agreement with Federal and State funding. Draft report results are pending from the Rail Relocation Study that will be completed within the next 30-60 days. The Lower Elkhorn Levee Setback project is currently in negotiations with the State and should be moving forward soon.

Legislation and Regulatory Update: David Guy, Northern California Water Association (NCWA), reported that the Governor will be making some announcements about the State's California Water Plan this week that will set the stage for water issues in 2016. A host of Northern California water suppliers have filed protests against the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regarding a change petition submitted by California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Bureau of Reclamation to change the point of diversion in the North Delta. The Phase 1 hearings on water rights will begin on March 7th. NCWA has been very involved in coordinating efforts to protect Northern California water rights and supplies.

NCWA is also closely following the State Board's Water Quality Control Plan process that is connected to setting flow standards in the Bay Delta. Local water suppliers could be required to commit water to meet flow standards in the Delta. These standards are currently being met by projects in the south: the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project. David can answer questions in more detail if the Board is interested about this team effort.

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David reported that there is not too much new activity on the Federal side other than his last report on Senator Feinstein's draft water bill. The Senate and the House are still trying to find common ground on her bill. The State legislature has not yet convened, however David flagged and explained five initiatives involving water issues that could be on the November 2016 ballot.

- Proposition 218 Reform (ACWA, California League of Cities, California Association of Counties), tax structure for local agencies to adopt changes to water pricing fees or proposals
- "No Blank Checks" initiative (Dean Cortopassi), requires Legislature approval of revenue bonds in excess of \$2 million
- The "Dam-Train" initiative (Republican legislators/congressional representatives), wants to redirect some of the funds allocated for the high-speed rail project into water supply projects
- Marijuana Legalization initiative (Sean Parker & other organizations), a portion of funds would be used for enforcement with respect to the water resources used for cultivation
- New Water Bond (Jerry Meral, various Environmental Organizations), almost a \$5 million bond building on Proposition 1

David briefly touched on two groundwater-related topics that will likely be discussed under Agenda Item 8 today. The Governor's Executive Order has a provision for facilitating and encouraging groundwater recharge that provides a good opportunity for creative thinking and implementation to support water resources. SGMA and the development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) will need locals to fully engage in the process to implement the legislation and find solutions to challenges identified. David distributed several articles published in local newspapers on the Pacific Flyway habitat, Sites Reservoir, and a tribute to the late Laura King Moon. (Handouts can be accessed here: http://www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html.)

7. WRA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE UPDATE, Elisa Sabatini, Committee Chair

- a. *Technical Committee (TC) Activities and Westside IRWMP Update* – Elisa reported that the Westside-Sacramento IRWMP Coordinating Committee will be meeting on January 15 in Napa from 10 am to 12 pm (a call-in number is provided). Some of their agenda items include: reviewing RFP's to select a contractor for their EPA Brownfield watershed-wide mercury assessment grant, select Small Grant recipients of internal grant funds for local projects (\$48,000 available), and discuss participation and application preparation for the State Water Board Storm Water Grant Program to develop Regional Storm Water Management Plan.

She also reported that the Cache Creek Area Plan Annual Report will be presented to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors tomorrow. One of the report's recommendations and focus for 2016 is exploring opportunities for conjunctive use projects along Cache Creek with a major component being groundwater recharge.

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

- a. *Facilitated Public Outreach Update*: Tim O'Halloran introduced Dave Ceppos, Associate Director of the Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP), who will give an update and overview of the WRA and Yolo County Farm Bureau (YCFB)'s SGMA process over the next 6 months. Dave gave a brief background on himself and the CCP. DWR is taking a lead role in the early implementation of SGMA and has enlisted a team of facilitation support services, such as the CCP, to assist local agencies statewide in the formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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(GSA)s. The GSA will eventually be responsible for the development of a GSP for their region. SGMA is being implemented on a basin and subbasin level based on basin designations according to the CASGEM. The SGMA legislation allows local agencies to customize a GSP to their regional needs. CASGEM has identified high- and medium-priority basins through the State. SGMA regulations provide the framework to help determine how these basins should be sustainably managed as the responsibility of the region's GSA. There are many factors that were used to establish a basin's priority ranking. Dave informed that the Colusa subbasin is geographically one of the largest in California and involves multiple counties; Colusa, Glenn, and Yolo. Geographically, Yolo county is divided into three subbasins: Yolo, Solano and Colusa. SGMA implementation requires that subbasins with overlapping basin boundaries must work with their neighbors to resolve how these areas will be managed. The CCP has also been hired to work with Colusa and Glenn counties on their SGMA implementation and GSA formation public outreach process.

The WRA/YCFB's established Steering Committee (SC) has been meeting with Dave regularly to develop all SGMA related activities based on the contractual scope of work. A 90-day plan has been drafted and is being reviewed by the SC. The 90-day plan includes preliminary background research, preparation for targeted outreach, broader public outreach activities and then initial discussions regarding GSA governance options. Dave informed that public outreach is not a "one size fits all" approach. He explained some of the differences in the collaborative environment between Colusa and Yolo based on their history. Colusa County will have their first public outreach meeting tonight. Guiding principles drafted for Colusa could be adapted for Yolo. Dave envisions that after public outreach, Yolo will have "working discussion" meetings with all the entities wanting to be GSAs in regards to governance options and potential coordination agreements for managing Yolo's groundwater subbasin. Dave postulated some of the questions that will need to be asked in these discussions to agree on the formation of a GSA(s). Dave paused to answer questions from the WRA Board.

- 1) *What is the status of the three GSA applications filed for Yolo county?* Dave responded by giving some background on the purpose of SB 13's clarification of how DWR will address overlapping boundaries of entities requesting GSA status within a subbasin. SB 13 is retroactive and requires if an agency has already applied for GSA status, but has a boundary conflict with a neighboring entity then they all have to "go back to the drawing board" to resolve the conflicts before they are an acknowledged GSA. Yolo does have overlapping areas with Colusa and Solano. Therefore, as far as DWR is concerned, the status of the three GSAs in Yolo is in limbo until those agencies present agreements on how they will manage the overlap.
- 2) *Has anyone applied for a boundary modification in Yolo county?* Not as yet, but a letter of intent to modify has been drafted that will be circulated from Yolo to Solano, Colusa, Sacramento and Glenn counties to open discussions.

b. SGMA Related Activities:

Tim O'Halloran distributed a one-page handout with a summary of SGMA activities outlined (ref. below outline and www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html). Dave Ceppos covered items 1a and b. Tim continued discussion of activities beginning with item 1c through item 5. Tim encouraged everyone to sign up for SGMA news and notices at yologroundwater.org.

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1. Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Development
 - a. Center for Collaborative Policy work
 - i. Weekly check-in program management meetings scheduled for Tuesdays at 1:30 pm. Call-in number available. Special meetings will be set up with the Steering Committee as needed.
 - ii. 90-day work plan drafted. To be reviewed by Steering Committee.
 - iii. Guiding principles drafted for Colusa County, and to be adapted for Yolo.
 - iv. Reviewed and commented on adjacent counties letter.
 - b. Basin Boundary Adjustment planning
 - i. Letter to adjacent counties drafted. Being reviewed by Farm Bureau. Meetings being held with adjacent counties to encourage them to do the same, or at least not oppose Yolo's.
 - ii. Phone call to discuss concept held with LAND (North Delta) representative to discuss Basin Adjustment proposal (December 9th). Also, a discussion was held with RD999 representative regarding the proposal (December 17th).
 - c. Basin Boundary adjustment regulations being reviewed in anticipation of Submittal to state DWR. Submittals being accepted as of January 1, 2016 through March 2016.
 - d. Dave Ceppos confirmed for January WRA Board meeting presentation.
2. Local efforts and Outreach
 - a. Irrigated land program presentations to over 280 landowners throughout Yolo County. Presented information on SGMA in December meetings (Four meetings held December 15th through 17th.)
 - b. Maps showing GSA potential options being developed.
 - c. Yolo groundwater website online (public being encouraged to sign-up. 11 sign-ups and 471 hits to date)
 - d. Sacramento Valley Water Managers SGMA meeting (December 14th)
 - e. List of contacts to be developed.
3. Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
 - a. WEAP Model presentation at January WRA Board meeting (Dave Purkey confirmed).
 - b. PAP meeting (December 8th) and follow-up one-on-one with Dave Gutierrez (December 29th) to explain concerns.
 - c. Subsidence monitoring planned for spring 2016.
 - d. Stanford proposal to compare previous subsidence results with satellite imagery received.
4. Temporary SWRCB permit for high-water diversions (winter water) to enhance groundwater recharge being pursued by YCFWCWD.
5. Storm Water Grant Program being investigated.

- 9. PRESENTATION: WATER EVALUATION & PLANNING SYSTEM (WEAP),** www.weap21.org Tim O'Halloran introduced David Purkey from the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) in Davis and gave some background on the YCF&WCD's (District) history of modeling work with SEI. David gave a short synopsis of the nature of his work and how it could assist with the future development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for Yolo County. (David's PPT presentation can be accessed here: www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html.) He introduced SEI and its signature modeling tool called WEAP. Their approach is to use WEAP as a participatory decision support process. David informed that WEAP is a widely accessed modeling tool used in 170 countries for water management. The Sacramento Bee published his op-ed piece in October 2015 (<http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/soapbox/article41900592.html>) about how a collaborative approach is needed to effectively manage groundwater in the era of SGMA. The article described SEI's experience working with Yuba County to support the development of their IRWMP using the participatory process he will describe to the WRA Board today.

