

**MINUTES of Executive Committee (EC) Meeting  
Water Resources Association of Yolo County  
February 9, 2010, 12:30 – 1:30 pm**

**Present:** Bill Marble, Kurt Balasek, Jacques DeBra, Tim O’Halloran, Donna Gentile

**Guest Attendees:** Petrea Marchand, Warren Westrup

**Absent:** Sid England

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Bill Marble at 12:30 pm.
2. **Approve Agenda and Adding Items to the Posted Agenda:** Agenda approved as presented.
3. **Public Comment:** No public comment.
4. **Discuss Resource Lobbyist Options** – Petrea Marchand and Warren Westrup from Yolo County attended the meeting to join this discussion. Petrea updated the EC on the current status of Yolo County’s lobbyist resources. The State and Federal lobbyist contracts were discontinued in 2009. Petrea is now the point person for lobbying and Delta issues for the County. Yolo County may have a small budget available to hire a lobbyist on an hourly consultant basis. The EC discussed the possibility of jointly utilizing a state/federal lobbyist for WRA and member agencies. Petrea is interviewing potential lobbyist candidates and will discuss the prospects with Tim O’Halloran. Bill Marble indicated that the City of Woodland may still have a lobbyist contract and will check on the City’s available resources as an option. Petrea would like to coordinate with WRA technical staff to become informed about regional projects since she has been not been participating in the WRA Technical Committee meetings. Petrea informed that the County is developing a list of Delta-related projects. Tim informed that he will be meeting with the Yolo County Delta “team” in mid-February to brief them on countywide collaborations on funding, projects and planning.

Additional related EC discussions:

- How does Yolo County’s agenda mesh with the IRWMP and the WRA?
- Communication between Yolo County and the WRA needs to be enhanced. Yolo County doesn’t want to operate in a “vacuum”. Yolo County’s participation in WRA activities valuable. The WRA Technical Committee is the best vehicle for communication. The WRA Board and Technical Committee have a standing agenda item for the County to update the WRA on their activities.
- Suggestion: that the TC review federal priorities as related to WRA member agency projects.
- The potential amount of available funding in the WRA budget for lobbying resources needs to be determined.

Additionally, the EC discussed the concept of WRA organizational changes as related to the Water Committee’s draft report proposing the development of a “hybrid” WRA and YCFCWCD. The Committee is recommending that the YCFCWCD general manager be utilized as the WRA’s administrative arm. There are many details and issues with this option that have not been worked out. The EC and Tim discussed the possibility of a “trial run” during the coming year of Tim providing administrative support for the proposed WRA hybrid. Tim is not clear what his administrative functions would be as WRA Executive Director and what percentage of his time would be allocated (10%?). A trial run could help flush out those concepts. How could this help the WRA grow in a favorable direction without increasing member agencies’ dues? Bill Marble asked that everyone think about the concepts discussed today and return with questions to be discussed at the March EC meeting. Proposed changes should be vetted through the WRA Board and reviewed with the 2010-11 budget adoption process.

**5. Update on Water Legislation & Other Related Issues (Tim O’Halloran)**

The EC approved the submission of WRA support letters to member agencies submitting 2011 Federal Appropriations Requests to our senatorial and congressional leaders. Donna, Jacques and Tim will draft letters for Bill’s signature for RD 2035 (NCWA submitting on their behalf), floodSAFE Yolo, Yolo County and the Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency.

**6. Update on Yolo County Water Committee Progress**

There are no updates from the Committee since Dirk Brazil attended the January WRA Board meeting. A draft report is circulating among Committee members, but has not yet been presented to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors for their direction on next steps. The WRA Board should think about what this process means for the WRA. The EC will request that Dirk and Jeff Loux give a formal presentation to the WRA Board on the water committee's report, preferably in March. After the presentation, the WRA Board can discuss whether a WRA preferred position is appropriate on the Committee's recommendations.

**7. Report on visit to Reclamation District 999** (Tim O'Halloran and Bill Marble)

Bill and Tim visited RD 999 to discuss their interest in joining the WRA. Mark Wilson inquired about the Yolo County groundwater monitoring program and its potential benefits to RD999. RD 999 was formally invited to join the WRA and Mark indicated he will be discussing that option with his Board.

**8. Technical Committee Update** (Jacques De Bra)

- a) Jacques updated the EC on Technical Committee (TC) activities covered below.
- b) The TC is currently receiving updates from each of the eight IRWMP Integrated Projects. An update on IRWMP Foundational Actions will be covered at the March TC meeting. Once the TC has reviewed and evaluated the status of the IRWMP actions, they will bring their recommendations for an update process to the WRA Board.
- c) The Proposition 84 process is languishing with the State's budget challenges. New grant funds have not been released. The Westside Regional Water Management Group developed in response to the DWR's Proposition 84 process will be meeting at the end of February. Additionally, Tasmin Eusuff, DWR has moved to another department and a new DWR representative for Yolo County activities has not been assigned yet. Tasmin was the DWR liaison for informing the TC.

**9. Next WRA Board meeting: March 15, 2010, 3-5 pm, Woodland Community & Senior Center**

Draft agenda items were discussed including:

- Technical Committee chair update on the IRWMP Actions Update process
- Yolo County Water Committee presentation - Dirk Brazil and Jeff Loux
- Yolo County presentation on BDCP/Delta – BDCP and Petrea Marchand

**10. Discuss Project Funds to offset YCFWCWD legal expenses related to WRA Activities**

The item was postponed for discussion until the next EC meeting, since it is related to determining budget availability. Donna will review the 2009-10 budget for potential surplus and will report to the EC in March.

**11. Administrative Items:**

- a) *Review January 2010 financials* – The financials were reviewed by the EC.
- b) *January 5, 2010 EC meeting minutes* were approved.
- c) *Office equipment purchase and repair* – The EC did not discuss this item. Donna was asked to report purchase options at the March EC meeting.
- d) *Payments to approve* - All payments were approved.

**12. Other Updates & Future Executive Committee Agenda Items** - None discussed.

**13. Next EC Meeting Date:** March 2, 2010, 12:30 to 1:30 pm in the Woodland Community Center.

**14. Adjourned** at 1:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Donna L. Gentile*

Donna L. Gentile, WRA Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator