

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 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
Jim Mayer - Yolo County Flood Control & WCD
Cecilia Aguiar-Curry – City of Winters
Don Peart – Colusa County Water District
Gary Schaad – Dunnigan Water District
Fritz Durst – Reclamation District 108

Alternate members present: Kurt Balasek – City of Winters, WRA Treasurer
Jacques DeBra – City of Davis, Technical Committee Chair
Matt Rexroad – Yolo County
Donita Hendrix, - Dunnigan Water District
Shelly Murphy – Colusa County Water District
Lewis Bair – Reclamation District 108

Members Agencies absent: City of West Sacramento
UC Davis

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the agenda. (Note: The agenda items were discussed in the following order due to the availability of the speakers: 7, 8, 10, 6, 9.)

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: June 15, 2009 Board meeting
- b. Approve proposed 2009-10 Budget Amendment #1
- c. Approve Nominating Committee for 2010 Officer Nominations
- d. Receive financial reports: FY 6/30/09 and July-August 2009
- e. Receive minutes of Executive Committee meeting: 7/28/09
- f. Receive minutes of Technical Committee meetings: 6/4/09, 8/6/09

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. Resolution No. 0902 – Chair Marble acknowledged Mark Cocke and commended him on receiving the Floodplain Manager of the Year award from the Floodplain Management Association. Greg Meyer, City of Woodland Public Works Director, informed the Board about Mark’s accomplishments that merited his receiving this award. The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously adopted the resolution.
- b. Administrative Coordinator’s Report: Auditing of fiscal years 6/30/08 and 6/30/09 will begin on September 22nd with a final report to the Board by January 2010.

6. YOLO COUNTY UPDATES

Dirk Brazil, Assistant County Administrator, reported on the September 10th facilitated meeting of the stakeholder water committee. Dirk reiterated that no specific end date is scheduled for these meetings. A smaller subcommittee of the larger group was tasked with developing a framework for a Yolo County water authority. The larger group reviewed the subcommittee's suggestions on September 10th, which was recommending an "enhanced" WRA organization/JPA tied into the YCFCWCD. Discussions included what the expanded powers would be for the new agency and the larger group was asked to comment on the draft framework. The subcommittee will meet again in September to flush out further details and questions raised on September 10th. Chair Marble requested the minutes of that meeting be distributed so the stakeholders can be assured their comments were assimilated. Dirk reassured there is still an opportunity to include anyone's missed comments in the draft meeting notes. Now that the water authority concept has been discussed, about ten stakeholders agreed to focus on groundwater issues as part of another subcommittee (facilitated by Jeff Loux). On September 10th the suggestion was raised that the proposed water authority JPA might have the authority to regulate groundwater and therefore publically vetting the process.

The question was raised what powers would the water authority have that the YCFCWCD or Yolo County doesn't already have? The water authority is not intended to usurp existing agency's authority, but to enhance a more formal collaborative, working arrangement between them. The understanding of Greg Meyers, City of Woodland Public Works Director, who has recently been involved with the establishment of the DWWSP JPA, a JPA could only have powers that are jointly held in common by its members and would not have all of the powers of each individual agency that formed the JPA.

7. WRA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

- a. The TC is formulating a process to update the status of Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) actions with each lead partner. A communication will be sent to the lead partners in October to facilitate this process.

Additionally, the Westside Regional Management Group (representing Yolo and four other counties) has been recommended for acceptance by DWR for the Proposition 84 Region Acceptance Process. This positions the Westside group to apply for funding when it is available. Chair Marble asked how the TC envisions the Yolo County IRWMP integrating with the proposed regional Westside IRWMP. Jacques informed that the State is requiring everyone to coordinate beyond county boundaries at a watershed level. Proposition 84 requires collaboration and consolidation of county interests into a regional county process. Creation of the Westside region was based on the Sacramento River, Putah and Cache Creek watersheds. The Westside MOU proposes that organizations that already have regional water planning responsibilities work together. There are a few governance issues to be worked out within the current structure, if funding is pursued.

- b. Fran Borcalli was unable to attend today's meeting and asked Jacques to inform the Board about the attached requested letter from the WRA to the Central Valley Flood Management Program (CVFMP). The letter is requesting WRA's participation in CVFMP's Interest-Based Group in preparation of the CVFMP Plan. This recommendation emerged from the floodSAFE Yolo Pilot Program. floodSAFE Yolo program participants felt that communication with DWR would be efficient and effective if it was organized through the WRA. It also provides an opportunity to show linkage between the Yolo County IRWMP Integrated Projects dealing with flood management and the state CVFMP Plan. It is beneficial for the community, as well as DWR, to be aware of this connection. Fran Borcalli, with his extensive knowledge and history of Yolo County, would be the designated representative to work on the CVFMP Plan. The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the letter.

8. PRESENTATION: Davis-Woodland Water Supply Project (DWWSP)

A presentation to update the WRA Board on the DWWSP is pertinent now that a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) has been established for this project. Jacques DeBra, City of Davis and Dick Donnelly, Deputy

Director of Public Works for the City of Woodland, will present information about this regional project. The Cities of Davis and Woodland and UC Davis have been involved in project planning to provide a safe, reliable water supply for their communities for about 20 years. In mid-September, the Davis and Woodland city councils took action to establish a DWWSP JPA with the responsibility to implement this project over the next 5-10 years. The expert legal services of Richard Shanahan, Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan, were consulted to provide his experience for the best options to establish an organizational structure for the DWWSP. The best option was determined to be a JPA and Mr. Shanahan is assisting with the legalities of setting up the JPA. The WRA Board was informed that Donna Gentile has agreed to provide administrative support for the JPA on a limited basis through the end of the year. The DWWSP has an established website that is being updated with the assistance of a web designer: <http://www.daviswoodlandwatersupply.org/>. Anyone can sign-up to receive project updates and newsletters through the website once it is re-designed.

The JPA has the authority to secure water supplies and deliver it to their communities. A WRA Board member inquired whether there is a specific water source identified for the DWWSP. Dick Donnelly responded that the JPA does not limit where the water originates. Once the organizational structure is established, the JPA will further evaluate all potential water sources and options. The DWWSP Environmental Impact Report (EIR) identified water source options and selected a preferred project, but the JPA will make the ultimate decision to implement the best project option. All viable options will be evaluated and/or considered.

Chair Marble acknowledged the foresight of people who began the water rights application process in the 1980's. Without their vision, the current DWWSP would not even be a possibility given the current water rights climate. He also informed that the Regional Water Control Board's edict on discharge permit requirements is the reason why Woodland and Davis are being restricted on their use of well water supplies and not due to the ability of the wells or the aquifer to provide adequate water. The cities will not be allowed to take water out of the ground, untreated and discharge it back into the Sacramento River. The majority of City Council representatives support the DWWSP, because it presents the most viable, cost effective solution. Although the cost is substantial, the evaluated alternatives would be more expensive.

9. LEGISLATIVE WATER ISSUES UPDATE

- a) *Update on Delta Legislation* - Ryan Bezerra was delayed and unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment. The Board discussed Delta legislation with input from all the involved participants and an update Ryan gave to the Executive Committee last week. Chair Marble reiterated everyone is aware of the breakdown in Delta legislation negotiations. The WRA Board should reflect how and where it should posture itself in relation to the Delta legislation as it resolves. Julia encouraged the Board to review the final Delta bill – SB 68. The package did not pass because the assembly declined to vote on the policy package without the financing component solidified. Julia gave an overview of the proposed water bond and related financing challenges to be addressed by the legislature. She also emphasized that a list of Yolo County water projects needing funding would be beneficial to strengthen our local position, especially if the list was detailed by project status (e.g. design, environmental permitting, construction phase). Chair Marble agreed that the WRA wants to be sure that our voice is at the table on such issues. The WRA is at a disadvantage to respond quickly given its diversity, but a Board of Directors' conference call could always be arranged to facilitate a timely response. The Executive Committee discussed concerns that the proposed Delta legislation had areas of original water rights issues that could profoundly impact many in Yolo County. Concerns were also expressed regarding Metropolitan Water District's (MWD) last minute change in position relating to their commitments to Northern California (e.g. areas of origin and user water fees).
- b) *Update on the Five Delta Counties Coalition* – Julia McIver, Yolo County, reported that the 5-county coalition was formed with the thought that there is strength in numbers and to represent a unified voice in Delta issues. There is a supervisor designated from each county on the Coalition along with dedicated county staff and lobbyists. The Coalition has weekly calls scheduled with the supervisors that will be