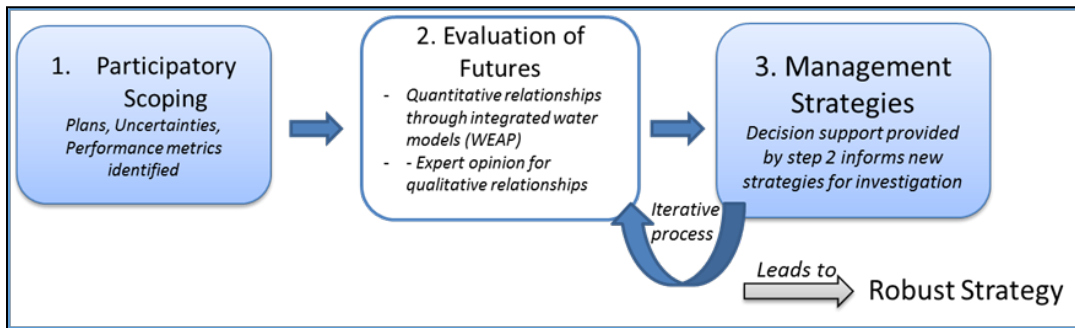
David reviewed two projects conducted in Yolo County to date. One led by UC Davis in 2011-12 that looked at Yolo County scale mitigation and adaptation options. For that study, SEI did the water resources portion and collaborated with the District to investigate Cache Creek. As a result of that successful collaboration, SEI was awarded a NASA ROSES grant in 2014-15 for remote sensing

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applications of the WEAP program to understand the implication of changing climate on ag water balance with the District. Last year, SEI applied for a USDA grant for continued involvement with the District that will also support SGMA implementation related efforts in Yolo. SEI was put on the “to fund” list for this grant. Funding is pending federal appropriations.

David discussed the modeling tools developed for the District to observe their Cache Creek system. The model’s purpose was primarily to investigate the system’s vulnerabilities to climate change and what actions are available to the District to adapt to climate change and maintain its level of service for their customers. Most water resources modeling tools assume that the historical hydrological patterns will repeat themselves in the future, but WEAP uses climate-driven hydrology. David explained all the factors that this alternate methodology uses to integrate land use and changes in climate and irrigation technology for the model’s simulation. The model not only integrates crop water requirements for the District service area, but for 17+ crops elsewhere in the county. Available historical data was referenced to calibrate the WEAP model.

Another component of this process is the decision making framework that groups and individuals use to evaluate the model’s information under conditions of deep uncertainty. David explained the three steps of a Robust Decision Support (RDS) framework resulting in an end strategy.



The RDS practice utilizes a problem formulation “XLRM” framework that leads to an end strategy.

X (exogenous factors/ uncertainties)	L (levers/management strategies)
Climate	1: BAU (Current management)
Landuse	2,3,4: District pumping with 2, 10, and 20 pumps respectively
New regulations (SGMA)	5: Winter recharge
	6: Periphery ponds
	7: Combined
R (relationships/model)	M (performance measures/metrics)
Cache Creek model (in WEAP)	Water supply reliability
	Financial viability
	Groundwater sustainability

These components break down the conversation into the uncertain factors outside of the water managers’ control. David explained the XLRM factors in detail for the District’s Cache Creek model. He summarized the key messages and strategies that resulted from this approach for the District’s system and the potential actions the District could employ for the scenarios investigated. The WEAP model and RDS framework tools could also benefit Yolo County’s SGMA implementation process. The benefits of using this approach to negotiate GSP development are:

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- A formal participatory process
- Inclusive across multiple stakeholders and objectives
- Defines specific standards of 'sustainability'
- Embeds deliberations within quantitative analysis
- Facilitates explicit handling of uncertainty
- Knowledge co-creation facilitates negotiations

David answered questions. *Does DWR support using WEAP in conjunction with the GSP process?* The last two California Water Plan updates were developed based on analysis carried out using a WEAP model specifically constructed for DWR by SEI. David explained the differences between using WEAP and other groundwater modeling systems. For example, WEAP takes into consideration surface water management factors, whereas traditional modeling software does not. There is a benefit to looking at the groundwater aquifer in context with other larger water management systems in the region, such as the Woodland-Davis Water Supply Project and Woodland's ASR Program.

Can we get a list of SEI's California clients? Yes, David can compile a list for distribution. *Would SEI work independently or in tandem with the SGMA facilitated process?* David explained how Yuba County's IRWMP utilized grant funds for the WEAP model. Tim O'Halloran explained that SEI wouldn't work with Yolo on their GSA facilitated process, but more likely in the development of the GSP after a GSA is formed.

10. MEMBERS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Cecilia Curry acknowledged that Bill Marble will be moving on later this summer and expressed thanks for all of his efforts during his tenure with the WRA and that he will be greatly missed.

11. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, March 14, 2016 from 3-5 pm, Woodland Community & Senior Center.

12. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna L. Gentile

Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator

ACRONYMS and ABBREVIATIONS

ACWA – Association of California Water Agencies
CASGEM – California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
IRWMP – Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
RFP – Request for Proposals
SAFCA – Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board
WSAFCA – West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency