

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9, 2015
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION OF YOLO COUNTY**

1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair, Bill Marble.

Board members present: Bill Marble - City of Woodland, Chair
Cecilia Curry – City of Winters, WRA Vice-Chair
Beverly Sandeen – City of West Sacramento
Robb Davis – City of Davis

Alternate members present: Tim O’Halloran – Yolo County Flood Control & WCD, WRA Treasurer
Mabel Salon – University of California Davis
Kurt Balasek – City of Winters
Jim Hilliard - City of Woodland

Associate members present: Lynnel Pollock – Cache Creek Conservancy
Heather Nichols – Yolo County Resources Conservation District

Member agencies absent: Reclamation District 2035 (no Board appointed representative)
Reclamation District 108
Dunnigan Water District
Yolo County

Public & Agency Staff: Elisa Sabatini - Yolo County, WRA Technical Committee Chair
David Guy - Northern California Water Association (NCWA)
Cindy Tuttle - Yolo County
Mike Hall – Reclamation District 2035
Betsy Marchand – Yocha DeHe Wintun Nation
Ruy Laredo – Assemblymember Bill Dodd
Kyle Lang – Reclamation District 537 and 1600
Denise Sagara – Yolo County Farm Bureau
Michelle Stephens – Yolo Farmbudsman
Carolyn West – Yolo County
Greg Meyer – City of Woodland
Tim Busch – City of Woodland
Ann Taylor – Woodland Stallion Station
James Taylor - Farmer
Shane Tucker - Farmer
Dave Pratt
John McKean

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

3. PUBLIC FORUM: No public comments.

4. CONSENT ITEMS: The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the consent items.

- a. Approved minutes: January 12, 2015 Board meeting
- b. Received financial reports: January – February 2015
- c. Received minutes of Executive Committee (EC): 1/5/15
- d. Received minutes of Technical Committee (TC): 1/8/15

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. Report from the WRA Chair: Nothing reported.

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6. UPDATE ON WATER LEGISLATION & REGULATORY ISSUES

- a. Delta Update: Nothing reported.
- b. Legislation and Regulatory Update: David Guy, NCWA¹, reported on regulatory issues of interest to Yolo County. The Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) came out with zero allocations of water supplies from the Tehama Colusa Canal, which was not unexpected given current Lake Shasta water storage levels. The Bureau has not made a decision on allocations for the CVP settlement contractors yet. The CVP contractors received a letter from the Bureau indicating they would be waiting until mid-March to make a determination. This is largely tied to a Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan that the Bureau is developing in conjunction with the fish agencies, which must be submitted to SWRCB by mid-March. NCWA is working with them on plan modeling to resolve cold water release issues from Lake Shasta with respect to winter run salmon and CVP contractor water diversion needs. The SWRCB issued a TUCP last week, which relaxes Delta water quality standards allowing more water to be stored in upstream reservoirs, thereby benefiting downstream uses. The SWRCB denied the DWR/Bureau's requested exports to move water south of the Delta for the time being. The SWRCB sent out preliminary curtailment warning notices about dry year conditions and potential curtailments later in the year. David informed that pre-1914 and riparian water right Informational Order was due last week to the SWRCB that substantiates these water rights. With respect to the BDCP, the Administration is updating their California Water Action Plan and we should hear more about this soon. Maybe the WRA could invite them to talk about this at a future meeting when the Plan is ready. Tim asked David about the ILRP. He reviewed some of the new requirements and how it impacts groundwater quality planning.

David asked the WRA and interested parties to support some recently introduced legislation. Congressmen Garamendi and LaMalfa introduced HR 4300 that sets completion dates for the Sites Reservoir feasibility work and joint environmental document. David informed that a legislative approach is under development to encourage Federal support for a salmon recovery plan in Sacramento Valley. He'll have more information on that at a later date. On the State legislative side, there are about 25 groundwater bills that have been introduced in the last few weeks. David put them into four general categories; "spot" bills, streamlined adjudication process, bill language clean-up, and additional reporting such as well logs. The overall focus right now is on implementing the groundwater legislation. NCWA is encouraging the Administration to include money in the budget for continued local groundwater assistance funding (AB 303). The Proposition 1 implementation schedule is underway that includes \$2.7 million for statewide water-related project improvements, such as surface water storage. Another bill that David urges the WRA to support is AB 568 (Dodd), which authorizes Reclamation District 108 to add power functions to their portfolio under Reclamation District law.

Suggested Action: That the WRA formally support HR 4300 and AB 568. Chair Marble deferred Board discussion to formally support these bills until after John Woodling's presentation. It was agreed at the end of this meeting that both bills will be discussed by the WRA Technical and Executive committees in April prior to sending letters of support. (*Post meeting note*: HR 4300 has been reintroduced as HR1060.)

¹ A glossary of all acronyms and abbreviations is included at the end of the minutes.

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7. REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY's (RWA) LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES UPDATE:

John Woodling, Executive Director, distributed a packet of information² with RWA's membership composition and their Board approved 2015 legislative and regulatory agenda. RWA updated their strategic plan in 2013. Their Board direction was to become more engaged in advocacy. John explained that many of the current assembly members have only been in office for 2 years and this provides an opportunity for us to inform and educate the newer members on issues that are important to us. RWA's top priorities are the same as those of the North State Water Alliance (NSWA). The foundation of which is a comprehensive plan for statewide water reliability that is consistent with the California Water Action Plan. There are three components to this foundation that addresses Northern California's water supply reliability. The first is an investment in infrastructure (reference the NSWA brochure: <http://northstatewater.org/assets/Infrastructure-Brochure-Final.pdf>). The second is an operational plan for the statewide system's State and Federal reservoirs that insure the contract obligations and water rights of Northern California can be met. The system is challenged to meet current and future water supply and environmental needs under the present regulatory framework, especially with climate change challenges.

RWA's informational packet also included a list of legislation with brief descriptive summaries. At least one quarter of these bills are related to implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Management Act (GSMA). Overall, Sacramento Valley is ready to move forward with local groundwater management if given the flexibility as stated in the SGMA. John summarized RWA's legislative related activities. The RWA's focus is on Proposition 1 groundwater legislation implementation activities. Ideally DWR will have that funding available to assist with GSA formation and the GSP development soon, although the current timeline is looking more like 2016. Since we are beginning the fourth year of the drought, it would be helpful if water conservation funding could move forward more aggressively than it is. Funding to assist with groundwater contamination solutions in the Sacramento area also needs to start being expedited to local agencies, as well as throughout the state. He highlighted SB 385 that helps local agencies with compliance standards for hexavalent chromium in public drinking water systems. Last year the State passed two big pieces of legislation: the Water Bond (Proposition 1) and SGMA. This year will be about getting the funding flowing to implement that legislation. The SWRCB is also considering extending emergency water conservation regulations next week. Regulations will continue to require water use reporting and likely include some additional measures such as mandatory two days/week watering, which Sacramento is already doing. Last year, Northern California did reduce water use by 20% as the Governor requested. John answered questions and received comments.

Chair Marble requested that the Board skip to Agenda Item #10 that requires a Board vote. One Board member needs to leave a little early and we will lose our quorum.

8. UPDATE on LOCAL FLOOD ACTIVITIES

- *Regional Flood Management Plan (RFMP)*, Cindy Tuttle, Yolo County, reported on the progress of a component of the RFMP – the Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP). There was so much confusion over the similar terminology of IRWMP and IWMP that it has been rebranded as the “*Corridor Management Framework*” (CMF) for the Lower Sacramento/Delta North Region (LS-DN). Cindy distributed informational handouts (included at end of minutes) about this multi-objective project to address all the Federal, state and local partners' needs that operate in the LS-

² Upon request, the WRA can provide copies of the information packet distributed or visit their website at <http://www.rwah2o.org/rwa/>

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DN Corridor. Historically flood projects have been implemented as independent projects, but the CMF looks at the flood plain as a whole corridor rather than individual flood risk reduction, enhanced ecosystem, and agricultural sustainability projects. It also focuses on the interrelationship that exists between the LS-DN Corridor and its central feature, the Yolo Bypass/Cache Creek Slough Complex. The CMF emphasizes establishing long-term collaborative and cooperative multi-agency relationships to promote engagement in a locally preferred plan. Local agencies and land owners are concerned about the potential detrimental impact of land conversion to accommodate habitat and flood management improvements. Therefore, a series of assurances have been identified which must be addressed as part of any plan to convert or impact existing land uses. The CMF was recently supported by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors on February 24th and implementation has begun with concept proposals being submitted for consideration. Cindy answered questions.

- Rail Relocation Project, Tim Busch, City of Woodland, gave updates on the Regional Rail Relocation Project and the City's flood protection plan. He explained how some aspects of these projects are merging. The City continues to work with the US Army Corps of Engineers on the Lower Cache Creek Feasibility Study. The next milestone will be selecting a preferred alternative hopefully by August 2015 (*post meeting note*: by November 2015). The City is also pursuing two alternatives for flood protection with DWR as a partner. One is flood protection for Woodland only. The other one coming to the fore front is an integrated plan for the regional rail relocation flood protection project. The Rail Relocation would provide 200-year flood protection for Woodland. This project involves removing rail lines out of the cities of Woodland, Davis and West Sacramento and eventual removal of the rail trestle in the Yolo Bypass. A new line would be constructed through or around Woodland. The City's feasibility studies have progressed far enough to apply for a design grant. The City submitted a concept paper today for a design grant from DWR that will fund 65% of the combined flood protection and rail relocation project. They should know by the end of this year if DWR accepts their proposal that could eventually help fund construction. Tim explained where the proposed rail line would be built. This project would remove Interstate 5 from the flood plain permanently. Caltrans has been included in discussions about this project, but they do not have funds available to be allocated for this project. Tim answered questions.

9. WRA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE UPDATE, Elisa Sabatini, Committee Chair

- a. Technical Committee (TC) Activities and Westside IRWMP Update – Nothing additional was reported from the staff report included with the agenda.

10. The "YEAR of GROUNDWATER", Tim O'Halloran, Yolo County Flood Control & WCD

- a. Groundwater Legislation: Tim summarized the outreach that has been conducted over the last year, before and after this legislation was approved. Now we are moving from educational outreach to the implementation process. He referenced the Staff Report included with the agenda that demonstrates the agencies supporting the WRA's SGMA planning forum. Other stakeholders are also supportive of this effort, including Tuleyome. The resolution will also be presented to the Yocha DeHe Wintun Nation for consideration. The WRA has been deliberate in proceeding in an open process without making any assumptions about the GSA's composition. There are two major SGMA deadlines. The GSA formation deadline is June 30, 2017 and the development of a GSP by January 31, 2020. WRA member agencies are supporting the planning forum process. Tim will be giving a presentation to the Dunnigan Water District. They indicated that they will work with the WRA in the planning forum process even though they are investigating their options about forming their own GSA.

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In January, the WRA Board agreed that a facilitator should be hired for this process to insure that all voices are heard and to help navigate any conflict resolution. An action item for the Board today is to approve the release of the Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) to solicit facilitator proposals (draft included with agenda). The Executive Committee has also tasked Donna Gentile with preparing an email list serve for the WRA's SGMA public meetings and notices for anyone specifically interested in this process. All available stakeholder outreach resources will be utilized.

Tim believes there are two general areas of involvement that the facilitator can assist with in this process: gathering technical information and identifying the political governance structure. The question of sustainability will also need to be addressed. The WRA and its membership have a long history of groundwater management and information in this county that should make the governance discussion easier. Tim stated although we may not know everything about our groundwater, we do have a lot of information to build on. DWR is also discussing the basin boundaries. Tim gave an overview of the groundwater basins in Yolo County and some neighboring basins as defined in Bulletin 118. There are nuances to defining the boundaries that do not necessarily match with county boundaries. Discussions are being held on varying viewpoints on the benefits of changing the Bulletin 118 boundaries or keeping them as they are. Possible options include a GSA that has a footprint over parts of a basin beyond county boundaries that includes joint operating agreements with neighbors to cover the entire basin. In summary, GSA formation discussions will likely include determining sustainability of the basin and agreement on the basin boundaries.

Donna reported on the status of the resolutions received in support of the WRA's role as the GSA planning forum. The staff report included with the agenda can be updated to include receipt of the City of Davis and the University of California Davis' resolutions.

Elisa Sabatini, TC Chair, commented on the draft SOQ request and the aggressive timeline to release the SOQ by tomorrow, March 10th, with a submission deadline of March 27, 2015. On March 5th, the TC reviewed the SOQ and recommends WRA Board approval for distribution. Elisa and Tim answered questions. One suggested amendment to the SOQ was to add that WRA staff will support the facilitator in memorializing discussions (Scope of Work section Item #7). The question was raised regarding the budget for this process. Chair Marble informed that we do not foresee increasing membership dues to support this process. Funding from the WRA Project Budget could be utilized; although that would necessitate that other projects will not have the opportunity to be funded for a while. The Board asked how the SOQ would be distributed. Tim and Elisa informed that invitational email distribution was discussed in order to receive qualified proposals from firms that are familiar with Yolo County issues. The Board agreed the SOQ will be posted on the WRA's website and a link broadcast via email to the full WRA list serve. The WRA Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the SOQ with the proposed amendment for distribution. It was requested that a summary of this action taken be emailed as soon as possible to the WRA list serve.

- 11. WATER CONDITIONS UPDATE,** Tim O'Halloran, Yolo County Flood Control & WCD, commented on information provided by David Guy at the start of the meeting regarding Settlement Contractor water conditions. Unless there is a dramatic change in the weather, it is anticipated that allocations will not change and water will be expensive this year

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Tim gave an update on the YCFC&WCD's water supplies. They will have a 3 month irrigation (~May to June) season this year with the current water supply in storage.

The Board briefly discussed methods of public outreach that the cities of Winters and Davis use to update their residents about current water conditions and regulations. Bill invited Board members to discuss methods further after the meeting.

12. MEMBERS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, Nothing was discussed.

13. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, March 9, 2015 from 3-5 pm, Woodland Community & Senior Center.

14. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna L. Gentile

Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator

ACRONYMS and ABBREVIATIONS

BDCP – Bay Delta Conservation Plan
CMF – Corridor Management Framework
CVP – Central Valley Project
DWR – California Department of Water Resources
GSA – Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP - Groundwater Sustainability Plan
ILRP – Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
IRWMP – Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
LS-DN – Lower Sacramento/Delta North Region
NCWA – Northern California Water Association
NSWA – North State Water Alliance
RFMP – Regional Flood Management Plan
RWA – Regional Water Authority
SGMA – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SOQ – Statement of Qualifications
SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board
TUCP – Temporary Urgency Change Permit
USACE – United States Army Corps of Engineers