

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 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  
Robb Davis – City of Davis  
Duane Chamberlain - Yolo County  
Beverly Sandeen – City of West Sacramento  
Sid England – University of California Davis  
Roger Cornwell – Reclamation District 108

Alternate members present: Tim O'Halloran – Yolo County Flood Control & WCD, WRA Treasurer  
Kurt Balasek – City of Winters  
Lewis Bair - Reclamation District 108

Associate members present: Jeanette Wrynski – Yolo County Resource Conservation District  
Nancy Ullrey – Cache Creek Conservancy

Member agencies absent: Reclamation District 2035  
Dunnigan Water District

Public & Agency Staff: Elisa Sabatini - Yolo County, WRA Technical Committee Chair  
David Guy - Northern California Water Association (NCWA)  
John Young – Yolo County  
Casey Liebler – Yolo County  
Christine Crawford – Yolo County LAFCO  
Betsy Marchand – Yocha DeHe Wintun Nation  
Brent Meyer – City of Woodland  
Les Canter – River Garden Farms  
Marty Stripling – River Garden Farms  
Evan Jacobs – Cal-Am Water  
Katie Dahl – Association of CA Water Agencies (ACWA)  
Mary Fahey – Colusa County  
Dave Pratt  
Shane Tucker  
Lynnel Pollock

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Item #9 was moved up on the agenda after Item #5 at the request of a few Board members that needed to leave the meeting before 4:30 pm. The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the agenda with the change requested.

**3. PUBLIC FORUM:** Shane Tucker is a walnut and almond farmer in Yolo County and he addressed the Board on two subjects. First he addressed a common sense application that could reduce the potential conflict between rural, residential and agricultural water uses. Local agencies could consider establishing “zones of water” reserved for rural/residential versus agricultural users. Most of the rural/residential wells access water between 100 to 200 feet. Conflicts for use could be reduced by allowing an agricultural user to only access the aquifer beyond 200 feet. Often the water in the aquifer above 200 feet is lower quality water. Secondly, in addition to the development of a sustainable groundwater plan, he suggested we should also be working on increasing the availability of groundwater supplies and improving the quality of groundwater. He has spoken with Tim

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O'Halloran and is aware of the District's efforts. Obviously, money is needed to develop these planning efforts. Agriculture is one way that money flows into Yolo County. Yolo County is experiencing an increase in agricultural land values because of the increase in acreage of high value permanent crops due in large part to the availability of groundwater. Increased land values translate into increased property taxes as described by John Young at the last WRA Board meeting. Shane asked that the WRA Board consider identifying funding sources to improve groundwater resources and sustainability.

4. **CONSENT ITEMS:** The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the consent items.
  - a. Approved minutes: June 15, 2015 Board meeting (with the correction to Christine Crawford's name on page 4).
  - b. Received minutes of Executive Committee (EC): 6/1, 7/7, 8/3/15
  - c. Received minutes of Technical Committee (TC): 6/4, 7/2, 8/6/15
  - d. Received financial reports: Final Fiscal Year End 6/30/15
  - e. Received financial reports: July-August 2015
  - f. Approved Associate Membership request from the Putah Creek Council
  
5. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
  - a. Report from the WRA Chair: Chair Marble introduced Katie Dahl from ACWA and invited her to talk about their upcoming Region 4 program and tour on "Achieving Solutions through Regional Cooperation". Informational fliers were available at the meeting. They will tour the Davis-Woodland Water Supply Project's water treatment plant site and Reclamation District 2035's Joint Intake and Fish Screen Project.
  - b. Correspondence Sent: A support letter for AB 568 was sent and included in the agenda.
  
6. **UPDATE ON WATER LEGISLATION & REGULATORY ISSUES**
  - a. Delta Update: Elisa provided the following update from Cindy Tuttle. On 9/2/15, Supervisors Villegas and Provenza attended the inaugural meeting of the Yolo Bypass Partnership. This is a continuation of the implementation of the Corridor Management Framework Plan, which is an outgrowth of the Regional Flood Management Plan. This is the first time local government has had a seat at the table. The Partnership is a significant local, State and Federal agency effort that includes representatives from Yolo, Solano, and Sacramento counties, the Natural Resources Agency, US Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Services and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board. The Partnership will focus on integrating flood and habitat projects in the Yolo Bypass and aligning related efforts at all three levels of government. Its work will also include cooperatively addressing local concerns relating to agricultural and economic impacts, local flood and habitat issues, and assurances for affected landowners and local agencies. With guidance from the Delta Subcommittee, staff has been working with State and Federal agency representatives to formalize the Partnership through an MOU framework that may later be replaced by a detailed MOU. Both will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration. Phil Pogledich and Cindy Tuttle are the Yolo County staff contacts for this process.
  - b. Legislation and Regulatory Update: David Guy, Northern California Water Association, complemented all the water managers at the end of what has been a challenging harvest season. As the fall season begins, NCWA is working with all the water users and regional organizations to maximize water supply and habitat for the Pacific Flyway. NCWA continues to work with the SWRCB's process to lift curtailments as demand changes with the seasons. David mentioned a series of Fish & Wildlife Service programs designed to provide additional funding for water

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including groundwater pumping where needed. There are a variety of programs that have emerged in Yolo County as part of the Salmon Recovery Program (handout). NCWA continues to support collaboration to plan for dry years and translate what was learned into policies ("Planning for a Dry Year in the North State" handout). Handouts are available for download at: [www.yolowra.org/meeting\\_directors.html](http://www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html)

David discussed several pieces of California legislation of interest to WRA members.

- AB 568 (Dodd) - Gives RD 108 the same hydro authorities as other RDs in the region. It does have a sunset date of 2021. Bill was signed.
- AB 401 (Dodd) – Plan for a low income water rate assistance act for either public or private agencies. The plan would be established by Jan. 1, 2018. Bill on Governor's desk
- SB 385 (Hueso) –Allows the SWRCB to give public agencies more time to comply with chromium-6 regulations. Bill was signed.
- SB 555 (Sen. Wolk) – Requires urban water supplies to conduct water loss audit report to increase water supply reliability. Bill on Governor's desk.
- AB 1390 (Alejo) & SB 226 (Pavley) – Bills to allow a streamlined groundwater adjudication process are going to the Governor's desk.
- DWR is working on an expedited process to provide groundwater funding to counties to assist with SGMA implementation under Proposition 1.
- AB 647 (Eggman) – A 2-year bill on conjunctive management that didn't move forward, hoping to further this bill in the next session.

In Federal legislation, the House passed their drought bill earlier this year that is awaiting further review by the Senate. Senator Feinstein introduced her drought bill that has a lot of similar provisions to the House bill. Senate committee hearings are planned for both bills in October to hopefully reconcile the best of both bills. David answered questions.

Chair Marble asked David what he thought were the looming issues for Northern California related to SGMA. Coordinating the management issues of the special districts and counties to resolve any conflicts while respecting each other's authorities is the biggest issue.

A few other items that David mentioned were SB 20 (Pavley) a potential public goods charge on water, potential accelerated SGMA timelines for critically over-drafted groundwater areas, and the legislature "cleaned-up" some of the SGMA language.

7. **WRA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE UPDATE**, Elisa Sabatini, Committee Chair
  - a. Technical Committee (TC) Activities and Westside IRWMP Update – The report included with the agenda provided an update for the Board.
  - b. Approve FY2015-16 Project Fund Budget allocations recommended by TC: Elisa brought the Board's attention to the TC's recommendations for FY2015-16 project fund budget allocations on Agenda page 48. There are eight diverse projects recommended. She highlighted two projects, the Davis-Woodland Schools & Parks Water Conservation and the Yolo County RCD's technical workshop for growers on nitrogen and irrigation BMP's for orchards. The WRA and several member agencies are cooperatively funding a Subsidence Network Monitoring Event that has not been conducted since 2008. The WRA Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the TC's FY2015-16 Project Fund Budget as presented in the Board agenda.
8. **The "YEAR of GROUNDWATER"**, Tim O'Halloran, Yolo County Flood Control & WCD

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- a. *Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation Update*: Tim acknowledged that although Denise Sagara, Yolo County Farm Bureau, was unable to attend today, she has been part of all the SGMA discussions and the YCFB is in full support of the recommendations being made. He gave a brief background on the 2014 SGMA legislation. The WRA's current focus is on the formation of a GSA, while simultaneously giving thought to the development of a GSP. The core functions of a GSP are already in place in Yolo County. Groundwater management has been the focus of attention over the past 10 years with the establishment of the Yolo County Groundwater Monitoring Program, development of a groundwater model (IGSM) and several subsidence monitoring projects. Tim explained that there are two key questions to be answered in this process. Has Yolo County's groundwater been sustainable and will it remain sustainable in the future especially with changing agriculture – crop shifts and related water use variables? One advantage in Yolo County is that we have opportunities to improve water management and to increase storage by injecting water into the groundwater basin. Tim expressed his optimism that our region can move through the implementation of the SGMA rather expediently and with a successful collaborative process resulting in the selection and formation of a local GSA.
- Approve facilitation support services recommendation: Tim reviewed the request before the WRA Board to approve the facilitation support services recommended on agenda page 49. He summarized the WRA's earlier effort to begin the facilitation solicitation process and subsequent discussions that have developed with DWR about the opportunities available for their in-kind support services. The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the following two part recommendation for moving forward.
    - 1) The WRA Board approved entering into an agreement with DWR to use the Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP), under the management of Dave Ceppos, for facilitation services for development of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Yolo County region;
    - 2) The WRA board approved establishing an ad hoc committee (composition as outlined in the committee report on agenda page 49) to develop the final scope-of-work based upon the March 2015 request for Statement of Qualifications. The ad hoc committee will be appointed by the WRA Chair. The final scope-of-work will be approved by the ad hoc committee that will used to direct the work of the CCP.
  - Groundwater Basin Boundary Adjustments: Tim discussed the process for modifying groundwater basin boundaries with DWR. The boundary will need to be defined for Yolo County for the GSA and the GSP. The SGMA legislation is currently using the Bulletin 118 defined boundaries. There are four sub-basins in Yolo County under Bulletin 118. Tim illustrated with a map outlining the sub-basins as named: Yolo and Capay Valley which are completely within the county and then Solano and Colusa that have a small portion of their basins within Yolo County. Tim explained why we have asked DWR to consider adjustments to our basin boundaries to include political and governance considerations. DWR has received input from a broad group of stakeholders that are making the same request. The draft regulations by DWR will become final on December 31, 2015. Then there will be a 90 day window to request basin boundary refinements. The basin boundary discussion cannot wait for the GSA to be formed. It must happen concurrently.

Current consensus is to request using the Yolo County boundary as the basin boundary. From a land use jurisdiction perspective, it makes sense to keep a county line based boundary. Most of the areas in our region's basin are managed by WRA member agencies or agencies that

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could be part of the WRA. There are a few small areas that are not covered under any jurisdiction. We will have to discuss as a group how to these areas will be governed during our SGMA implementation process. No matter where the basin boundaries are designated, SGMA requires coordinating agreements between neighboring basins were applicable. Tim answered questions. Lynnel Pollock reminded that the Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company wanted to become a WRA member agency a few years ago, but was unable to join because the WRA's bylaws only accept public agencies as members. Tim explained the WRA's bylaws would need amending if it became the region's GSA, thereby likely expanding the membership requirements. Issues like this will be part of the GSA formation discussion.

- 9. COLUSA COUNTY WELL PERMIT MORATORIUM**, Mary Fahey is the Water Resources Coordinator for Colusa County. The County recently approved a 6 month moratorium on new well permits. Mary reviewed the content of the ordinance, the reasons for implementing and the County's plans during and after the 6 month period. The urgency ordinance is effective from June 30, 2015 to January 31, 2016. At that time the County Supervisors could renew the moratorium for another 6 months with a public hearing, revise it with a public hearing, or let it sunset. Well permit exemptions are granted for all well repairs, expansion or deepening of Domestic/residential wells, or expansion or deepening of irrigation wells with an existing crop and no other source of water. She explained two amendments were adopted for situations that arose. Domestic, agricultural, or industrial wells that cannot be deepened can be replaced with destruction of the old well within 30 days. Any repairs or replacements cannot increase the capacity of the old well to extract water.

The decision to implement the ordinance was based on a combination of factors based on the best available groundwater measurement data and on the ground observations. Data was showing a 10-year downward trend in groundwater levels in some areas. Physical evidence included domestic well outages, new wells being drilled deeper, and signs of subsidence. She gave some well statistics over the years and the problems caused by the drought and subsidence that factored into the County's decision to take action.

Current activities with the moratorium in place include a contract with Davids Engineering to conduct a county-wide groundwater assessment. He will develop a detailed water balance in the "area of concern" identified by Colusa County. This information will also assist in understanding the extent to which ongoing groundwater level declines are related to drought versus current land and water use practices. This assessment will help the County make an informed decision whether to renew the moratorium. This information will also be useful with their GSA formation discussions. Their Environmental Health Department is also working on updating the County's Well Ordinance. The County will also be coordinating a public outreach effort to inform stakeholders about their SGMA implementation process.

Mary discussed reactions Colusa County has received to the moratorium. Since the moratorium went into effect NASA released their [subsidence report](#). Glenn County also issued a county-wide well moratorium last month. Tehama and Sutter counties are considering something similar, but no action has been taken in those counties to date. Mary answered questions from the Board and public. She asked the WRA Board for their comments/input on the County's actions on the moratorium.

- 10. MEMBERS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Nothing was discussed.

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**11. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** Monday, November 16, 2015 from 3-5 pm, Woodland Community & Senior Center.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Donna L. Gentile

Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator

**ACRONYMS and ABBREVIATIONS**

ACWA – Association of California Water Agencies  
DWR – California Department of Water Resources  
GSA – Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
GSP - Groundwater Sustainability Plan  
IRWMP – Integrated Regional Water Management Plan  
MOU – Memorandum of Understanding  
NCWA – Northern California Water Association  
SGMA – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act  
SOQ – Statement of Qualifications  
SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board  
YCFB – Yolo County Farm Bureau