ongoing. Julia felt that the Coalition has been effective in their efforts. The outcome of the legislative session remains unknown and ever-changing as the Governor and legislators try to reach an agreement. The Coalition worked very closely with Senator Wolk, as well as many assembly members, who are proponents of Delta interests. Many of the Delta interests that they lobbied for are included in the Delta bill package. Ultimately the Coalition formally opposed the entire package. Tracking the changes made to the bill and finance packages over the last 24 hours was challenging. The Coalition is working to build relationships with other counties and stakeholders within the Delta community.

Julia reported that at the recent hearing of the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks & Wildlife approximately 90% of the people testified their opposition to the Delta bill package. Those people represented a wide variety of interests, including smaller water agencies, environmental and local government. Also, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar is holding the 2nd Delta hearing in Washington, DC on October 30th. Supervisor McGowan will be attending to represent the 5-county Delta coalition along with other California delegates.

Julia added that the outcome of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) has the potential to have a large impact on Yolo County. The biological opinions from the BDCP will bring attention to Yolo and Solano County habitat. She mentioned this to make the WRA Board aware that there is more on the table than water rights or Delta governance. How any new Delta governance package addresses the BDCP is a concerning issue, particularly for Yolo County. Bob Schneider also mentioned that the Regional Board's TMDL plan will also be an underlying driver for the Delta and BDCP solutions. Chair Marble asked the Board whether they wanted a presentation on the BDCP, but there was general consensus that they receive sufficient information from other sources.

- c) *Other news* – Chair Marble invited Jim Mayer to give an informational presentation on California Forward. Jim is the executive director of California Forward (CF), which was founded by several major California foundations. CF is an action oriented, bi-partisan organization comprised of business and government groups. The organization's goal is to make changes in how California governs itself. CF is working in several arenas simultaneously - fiscal, revenue, budget and political systems. CF is also addressing how to begin modernizing the relationship between the State and local governments in a collaborative way. CF is planning an initiative package on revenue, budget and political system reforms for the 2010 ballot. Visit their website for more information or to be added to their mailing list. <http://www.caforward.org/>
- d) *Discuss and approve WRA letters acknowledging Delta legislation efforts*- The Executive Committee felt it appropriate to extend our formal appreciation to those who contributed to the Delta legislation effort on Yolo County's behalf. The September agenda packet includes letters of appreciation to several State representatives. Chair Marble asked if the Board would like the WRA to send a diplomatic letter to the MWD expressing our concern about the way the process evolved. The Board authorized the Executive Committee to research and craft a letter to MWD as appropriate. The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the letters to Senator Wolk, Assembly members Yamada and Nielson, NCWA and ACWA.

10. MEMBERS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

They following agencies gave brief member reports and shared their water conservation efforts: YCFCWCD, Colusa County Water District, Dunnigan Water District, RD 108, RD 2035, Yolo County and the cities of Winters, Davis & Woodland.

Cecilia informed that the City of Winters has been having difficulty sending a city representative to the WRA Technical Committee meetings and requested whether participation via conference call is an option. It would also accommodate other agencies who are unable to attend a meeting. Donna will research this possibility.

Gary Schaad, Dunnigan Water District and Tehama Colusa Canal Authority, extended an open invitation to anyone interested to tour the Tehama Colusa Canal and discuss its possible expansion to provide another quality water source for Yolo County.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE: November 9, 2009 from 3-5 pm, Woodland Community Center

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

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Gentile

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WRA Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator