

**MINUTES OF MAY 4, 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  
Fritz Durst - Reclamation District 108  
Jim Mayer - Yolo County Flood Control & WCD

Alternate members present: Kurt Balasek – City of Winters, WRA Treasurer  
Jacques DeBra – City of Davis, Technical Committee Chair  
Tim O’Halloran - Yolo County Flood Control & WCD  
Lewis Bair – Reclamation District 108

Members Agencies absent: City of West Sacramento  
Dunnigan Water District

**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. Approve Minutes: March 2, 2009 Board meeting
- b. Financial Reports: February - March 2009
- c. Correspondence received

**5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT AND INFORMATION**

- a) *Executive Committee Report:* The Committee met on 3/19 and 4/21/09. Minutes from Executive Committee meetings can be accessed on the WRA website. Bill reported on the Sacramento Metro Chamber’s Washington, DC Cap-to-Cap trip in April. Priority issues represented were water resources and flood control. Yolo County flood control and mercury monitoring issues were presented.
- b) *Administrative Coordinator Report:* The Water Awareness Student Poster Contest winners will be recognized at the May 19<sup>th</sup> Yolo County Board of Supervisors meeting.

**6. WELCOME RECLAMATION DISTRICT 108 – NEW WRA MEMBER**

Bill Marble formally welcomed Reclamation District 108 as the 10<sup>th</sup> member of the WRA. Lewis Bair, General Manager, gave an informational presentation on the history, operations and activities of RD 108. RD 108 was established in 1870 and provides agricultural water from the Sacramento River to about 48,000 acres. The majority of their acreage is in southern Colusa County with a portion in northern Yolo County. In addition to water delivery, RD 108 is responsible for flood protection and levee construction/maintenance within their district. Over the past 40 years, RD 108 has made significant investments in their irrigation system, including

canal lining, extensive canal automation, and four recycling plants. Their infrastructure improvements have allowed them to operate more effectively and recently they received an irrigation efficiency award. On-farm efficiency programs have been established. RD 108 filed for their water rights in 1917. Lewis gave a brief history of water rights litigation that affected RD 108 and the impacts of the Central Valley Project. As a result, the RD 108 receives 232,000 acre feet under federal contract. RD 108 completed their first fish screens in 1999 and diverts approximately 70% of their water through that facility. Currently the bidding process for a solar project is underway. RD 108 is actively monitoring the impacts of the Delta Vision Strategic Plan and the Bay Delta Conservation Plan to access impacts to their operations.

Fritz Durst, President, gave an overview about their Board of Directors and the issues of interest to them. The number one concern is their water rights and sustaining a reasonable water supply.

## **7. DELTA WATER ISSUES**

As a follow-up to the April 13<sup>th</sup> Delta water issues meeting convened by the WRA, Bill Marble presented to the Board consideration of developing a WRA Delta position paper from the collective. Two related Delta editorials were published in the local newspapers in April and were distributed at the meeting (authored by the Yolo Basin Foundation and Bill Marble).

- a) *Discuss April 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting* - Bill asked for Board comments on the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Yolo County was acknowledged and recognized for their efforts to represent our county in Delta issues to date. Several commented that the April meeting was very informative. It is especially important to bring awareness to many stakeholders who may not realize the pressures on existing water rights being proposed by the current Delta plans and legislation.
- b) *Review draft WRA Delta Position Paper* - The Board discussed the draft Delta position paper included in the agenda packet. This paper was originally drafted by Ryan Bezerra, Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan, at the direction of Tim O'Halloran and edited by the Executive Committee. The Board discussed the paper's purpose and intent. Ryan noted all the changes that the Board suggested and will revise the paper for the Executive Committee's review. Action: The WRA Board adopted the position paper with the proposed changes as a living document that will be updated in the future and authorized the Executive Committee to finalize.
- c) *Review draft SB 12 Concerns Letter from WRA* – Julia McIver gave an update on the current status of SB 12. She expressed that it would be important to present the WRA's concerns by June 1<sup>st</sup>. The language of SB 12 may be amended and the WRA's letter would be more effective if it addressed what we would like to have happen rather than specific language in the current bill.

After the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board expressed concern about the water rights issues presented in SB 12. Under the direction of Tim, Ryan was also asked to draft a WRA comment letter to Senator Simitian with a focus on water rights. Ryan noted all the changes to the letter that the Board suggested and will revise for the Executive Committee's review. The WRA Board will be added to the list of agencies to copy on the letter. Action: The WRA Board adopted the letter with the proposed changes and authorized the Executive Committee to finalize, attach the position paper and mail to Senator Simitian.

- d) *Discuss actions by individual agencies regarding the Delta* – The cities of Davis and Woodland are preparing comment letters on SB 12. Bill Marble encouraged other agencies to send their own letters and attach the WRA's letter indicating their support.
- e) *Consider establishment of WRA Delta Working Group* – Yolo County continues active participation in Delta meetings. The intention is not to further burden Yolo County to convene a separate Delta Working Group or attend additional meetings. Yolo County agreed to take a leadership role in coordinating existing activities and utilizing the established WRA framework to communicate updates. It would be prudent, given the

current budget strain on all agencies, for all WRA members to take responsibility in tracking issues and contribute their input. Julia McIver requested that WRA members read the Bay Delta Conservation Plan conservation measures and strategies, be familiar with what is being proposed and make a list of their agency's concerns. Many Delta links are posted on the WRA's website <http://www.yolowra.org/library.html>.

The WRA Board acknowledged that Yolo County is also the lead agency for the IRWMP Sacramento River Integrated Project. Delta issues should be incorporated into the IRWMP; possibly with the addition of a Bay-Delta Integrated Project. Bill Marble expressed his concern that the process is moving very quickly. The shelf-life of this working group could be very short. He emphasized the need for a united front from our region with the ability to be aggressive in seizing available opportunities or they will be missed. The WRA provides an easily accessible venue for Yolo County to hear the different perspectives from local agencies on how Delta issues could impact them. One of the purposes of the April 13<sup>th</sup> Delta meeting was to engage local agencies and stakeholders in support of the work that Yolo County is already doing.

Action: A Delta Water Issues standing agenda item will be added to the WRA Technical Committee and Board meetings to update and inform. Yolo County is designated to take the leadership role on Delta Water Issues by increasing their level of communication with the WRA. One Board member summarized the working group's intended tasks: 1) sharing of information, 2) identifying the impacts of specific proposals on Yolo County, and 3) identifying positions that the WRA or member agencies could take on the proposals.

## **8. LEGISLATIVE TRACKING**

Tim O'Halloran has offered to report on pertinent legislation to the WRA Technical Committee and the Board. He offered to circulate a list of current legislation that should be monitored. This will become a standing agenda item for the WRA Technical Committee and Board. Tim briefly mentioned a few bills currently being monitored by YCFCWCD in addition to SB 12, which are SB 681, AB 49 and SB 122, and various bond issues.

## **9. UPDATE ON YOLO COUNTY FACILITATED WATER RESOURCES PROCESS**

Dirk Brazil, Assistant County Administrator, reported on the most recent meeting of the facilitated process. A subcommittee was tasked with preparing a basic proposal for suggested options for creation of a countywide water agency and presented it to the larger group for consideration. The preferred alternative proposed a strengthening of the WRA and the position of the YCFCWCD, changing the WRA from an MOA to a JPA organization and adding additional members. The larger group was tasked with reviewing the facilitator's document on the options. There was some consensus on a preferred option, but more details need to be researched including what agencies would be represented, how the organization would be financed and its specific purposes. A second subcommittee will be created to address the details of the proposed option and return to the larger group with their results (deadline not specified). Several more meetings are planned before a final recommendation will be presented to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. Development of any ordinances has been postponed.

Dirk also reported that the Board of Supervisors directed County Counsel to start developing ordinances for large habitat restoration projects. The Planning Commission will be evaluating any proposed regulations. Yolo County staff will also report progress at future WRA Technical Committee meetings.

## **10. WRA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

- a) *2009-2010 Budget* – Jacques DeBra reviewed the Technical Committee's recommendations to fund eight projects. Project proposals were included with the agenda for Board information. There will be some unallocated funding in the 2009-10 budget that could be allocated to future projects (~\$50,000). The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the TC's 2009-10 project fund recommendations. Regina Cherovsky recused herself, because of project funding allocated to RD 2035.
- b) *Technical Committee Report* - A report on recent activities was included with the agenda.

- c) *Prop. 84 RAP- Draft Westside RWMG MOU* – The Westside Regional Water Management Group is a sub-group of the larger, 10 county Sacramento River Funding Region. In order to be eligible for Proposition 84 grant funds (planning and implementation), a region must first be accepted by DWR. An MOU was developed between collaborating counties (Yolo, Solano, Napa, Lake, and Colusa) for the Proposition 84 Region Acceptance Process (RAP). A RAP application was submitted by the Westside RWMG on April 29, 2009 (prepared by West Yost Associates). The State allocated a total of \$800 million to Proposition 84, at this time \$100 million has been appropriated. The WRA Board amended the agenda per a 4/5's determination to add authorizing Chair, Bill Marble, to sign the MOU representing the WRA. Action: The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved authorizing the Chair to sign the MOU on behalf of the WRA.
- d) *Cache Creek Settling Basin Symposium* - Tim O'Halloran reported that floodSAFE Yolo Pilot Program will be convening a technical symposium on the Settling Basin planned for June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Heidrick Ag History Center including a short tour of the Settling Basin. LucyCo is under contract to floodSAFE Yolo to work on outreach activities including the symposium. The list of attendees will include federal, state and local agencies and landowners involved in the Settling Basin. The symposium's purpose is intended to identify and inform interested parties of ongoing and planned activities. Multiple agencies and entities are implementing actions or have an interest in the Settling Basin, but coordination between those stakeholders has been almost non-existent. Meeting information will be posted on the WRA's website when available.

## **11. ADOPT PROPOSED 2009-10 BUDGET**

Sid England explained the proposed budget for 2009-10 and the estimated year end 2008-09 budget. A draft budget was presented to the Board for review at the March meeting.

Administrative Budget: There is an audit expenditure every two years and an audit will be performed in 2009-10. The 2009-10 budget is the same as the previous year's with the exception of the audit expense and the additional income from new member RD 108. Project Budget: Project expenditures were less than anticipated in 2008-09, because the City of West Sacramento was not able to utilize their allocation. After Technical Committee review, those funds were made available for fiscal year 2009-10. Jacques DeBra added that the collaborative multi-agency effort under the Proposition 84 MOU has agreed to cost sharing the IRWMP Update. Solano County Water Agency agreed to contribute approximately \$15,000, which will be credited toward the IRWMP Update account.

Based on the proposed 2009-10 budget, there will be an estimated net equity of approximately \$75,000 by June 30, 2010. It is Board policy to maintain a 3 month operating reserve, which would leave about \$50,000 in unallocated reserves. Action: The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the 2009-10 budget.

## **12. MEMBERS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

In the interest of time, members' reports were not shared.

**13. NEXT MEETING DATE:** The Board is requested to hold June 1 and July 6, 2009 from 3-5 pm as potential next meeting dates. The Executive Committee will determine whether one or both dates are needed.

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Donna L. Gentile*

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WRA Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator