

**MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 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  
Chris Ledesma – City of West Sacramento  
Don Peart – Colusa County Water District  
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: Dunnigan Water District  
Associate members present: Mike Hardestry – RD 2068

**Members of the Public & Agency Staff:**

Liz Houck & Clara Olmedo, City of Woodland  
Bill Dendy – El Macero County Service Area  
Max Stevenson, Yolo County Flood Control & WCD  
Betsy Marchand & Emily Reeves, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation  
Jonathan Kors & Ron Berry – Wood Rodgers, Inc.  
Don Saylor – Yolo County  
Elly Fairclough – Congressman Mike Thompson  
Arturo Salaires – Assembly member Yamada  
Robert Ramming – Pacific Star Garden  
Geoff Johnson, Daily Democrat  
Bob Schneider, Tuleyome  
Butch Hodgkins, CVFPB  
Dave Pratt  
Frank Siefertman, Sr.  
Clay Brandow  
RR Hansen  
Pauline van Muyden

**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: January 10, 2011 Board meeting
- b. Received financial reports: January – February 2011
- c. Received minutes of Executive Committee: 12/17/10, 2/8/11
- d. Received minutes of Technical Committee: 12/2/10, 1/6/11

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**5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- a. *Report from WRA Chair* – Chair Marble informed that the Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency was successful in attaining up to a 45,000 acre-feet diversion water right permit from the State Water Resources Control Board from the Sacramento River (subject to Term 91). The composition of the Board has changed with the addition of 2 more members (non-voting): Don Saylor, Yolo County and Sid England, UC Davis.
- b. *Correspondence was sent* in support of Senator Wolk’s SB 133 and to Congressman Thompson regarding FY 2012 Federal funding priorities for local critical infrastructure improvements.

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

Tim O’Halloran reported on the following legislation:

Delta

- SB 200 (Wolk) – provides flow and cost assurances to Delta Counties and upstream interests. Representation for those that aren’t directly part of the BDCP and Delta Plan processes. First committee hearing scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup> to hear concerns from the public.

Groundwater

- AB 359 (Huffman) – proposed development of groundwater management plan (can be obtained by written request). Plan includes a map identifying recharge areas for different groundwater basins.
- SB 263 (Pavley) – confidentiality of data related to groundwater well reporting. Existing law prohibits these reports from being made available to the public, except under certain circumstances. This bill would make reports available to the public relating to a well constructed, altered, abandoned, or destroyed on or after 1/1/12. Commencing 7/1/13, this bill would make public reports related to well constructed, altered, abandoned, or destroyed before 1/1/12, unless the DWR receives notification by the well owner that they desire to keep the report confidential.

Fees

- SB 34 (Simitian) – will create a fee designed to strategically invest in 4 broad public-purpose activities (California Water Resources Investment Program/Fund). The Public Policy Institute of California report calls for a Public Goods Charge – a volumetric charge on all surface and groundwater used in the state.

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

- a. *Receive Yolo County IRWMP 2011 Accomplishments List* - Jacques De Bra, TC Chair, reported that the TC has spent about a year updating the status of the IRWMP actions. A list of completed priority projects that were in the 2007 IRWMP is included in the agenda packet. This list represents approximately \$30 million of improvements countywide. The TC anticipates presenting a list of priority projects to be implemented by 2020 at the next Board meeting. This list will provide a focus for the next 5-10 years of priority resource actions. Once this list is finalized, the lead agencies involved will be required to provide additional information about their projects, such as a scope, schedule and budget for implementation. Chair Marble thanked members of the TC for their efforts to update the IRWMP and maintain it as a viable, living document.
- b. *Update Westside IRWMP Process* – Jacques informed that the Westside Regional Water Management Group was awarded a \$1 million planning grant to develop a Westside IRWMP. A Coordinating Committee was established to determine how decisions are made among the 5-county partnership. Potential consultants were solicited in a Request for Proposals process. Three out of a potential ten consultants were interviewed last week. The Kennedy/Jenks Consulting team was selected to start the planning effort anticipated to begin this summer once the contract with DWR is executed. Jacques and Tim indicated that the group is working effectively and will continue to work out governance details. The WRA/YCFC&WCD is the fiscal agent for the grant. Regular updates will be provided to the WRA Board. Chair Marble emphasized the need to clearly communicate to the public how the Westside IRWMP interfaces with the established Yolo County IRWMP.

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- c. *Future Items* – Jacques discussed project budget recommendations for the next fiscal year 2011-12 budget. The local county cost share of the Westside IRWMP will need to be funded over the next two fiscal years (2011-12 and 2012-13). This will be comfortably managed within the current “flat” budget scenario. The TC recommendations will be presented when the Board meets next to discuss the FY 2011-12 budget.

**8. PRESENTATION: *Current Water Issues Facing California***

Tim Quinn is the Executive Director of the Association of California Water Agencies, which is one of the most diverse water organizations representing both urban and agricultural interests statewide. Tim’s presentation focused on the big picture about water in California and some of the risk factors common to many in the State. Water issues are common headlines throughout California. The headlines usually connote a problem relating to how resources are being managed under crisis conditions. Tim emphasized that the Delta is vital to the economy and environment throughout California. A comprehensive water legislation package was introduced in 2009 with the goal of providing a framework for solutions to problems that have besieged the State for many administrations. One of the key components of the State’s Water Policy is the concept of co-equal goals. Water supply reliability statewide is equally important for all with the restoration of the Delta ecosystem. The Delta policy created a new governance mechanism to define co-equal goals and the development of periodic 5-year action plans for implementation of the goals. The legislation does not contain any decision-making about the conveyance system, but provides a framework for making those decisions including guidelines for the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan. The Policy includes components for storage, conservation, groundwater monitoring and water rights. Tim noted that ACWA is developing a groundwater policy document scheduled to be available by the end of March. The financing mechanism for this policy is a water bond that is still pending approval by the voters. Tim emphasized that this is the first time the legislature has advocated for a comprehensive physical solution for California’s water issues. Elements of a comprehensive solution include: local resource investment for new water, Delta conveyance solution to stabilize reliability, additional storage for co-equal goals and habitat and watershed restoration.

Tim discussed two risk factors in the implementation of the 2009 water policy: flow and reasonable use. The water policy has instigated the “great flow debate”. The adopted legislation mandated the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) to issue an interim flow criteria report. The report is very narrow in scope with no balancing. The numbers issued from the report were not binding, do not have a regulatory effect, but were received with much concern. The report’s “science” seems to have overshadowed the co-equal goals ideal. Tim spoke to the implications of following the proposed flow criteria. A 75% unimpaired Delta outflow and 75% unimpaired Sacramento River inflow translates to up to a 6 million acre feet of lost water supply to current users and an overall reduction of 70% from the entire watershed. The flow implications would affect San Francisco, East Bay, Redding, San Joaquin and Sacramento River watersheds and everyone in between. This flow regimen also has environmental impacts: cold water pool reduction, local restoration disrupted and groundwater depletion. There are energy generation impacts by reduced hydroelectricity capacity. Once again the flow question is looming large. Tim made solution parallels to the CalFed Bay-Delta Accord to resolve California water use and State and Federal management responsibilities in the Delta. The water community as a whole needs to start discussing how to deal with the flow question to be consistent with co-equal goals. Another public outcry has surfaced over the “reasonable use” doctrine from the Delta Watermaster’s report. Tim informed that this idea has been around for a long time and recalled the 1980’s phrase “the 10 percent solution”; if agriculture used 10% less water that would solve a lot of the water supply problems. The Watermaster’s report echoed the same sentiment: “small changes in agricultural water use can produce significant amounts of ‘wet’ water”. Tim reiterated that ACWA strongly supports the efficient use of agricultural and urban water. This is a public policy debate which could pit reasonable use against water use efficiency to the detriment of many users. Such a policy is not consistent with co-equal goals. Tim summarized the ways to maximize efficient water use with market-based programs, incentive-based policies

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and without regulatory control enforcement. Agricultural users receive many incentives to manage water efficiently and many do.

Tim Quinn answered questions from the Board and public. Question topics included:

- His thoughts on the PPIC's report, "Managing California's Water: From Conflict to Reconciliation"
- 2009 water bond, beneficiary pays – mitigation requirements for local match in areas of water export
- What quantity of water could be generated by projects that meet the efficiency criteria you discussed?
- Longevity of the Delta Watermaster position after release of his report on "The Reasonable Use Doctrine & Agricultural Water Use Efficiency"
- ACWA's groundwater framework document available by end of March – sustainable groundwater management
- Can you address how California's water problems fit in with the other Western states (larger watershed)?
- State and Federal funding & financing trends, what can the "industry" do to fortify our funding resources?
- The Governor supports Delta conveyance, what is the likelihood of that being accomplished, what is a reasonable timeline given the framework established?
- Is SB 200 a help or hindrance to the discussion?

Tim handed out a one-page summary of expenditures for The Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2012 (posted online at [http://www.yolowra.org/meeting\\_directors.html](http://www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html)).

Contact information for Tim Quinn: (916) 441-4545, [TimQ@acwa.com](mailto:TimQ@acwa.com), [www.acwa.com](http://www.acwa.com).

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

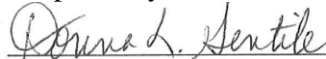
While awaiting the arrival of Tim Quinn, each of the WRA member agencies present gave a short update on current activities of their agency after the Technical Committee update.

Additionally Bob Schneider reported that Tuleyome is working with a team, including Stephen McCord from Larry Walker Associates, that submitted a \$1.4 million grant application to California Dept. of Fish & Game to clean up abandoned mercury/chromium mines in the upper Putah Creek drainage.

**10. NEXT MEETING DATE: June 20, 2011** from 3-5 pm, Woodland Community Center

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

Respectfully submitted,



Donna L. Gentile

Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator