

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2016
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, Cecilia Aguiar-Curry.

Board members present: Cecilia Aguiar-Curry - City of Winters, Chair
Duane Chamberlain - Yolo County
Beverly Sandeen – City of West Sacramento
Camille Kirk – University of California Davis
Roger Cornwell – Reclamation District 108

Alternate members present: Tim O’Halloran – Yolo County Flood Control & WCD, WRA Treasurer
Donita Hendrix - Dunnigan Water District

Associate members present: Jeanette Wrysinski – Yolo County Resource Conservation District
Robin Kulakow – Yolo Basin Foundation
Key Loy – West Yost Associates

Member agencies absent: City of Davis
City of Woodland
Reclamation District 2035

Public & Agency Staff: Elisa Sabatini, Yolo County, WRA Technical Committee Chair
Max Stevenson - Yolo County Flood Control & WCD
Todd Manley - Northern California Water Association (NCWA)
Richard Reed – Yolo County Supervisor Provenza, District 4
Todd Bernardy - CA Department of Water Resources
Jeremy Arrich - CA Department of Water Resources
Ric Reinhardt – MBK Engineers
Dave Pratt
Mike Wademan – Brown & Caldwell
Casey Liebler – Yolo County

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chair Curry requested Item 4e. removed from the Consent Item agenda for further discussion. Item was added after Item #5. The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the agenda with the above change.

3. PUBLIC FORUM: No comments from the public.

4. CONSENT ITEMS: The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the consent items (a) through (d).

- a. Approved minutes: September 19, 2016 Board meeting
- b. Received minutes of Executive Committee: 9/12, 10/10/16
- c. Received minutes of Technical Committee: 9/1, 10/6/16
- d. Received FY2016-17 financial reports: September - October 2016
- e. Nominating Committee Recommendations for Annual Board Officer Elections and Appointments for 2017 - Item removed for further discussion after Consent agenda.

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. Report from the WRA Chair: This will be Cecilia’s last meeting as she has been elected to an State assembly position.

6. NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANNUAL BOARD OFFICER ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR 2017: Tim O’Halloran, Nominating Committee Chair, reported on the discussions to select Board members for recommendation to the Chair and

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Vice-chair positions for the remainder of 2016 and the 2017 year. The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the Nominating Committee's recommendations for 2017 Board officers and appointed positions, which are: Chair – Beverly Sandeen, Vice-chair – Roger Cornwell, Treasurer – Tim O'Halloran, Technical Committee Chair – Elisa Sabatini, Board Secretary – Donna Gentile and Auditor – Perry, Bunch & Johnston, Inc.

7. UPDATE ON WATER LEGISLATION & REGULATORY ISSUES

- a. Legislation, Regulatory and Delta Updates: Todd Manley, Northern California Water Association (NCWA), provided the following updates. All his handouts distributed are available at: www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html.
 - The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) released the “*Working Draft Scientific Basis Report for New and Revised Flow Requirements (Report) on the Sacramento River and Tributaries, Eastside Tributaries to the Delta, Delta Outflow, and Interior Delta Operations*” in October 2016. The Report recommends new inflow requirements for fish-bearing tributaries. The Report recommends the Bay-Delta Plan update consider a 35% to 75% range of unimpaired Sacramento River inflow to meet water quality objectives in the Delta. This would be coupled with increased Delta outflow targets yet to be named, retaining cold water in storage at the upstream reservoirs and limiting Delta exports. Todd discussed how NCWA and other local agencies feel this is not the best approach to address water quality challenges in the Delta (reference two handouts distributed: *California State Board of Food and Agriculture letter to the Governor*, 11/2/16 and NCWA's op-ed “*Changing the Conversation: Environmental Water for the Sacramento Valley*”, 9/16/16). NCWA is encouraging the SWRCB to consider shifting the conventional approach to consider out-of-stream functional flow strategies instead of in-stream strategies. NCWA believes thinking outside of the box will continue to help shape water policy resulting in more benefits for environmental conservation and agriculture. Comments on the Draft Scientific Report are due on December 16th. NCWA will be submitting comments.
 - The Governor signed into law AB 1755 (Dodd) water data information sharing and AB 2551 (Gallagher) surface water storage bill. On the federal side, the drought legislation is still under development and discussions will continue next year. Todd reviewed the election results on Proposition 53 that appears to be defeated. Todd congratulated Cecilia on her election to the assembly. He commented that we are very fortunate to have water knowledgeable elected officials in our state legislature.
 - Todd distributed information about the upcoming event for “*Pacific Flyway Partnerships to be Celebrated in the Yolo Bypass*” on November 17th at 11 am to be held in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

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

- a. Technical Committee (TC) Activities and Westside IRWMP Update – Elisa introduced Casey Leibler, Yolo County Natural Resources Division, who took her position after she was promoted. She gave a short bio on his education and credentials. He has familiarized himself with local programs and issues by interning with Yolo County and the Cache Creek Conservancy.

Elisa highlighted a few recent TC meeting activities. Dr. Stephen McCord gave an interesting presentation on the EPA Brownfields Assessment grant awarded to the Westside-Sacramento IRWM group. He has been prioritizing and assessing Brownfields sites in the upper watershed in all four counties. This is a 3-year \$500,000 grant. After he completes this project, the Brownfields sites will become eligible for Round 2 EPA funding for actual clean-up. Also of note, the 2016 Yolo County Subsidence Network Monitoring project was also completed. The team was led by

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Jim Frame, Frame Surveying & Mapping in June/July 2016. The ~\$92,000 contract was funded primarily by the WRA, YCFC&WCD, Yolo County and Reclamation District 2035/Conaway. The observations were collected by volunteer local agency staff and the project came in under budget. Frame's final report is under review by the TC. This effort will tie-in with DWR's Sacramento Valley network subsidence monitoring update scheduled for 2017. DWR will also be looking to local agencies to provide volunteer staffing for their observation efforts. Both local and State efforts correlate to the Stanford University research team's study that is using an InSAR satellite -based analysis. It will be informational to see how it relates to the land-based GPS data.

9. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA)

- a. *Update on SGMA Implementation Process in Yolo County*: Tim O'Halloran, SGMA Working Group, began the update by reviewing current groundwater conditions as reported by the YCFC&WCD's real-time well monitoring data. The graph/table illustrated the historical groundwater levels and trends since 1975 for the YCFC&WCD service area and how groundwater conditions correlate to surface water supplies. Groundwater levels are starting to come up as would typically be expected for this time of year. Tim's PPT is available at: www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html.

Tim reviewed the phases outlined for SGMA compliance to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) by the 2017 deadline. Tim summarized the various types of meetings that have been held since the last WRA Board meeting to define GSA development and governance. The SGMA Working Group has met several times, there were several farmer group meetings, and four facilitated focus groups were conducted to survey farmer perceptions of SGMA implementation in Yolo County. Tim reviewed the official Yolo subbasin boundary modifications accepted by DWR and the GSA organizational framework proposed with five Management Areas covering different regions of the subbasin. One GSA with one Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) covering multiple entities is being proposed for Yolo County in a very collaborative and comprehensive approach. A GSA governing authority flow chart or "decision-tree" was developed to help an entity or management area determine whether groundwater conditions are sustainable and what process they need to follow to prove or attain sustainability. Tim explained the water balance model and how it can be used to describe the flow of water in and out of a system and thereby assist in determining a subbasin's sustainability for GSA entities. When a GSP is submitted to the State they will review whether the Plan addresses the "six undesirable results" as a measure of the basin's sustainable management. Tim explained how the SGMA process is based on "nested collaboration" of all the local and state agencies participating in the subbasin's management. He reviewed how the "white areas" not covered by any of the individual entities within the Yolo subbasin boundaries are being addressed.

The Working Group began discussions about a draft JPA agreement and proposed GSA fee structure. There are two types of fees being proposed; administrative and project. It is proposed that administrative fees in the amount of approximately \$400,000/year be collected for the first two years of the GSA. The fee structure can be revisited and adjusted if desired. Tim reviewed the WRA's current membership dues and groundwater program contributions for its 10 member agencies. He also noted that before deciding on a particular voting structure, it is important to answer the question of "what will be voted on". He explained that the GSA's authorities and decision-making will be limited; therefore, it probably won't be as contentious how the voting is structured. It would be best to keep it as simple as possible. There are many voting models that could be used, such as, acreage based, population based, consensus based and ratio of fees to name a few.

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Tim mentioned that DWR will be broadcasting a webinar on November 15th at 9:30 am on the Draft SGM Best Management Practices (BMP). Tim will be hosting a viewing in the YCFC&WCD's Board room for anyone who is interested. Tim answered questions about the SGMA implementation process.

- 10. PRESENTATION: Department of Water Resources (DWR) Informational Briefings:** Elisa Sabatini introduced Jeremy Arrich and Todd Bernardy who will be giving today's presentations. She also introduced Ric Reinhardt, MBK Engineers, who has been involved with the regional flood management planning group and the FloodProtect Plan since its inception. Some of the local agencies participating in regional planning are Solano County, Yolo County, West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, Reclamation District 2068 and the Solano County Water Agency. The local agencies have been very active in developing the Lower Sacramento Delta North Regional Flood Management Plan submitted to DWR. Ric provided some history and context for this planning effort and related implementation projects.

a. Status Update: 2017 Update to the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, Jeremy Arrich, DWR, informed that this is an update to the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP). The general goals, objectives and principles for operating, maintaining and improving the system remain the same. The 2017 Update includes refinements through the efforts of the regional planning process and stakeholder involvement that better defines specific regional priorities as well as the systemwide projects. The CVFPP will take 30 years to implement and an estimated \$21.3 billion. Full implementation will not be feasible without new State, federal and local funding. Collaborative efforts to implement projects will demonstrate their value and benefits to secure additional implementation funding. The Lower Elkhorn Project is the first systemwide improvement project to be implemented. There are many supporting documents, feasibility studies and outreach efforts that are contributing to the development of the 2017 CVFPP Update. Jeremy distributed a briefing packet with a working draft summary that includes policy discussions and recommendations for the 2017 Update process. A Working Draft of the 2017 Update has been released to the CVFP Board for review. The anticipated public review period will be January – May 2017 with a June 2017 adoption. Jeremy's PPT presentation can be viewed here: http://www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html. Jeremy answered questions.

b. Lower Elkhorn Basin Levee Setback Project (Widening of the Sacramento & Yolo Bypass). Todd Bernardy, DWR, provided some context to the planning and collaboration for implementation projects in the Yolo Bypass. Todd illustrated the major flood management projects in a map, *Potential Yolo Bypass/Cache Creek Slough Flood & Ecosystem Improvements*, highlighting features planned for Phase 1, Phase 2 and the near- and mid-term BiOps Actions being implemented. DWR worked with a broad spectrum of stakeholders and agencies to develop these features to improve public safety (flood management), economic stability (agriculture), and enhance ecosystem vitality. Todd explained in detail the proposed project features for the 7 miles of setback levee (slide #4 yellow line area) that will maintain agriculture in the Bypass, degrade existing levee with portions preserved for habitat and wind/wave riparian protection, maintain area for expansion of the East Side of the Tule Canal, and provide grading and drainage improvements. Current and ongoing activities include evaluation of design features, CEQA/NEPA process is underway, public outreach engagement with Reclamation District managers, and landowners to answer questions and receive feedback. They are also coordinating with Yolo County and Tribal staff. They are working with the US Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies on design documentation. They are nearing completion of the surveys to support

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CEQA. Todd reviewed the anticipated project milestones and schedule from 2016 to completed construction in 2020. Todd and Ric answered questions. Todd's PPT can be viewed at: http://www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html. Todd's email is: Todd.Bernardy@water.ca.gov.

- 11. MEMBERS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** The following agencies gave a brief update on recent activities: University of California Davis gave an implementation update on their portion of the surface water project. Also UC Davis recently hosted a delegation from Vietnam who is currently experiencing a severe drought. Cecilia thanked everyone for the mentoring she received while on the WRA Board. She commented on her activities and networking in preparation for her beginning her state assembly position.
- 12. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** Monday, January 9, 2017 from 3-5 pm, Woodland Community & Senior Center.
- 13. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned by Chair Cecilia Aguiar-Curry at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna L. Gentile

Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator