

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2017  
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, Beverly Sandeen

Board members present: Beverly Sandeen – City of West Sacramento, Chair  
Duane Chamberlain - Yolo County  
Roger Cornwell – Reclamation District 108, Vice-chair  
Tom Barth - Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District  
Cynthia Peterson- Dunnigan Water District  
Camille Kirk – University of California Davis

Alternate members present: Tim O'Halloran – Yolo County Flood Control & WCD, WRA Treasurer  
Donita Hendrix - Dunnigan Water District

Associate members present: Ken Loy – West Yost Associates

Member agencies absent: City of Davis  
City of Winters  
City of Woodland  
Reclamation District 2035

Public & Agency Staff: Todd Manley - Northern California Water Association (NCWA)  
Esther Conrad – Stanford University  
Jesse Crews – Stanford University/ Weiss Associates  
Max Stevenson - Yolo County Flood Control & WCD  
Elisa Sabatini – Yolo County, WRA Technical Comm. Chair  
Frank Sieferman  
Les Cantor, River Garden Farms  
Saira Delgado – Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry  
Richard Reed - Yolo County Supervisor Provenza  
Dana Carey – Yolo County OES  
Brenna Howell – City of West Sacramento OES  
Kyle Noderer – State of California OES

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

**3. PUBLIC FORUM:** No comments from the public.

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

- a. Approved minutes: January 9, 2017 Board meeting
- b. Received FY2016-17 financial reports: January-February 2017
- c. Received minutes of Executive Committee: 12/19/16, 1/12, 2/9/17
- d. Received minutes of Technical Committee: 11/3/16, 1/19, 2/2/17

**5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- a. Report from the WRA Chair: Chair Sandeen did not have a report.

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

- a. Legislation, Regulatory and Delta Updates: Todd Manley, Northern California Water Association (NCWA), provided the following updates.

State Legislation: New legislation introduced that NCWA is supporting:

- AB 832 (Aguiar-Curry/Bigelow) – tax credit for winter-flooded rice

- AB 1133 (Dahle) – allows take protections for experimental fish populations introduced
- SB 58 (McGuire) – requires Fish & Wildlife Service make payments in lieu of taxes to counties for habitat lands and for assessments levied on property from irrigation, drainage or reclamation districts
- SB 372 (Canella) – creates the formation of the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Groundwater Sustainability Agency to address SGMA
- AB 472 (Frazier) – incentive program for cover crops on fallowed ground, amendments

NCWA has concerns about:

- SB 252 (Dodd) – groundwater well permits, concerns because it is adding to County groundwater responsibilities during SGMA implementation; doesn't recognize role of conjunctive management; could impact overlying groundwater rights; a meeting is scheduled with Dodd's office to discuss
- AB 313 (Gray) – shifts water rights and SGMA administration from SWRCB to DWR, many moving parts to this bill that NCWA is monitoring

Todd mentioned a new bill that he had little information about, AB 707 (Aguiar-Curry) – Blue Ribbon Committee for the Rehabilitation of Clear Lake; Assembly Member Curry's representative, Saira Delgado, was in attendance and was able to provide more information. Tim O'Halloran mentioned it is more of a water quality bill.

Flood Protection: Todd distributed a testimonial from NCWA regarding flood protection in the Sacramento Valley given the recent events at Oroville Dam that emphasizes that California's first priority is public safety ([http://www.norcalwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2017\\_02\\_28\\_floodtestimony.feb17.pdf](http://www.norcalwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2017_02_28_floodtestimony.feb17.pdf)). Todd summarized the concerns about the impacts of water supplies on the system as a whole and infrastructure needs.

Sites Reservoir: The application process opened on March 14 for Proposition 1 funding; \$2.7 billion to pay for public benefits associated with storage projects. Applications are due August 14, 2017. The Sites JPA is preparing to submit their application. Representatives LaMalfa and Garamendi re-introduced HR 1269 that accelerates federal review of the Sites project and authorizes federal participation. Hearings are pending.

**7. WATER CONDITIONS UPDATE,** Tim O'Halloran, YCFC&WCD, gave an update on the water conditions of the Cache Creek system in Clear Lake and Indian Valley Reservoir. Tim illustrated the historical and current surface water storage and groundwater well levels in several graphs and tables. His PPT presentation is available for viewing at: [http://www.yolowra.org/meeting\\_directors.html](http://www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html).

## **8. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA)**

*a. SGMA Implementation Activities:* Tim O'Halloran reminded that the Yolo's SGMA Working Group and its subcommittees have been consistently meeting over the past few months to further discuss and develop the structure for the formation of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). All the eligible GSA entities have been engaged in the process and are providing their input. Lawyers have been engaged to assist with the formal drafting of a JPA agreement that is being reviewed by the GSA Working Group. The Working Group developed a draft white paper entitled, "Critical Elements of the Proposed Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Authority" (will post on [www.yologroundwater.org](http://www.yologroundwater.org)). Tim reviewed the document's three recommendations of the GSA Working Group: recommendation to form a new JPA to serve as the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Authority (YGA) with proposed boundaries identified; the YGA governance structure and voting will use an equal partners approach, one voting board seat per signatory (both JPA and MOU); and adopt a fee structure to provide a budget for administration and program development costs for the first two years of the YGA. Affiliated parties that are not eligible entities under the strict

definition of the California Water Code but do have a water supply, water management or land use authority, are invited to sign MOUs with the JPA and have a voting board seat. The WRA Board will review how the WRA will interface with the new YGA agency at their June meeting or a special meeting may be convened if necessary before June.

**9. WRA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE UPDATE, Elisa Sabatini, Committee Chair**

- a. Technical Committee (TC) Activities and Westside IRWMP Update: Elisa reported on the kick-off meeting held in early March for the Prop. 1 Storm Water Resource Plan grant. YCFC&WCD is the contracting agency with the State Water Resources Control Board to develop a storm water resource plan that we currently do not have for our region. We must have a plan to be eligible for implementation funding in 2018. In conjunction with this plan, an expansion of a Water Evaluation and Planning System (WEAP) model will be funded with the assistance of the Stockholm Environment Institute, which will also provide beneficial information for the development of our Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan.

In March, the Technical Committee decided to recommend not funding the Project Fund program in FY2017-18. Typically, approximately \$98,000 of the WRA's budget is allocated for local small projects. The recommendation to the WRA Board will be that this funding be reserved for SGMA implementation when the FY2017-18 budget is adopted in June 2017. The WRA will continue to contribute their FY2017-18 MOU cost share (\$20,000) to the Westside-Sacramento IRWMP program from the available Project Fund budget.

**10. PRESENTATION: Yolo Subsidence Monitoring Update**

- a. Yolo Subsidence Network Monitoring Event and Final Report, Jim Frame, Frame Surveying & Mapping, explained that the field work observations were conducted in June 2016 by a group of volunteers from WRA member agencies that he oversaw. This re-observation was compared to the previous monitoring events done in 2008, 2005 and 2002. Jim illustrated the subsidence changes with a few contour maps comparing data from 1999 and 2016. This data should be used to interpret trends rather than focusing on specific numbers. He explained that there are assumptions that need to be made when analyzing and comparing data from 2008 to 2016. The report explains the process used to identify reliable reference points between the two surveys. He is very confident that the final report documents the subsidence changes observed. Jim answered questions about the data presented and the monitoring technology used.
- b. Stanford University, Land Subsidence Study, Results of InSAR Analysis in Yolo County, Jesse Crews, acknowledged his Stanford colleagues noted on the report who analyzed the data at the Center for Groundwater Evaluation and Management. Jesse announced that since his presentation to the TC in early March he has taken a position with Weiss Associates. In today's presentation he will give an overview of this project's objectives, provide results comparing the data gathered by Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) to GPS-based technology and general recommendations for future subsidence surveys relative to the technology methodologies. This project was designed to assess how satellite-based techniques influence stakeholders' understanding of subsidence in Yolo County, and appropriate policy responses. One goal of the study addresses how InSAR may be used as a technique to monitor and assess subsidence, and how this technique may compliment and/or improve upon traditional techniques based on GPS survey stations. Jesse explained how InSAR technology gathers data. For the study period (2002 to 2012), data was available from two different satellite missions; however one of those satellites had gaps in coverage over a 3 year period due to mechanical issues. Therefore, the study only utilized the information from the ALOS satellite that had the most data and yielded the best results. The data from 2007 to 2010 should be representative of the influence of drought conditions on subsidence in Yolo. The ALOS data demonstrated there was a maximum mean

deformation of approximately -3 cm/year (or -11 cm total) in the Zamora area, which is consistent with the GPS survey data. Jesse discussed the strong overall spatial correlation and subsidence rate between the GPS contoured data and the InSAR analysis. He also compared InSAR data to the University of California Davis and DWR's continuously-monitored GPS extensometers in Yolo County. He explained the challenges of analyzing and comparing the different methodologies and how they account for general uncertainty in their estimates.

A new satellite mission was launched in 2014 with data collection planned through 2021 and it is anticipated that this data will still be free of charge through sponsored research with USGS, NASA and certain universities, such as Stanford. Given the level of subsidence in the County the recommendation is that groundwater monitoring should be undertaken every 3 to 4 years. He summarized the anticipated costs to use InSAR analysis (~\$30-\$40,000). He reviewed the advantages and constraints of using InSAR versus GPS-based surveys. The Stanford report's list of recommendations can be viewed in Jesse's PPT presentation on the WRA's website: [http://www.yolowra.org/meeting\\_directors.html](http://www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html). Jesse answered questions.

**11. PRESENTATION: Emergency Flood Response Update from Office of Emergency Services (OES),** Yolo County Emergency Services Coordinator Dana Carey introduced Kyle Noderer, California OES and Brenna Howell, City of West Sacramento for today's update. They will each give an overview on their agency's "high water" response to the recent storms. Since the end of December through March, the offices of emergency services and first responders throughout the Yolo operational area have been responding to the on-going storms. It is anticipated that California's system will maintain high water well into April this year with the forecasted weather and melting snowpack runoff. Dana illustrated several sites in Yolo County through an online water monitoring web map application used by Yolo County OES to monitor and document high water issues. Reclamation Districts are able to report problems in the field and upload photos of recent damage such as, sloughing, boils, slippage, or road damage to the web mapping application. Flood damage resources were received from DWR and pre-staged at RD 999 to make the materials available for all the RDs. About 2 years ago (RD) 765, 307, 150, and 999 worked together in south Yolo to develop a flood safety plan with grant funding from DWR. Yolo County also received an additional grant to continue developing safety plans for RD's in western Yolo for Cache and Putah Creek.

Brenna Howell reported on the integration between the City of West Sacramento and RD 900, 534 and MA4 to respond to high water issues. She detailed several problem areas with photos posted on the web map. Brenna explained DWR's process for opening and closing the Sacramento Weir gates, which is performed manually. It takes about 30 minutes per gate to close and the gates were opened and closed multiple times throughout the storm events. Dana continued on with the presentation and reported on damage activities in the Elkhorn Basin area and impacts to the RDs in that area (RD 537, 785, 827, 1600). She reported on the Yolo Bypass West Levee area, where Conaway Ranch/RD 2035 has been doing emergency protective measures since the first storm events in January. They have experienced a total of 9 areas that experienced slippage and Dana showed several photos to illustrate. In Knights Landing, the web app was used to document water levels by on-levee patrols to keep Yolo County informed. Dana discussed road and other infrastructure damages that the YCFC&WCD experienced in the interior part of the County near Indian Valley Dam.

Overall, the damages reported to Yolo OES are well over \$25 million to date for these storm events. Dana turned the presentation over to Kyle Noderer to discuss the recovery process. He informed that the State and FEMA designated three separate storm events in early January, late January and February. The Governor declared emergencies for all three storms and there are two Presidential declarations for California in January that includes Yolo. The State is waiting to hear whether their request for federal recovery funding for February is approved. Preliminary internal CalOES

discussions have begun to determine what the recovery process entails for public assistance to local agencies. Dana explained how Yolo OES coordinates receiving damage estimates from local agencies to ensure that initial damage estimates for Yolo County reached the federal declaration “indicator level”. She explained that this recovery process will take a little longer because many of the levees impacted are under the jurisdiction of mixed state and federal partners. FEMA has already begun preliminary damage assessment visits to Yolo. Yolo OES will be continuing to access as much different funding as possible to mitigate the recovery process. The OES coordinators answered questions.

**12. MEMBERS’ REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** No reports. A special Board meeting may be convened before June to discuss the GSA implementation and WRA transition process.

**13. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** Monday, June 19, 2017 from 3-5 pm, Woodland Community & Senior Center.

**14. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned by Chair Sandeen at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna L. Gentile

Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator