

**MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2009
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
Duane Chamberlain – Yolo County
Ruth Asmundson – City of Davis
Regina Cherovsky – Reclamation District 2035
Sid England – UC Davis

Alternate members present: Kurt Balasek – City of Winters, WRA Treasurer
Jacques DeBra – City of Davis, Technical Committee Chair
Doug Baxter – City of Woodland
Tim O’Halloran - Yolo County Flood Control & WCD
Donita Hendrix - Dunnigan Water District
Matt Rexroad – Yolo County

Members Agencies absent: City of West Sacramento
Reclamation District 108

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Correction to the report page 13, Bill Marble is the current 2008 Board Chair. The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the agenda.

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

4. CONSENT ITEMS: Items c. and f. were removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

- a. Approve Minutes: January 12, 2009 Board meeting
- b. Financial Reports: December 2008- January 2009
- d. Adopt Resolution No. 0901 –Yolo County Groundwater Monitoring Program
- e. Correspondence sent to DWR
- c. Letter to BDCP in support of the Yolo Bypass – Request that the chair of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors be added to list “cc” list.
- f. Correspondence to Senators Boxer & Feinstein – There was a request to add a “shovel-ready” project to this list in the letter. Post meeting note: This letter was included for informational purposes only and was already sent in January 2009. The Economic Stimulus Legislation has already been adopted by Congress.

The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved all consent items.

5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT AND INFORMATION

- a) *Executive Committee Report:* The Committee met on 1/24/09 and 2/24/09. Chair Marble welcomed Reclamation District 108 as a new voting member of the WRA. Unfortunately, Fritz Durst and Lewis Bair was able to attend today’s meeting due to prior commitments. Minutes from Executive Committee meetings can be accessed on the WRA website.
- b) *Administrative Coordinator Report:* The Administrative Coordinator had nothing additional to report

6. STATUS OF YOLO COUNTY FACILITATED WATER RESOURCES PROCESS

Dirk Brazil, Deputy Yolo County Administrator, informed that the next facilitated meeting will be held on March 5, 2009. This meeting will focus on two agenda items. The group requested a question and answer discussion with Supervisors McGowan and Thomson. Secondly, an informational segment on several county water organizations: the WRA, YCFCWCD and Reclamation District 2068. Additional dates for future meetings will be discussed at the meeting.

7. SACRAMENTO METRO CHAMBER CAP-to-CAP 2009

Fran Borcalli is Program Manager for the floodSAFE Yolo Pilot Program. He reported on a Federal Appropriations request submitted to continue on the Cache Creek Feasibility Study, Flood Reduction Project. Concurrently requests have been submitted through the offices of Senator Feinstein and Boxer and Congressmen Herger, Thompson and Lundgren in support of this project. floodSAFE Yolo is requesting \$600,000 in funding for the Army Corp of Engineers to continue the 2003 study. There will be a local cost share for this project.

Yolo County has also submitted a funding request carried over from last year related to mercury monitoring. Involved Yolo County staff was not present at the meeting to report in detail, but Dirk indicated he was aware that the request is moving forward.

Tim O'Halloran reported on the Capay Dam Stabilization Project. The YCFCWCD is in the final design phase of the project anticipated to cost \$2 million. The Capay Dam represents a major part of the infrastructure to supply water for western Yolo County agriculture. They are just beginning the required permitting process to become shovel-ready. This is a local project rather than a State or Federal authorized project, so it is challenging to determine where funding fits within the stimulus package.

8. REVIEW 2008-09 BUDGET and PROPOSED DRAFT 2009-10 BUDGET

Sid England, Vice-chair, reported on the WRA budget. A draft budget was included in the agenda packet for review and comment. The WRA Board will adopt the proposed budget at the next regular WRA meeting. A flat budget is being proposed without changes. Revenues increased by about \$7,500 because of a new association member, Reclamation District 108. There is about a \$5,000 increase in Administrative Expenses from last year, which is mostly due to the upcoming audit scheduled every 2 years. Membership revenue is again allocated 40% for administrative expenses and 60% for project expenses, which provides \$103,000 to assist with local projects. The WRA Technical Committee (TC) will be reviewing project fund requests for 2009-2010 at the April TC meeting and will make recommendations at the next regular Board meeting.

Detailed at the end of the WRA's draft 2009-2010 budget, is a proposed budget for the Yolo County Groundwater Monitoring Program to continue funding supporting the program. In the past, the WRA has contributed a small annual amount to this Program as a special IRWMP Foundational Project. The YCFCWCD has been the lead agency securing grant funds through the AB 303 program. It is not the intent of WRA project funds to provide on-going support and the WRA Board directed to find other means to continue support for the Program. Max Stevenson, YCFCWCD, gave a presentation at the January WRA Board meeting on the Yolo County Groundwater Monitoring Program, when he explained the basis for the participant fees suggested. The pooled costs are far more cost effective than for an individual agency. Participating WRA member agencies were asked to allocate these fees to support the groundwater program in their 09-10 budget approval process. The WRA would invoice the groundwater program fees to WRA members who participate in the program. This fee is not be part of the regular WRA operating budget, but will be invoiced at the same time as 09-10 membership dues for convenience, as requested by member agencies. The cities of Woodland, Davis, Winters and UC Davis have indicated their intent to support the program, along with the YCFCWCD's continued contributions. There are participants outside the WRA membership that will be asked to support the program.

The YCFCWCD will continue the Groundwater Monitoring Program at some level depending on the support received.

9. WRA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (TC) REPORT

Jacques DeBra, TC Chair, updated the Board on TC activities. The project fund request process for the 2009-2010 budget has begun. The WRA has an electronic submittal form available. April 2nd is the deadline for submittals. The TC will review and approve allocation recommendations at the May 7th TC meeting. The regional process for securing Proposition 84 funding continues. DWR is requiring approval of a region prior to submitting a Proposition 84 application. An MOU for a five county subgroup (named the Westside Area: Yolo, Napa, Lake, Sonoma, and Colusa) of the 10 county Northern California region is anticipated. The WRA Board will have a chance to review the proposed MOU at the next meeting that would formalize the Westside Area arrangement. The State budget crisis has impacted AB303 grant funds for two Yolo County awardees: Dunningan Water District and the YCFCWCD. State funding can not be relied upon until receiving feedback that the grant programs can move forward. There are also other local City and County projects that are impacted. The TC hopes to have feedback on the 2008 subsidence monitoring network survey by May. In 2009, the TC will focus on priorities and projects related to the IRWMP and the identified Integrated Actions. The TC understands that the IRWMP needs to be updated to keep the plan current. The TC was commended for the foresight and need to develop an integrated regional plan for Yolo County.

10. PRESENTATION: DROUGHT CONDITIONS

Chair Marble informed that the WRA has posted drought related links on its website homepage- <http://www.yolowra.org/>. Suggestions for additional links are always welcome. Tim O'Halloran and Paul Barkiewicz's PowerPoint presentations are available on the WRA's website: www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html

Tim O'Halloran, Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (YCFCWCD)

Tim's presentation is focused on Yolo County impacts of drought conditions, but he will tie local issues into on the larger State picture. He encouraged WRA member agencies to share how the drought is affecting their planning and operations. Tim invited Paul Barkiewicz to discuss the impacts of legislation such as SB 12 and the interrelationship of drought conditions and Delta issues. Drought conditions will influence legislation, because nothing exists in a vacuum. He handed out informational packets on Delta and drought issues (copies available by request). The drought section of the packet contained a copy of Tim's PowerPoint presentation, historical precipitation graphs, and information about the Governor's Emergency Drought Proclamation (2/27/09). Tim gave a definition of drought, stating that defining when a drought begins is a function of drought impacts to water users. Hydrologic conditions constituting a drought for water users in one location may not constitute a drought for water users elsewhere, or for water users having a different water supply.

Tim discussed State and Federal water allocations and the correlation to Yolo County water supplies. The State Water Project allocations are associated with the Metropolitan Water District in Southern California. The Yolo County segment of the Central Valley Project (CVP) water allocations are in three categories: water rights contractors, municipal & industrial (M&I) contractors and agricultural allocations. Reclamation District 108, Colusa Drain Mutual Water Co., Conaway Conservancy Group, River Garden Farms and Sacramento River Ranch are in the water rights category. The water rights contractors are managing drought conditions by utilizing groundwater. One big difference from previous droughts compared to today is that more permanent versus row crops are being grown, which represents a larger agricultural investment. Based on existing Sacramento River Settlement Contracts with the Bureau of Reclamation, water rights contractors are allocated a 75% CVP water supply in the driest years. Dunningan Water District, City of West Sacramento and Colusa County Water District (small north Yolo section) are in the M&I category. The M&I contractors have more challenges to meet their needs, some negotiating in-basin transfers (within Sacramento Valley). The M&I contracts anticipate receiving a 50% CVP allocation given the lack of water this year. Agricultural allocations are already at 0%, therefore can not be reduced. In addition to CVP water supplies, the Drought Water Bank has

been re-established, however due to administrative hurdles there are some uncertainties as to when supplies will be bought and whether that timing will coincide with the need of growers. Additionally, long-range weather forecasts will contribute either negatively or positively to the drought outlook.

Tim provided an update on the YCFCWCD's 2009 irrigation season and the possibility of a partial water delivery this season. A full irrigation season need is 225,000 acre-feet with combined deliveries from Clear Lake and Indian Valley Reservoir. Currently there is a combined storage of 33,000 acre-feet and 90,000 acre-feet storage is needed before the YCFCWCD can legally start releases.

Much of Yolo County is reliant on groundwater sources, such as the cities of Davis, Winters, Woodland, UC Davis, the community service districts and all agricultural areas. Several graphs and maps were posted for viewing at the meeting that illustrated groundwater conditions during past droughts. Tim stressed the importance of groundwater supplies to help compensate during drought conditions. He conveyed several ways that agencies can reduce the impacts of drought: improve communication among agencies and the community, run strategic groundwater modeling scenarios for cities, development of conjunctive use program and continued groundwater monitoring. Tim reiterated that drought will have statewide impacts that will advance legislation, which will be discussed by Paul Bartkiewicz.

Paul Bartkiewicz, Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan

Paul provided an update on his Delta Vision Strategic Plan (DVSP) presentation in January and potential impacts to the Sacramento Valley water supply. There were several informational handouts included in the Delta section of the packet distributed for Paul's presentation. Paul reviewed information about the process and principles for the Delta Vision Strategic Plan. Her recapped three significant proposals in the plan impacting Sacramento Valley by increasing Delta flows. 1) Flood the Yolo Bypass periodically to improve fishery habitat (now generally in SB 12 Senator Simitian). 2) Increase spring and fall Delta outflow by 2012 (now generally in SB 12). 3) Potential water supply impacts: 1 million acre-feet per year (and maybe more). The answers to the question where will the water come from is incorporated in SB 12. The DVSP proposed to use less by reducing M&I per capita water use by 20% by the end of 2020 and by requiring water rates to encourage conservation (variable rates, tiered rates and connection fees). The Plan proposes redefining 'reasonable use' by requesting that the SWRCB determine that reasonable use of water should "evolve away from the generally accepted practice of diverting surface water for irrigated agriculture." Traditionally reasonable use has meant how the water is applied (e.g. not excessively or wastefully). Now public policy is considering that reasonable use would be defined as the "end-use" of water and the value of that end-use. This language is now in SB12 as a mandatory requirement of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Paul questioned whether "reasonable use" could be interpreted that all ag users should be using pumped groundwater versus surface water for irrigation. No analysis is included with the Plan. This would apply to any water rights. The SWRCB regulates post-1914 appropriative water rights in California whether under Federal projects or not. The DVSP also proposes additional water will come from several potential sources: releasing more water from storage, reducing the amount of water diverted from the Delta watershed, and re-allocating water supplies from existing uses through uncompensated regulatory actions. Additionally access to state grant funds will be contingent on applicant's full compliance with the Delta Plan. Levy water diversion fees and taxes are potential ways to pay for the Strategic Plan. The DVSP is proposing implementation by May 2009 through legislation in SB12. Paul detailed how the DVSP would be implemented including creation of a new Delta governance authority. Many Northern California agencies have coordinated and commented on the DVSP, including YCFCWCD, NCWA, ACWA, Public Water Coalition of CA and export area CVP and State Water Project contractors. Paul encouraged the WRA's interest and participation in Delta issues. The next steps in the DVSP process are: adoption by the Governor, implementing legislation, implementation by regulatory agencies, ag and urban conservation requirements, development of water fees, taxes and a water bond. Paul reviewed other Delta-related processes that are underway, such as the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan and the Governor's Emergency Drought Declaration. Paul expressed his concern that the combination of all these events is leading to a "perfect storm" for bad water policy for California.

The WRA Board expressed interest in holding an educational meeting on Delta issues for all Yolo County officials, local agency staff and interested stakeholders. Matt Rexroad indicated that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors is also interested in holding an informational Delta meeting. Donna Gentile will contact Dirk Brazil to coordinate activities to set up this meeting for April.

11. MEMBERS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

In the interest of time, member reports were not shared. At the next regular meeting, time will be allotted for WRA members to report briefly on how they are responding to the drought.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE: Suggested date/time - April 13, 2009, 3-5 pm, for a special educational meeting on Delta issues and water-related legislation. The WRA Board will consider meeting more frequently given the important legislation and processes underway.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Gentile

Donna L. Gentile

WRA Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator