

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2017
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, Beverly Sandeen

Board members present: Beverly Sandeen – City of West Sacramento, WRA Chair
Duane Chamberlain - Yolo County
Roger Cornwell – Reclamation District 108, WRA Vice-chair
Skip Davies – City of Woodland
Tom Barth - Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

Alternate members present: Tim O'Halloran – Yolo County Flood Control & WCD, WRA Treasurer
Donita Hendrix - Dunnigan Water District
Mabel Salon – University of California Davis

Associate members present: Jeanette Wrynski – Yolo County Resource Conservation District
Ken Loy – West Yost Associates

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

Public & Agency Staff: Todd Manley - Northern California Water Association (NCWA)
Esther Conrad – Stanford University
Max Stevenson - Yolo County Flood Control & WCD
Tim Busch – City of Woodland
Casey Liebler – Yolo County Natural Resources
Jianmin Huang – Yolo County Environmental Health
Bob Schneider - Tuleyome
Dave Pratt
Frank Siefertman

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

3. PUBLIC FORUM: No comments from the public.

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

- a. Approved minutes: November 14, 2016 Board meeting
- b. Received FY2016-17 financial reports: November – December 2016
- c. Received minutes of Executive Committee: 11/7/16
- d. Received minutes of Technical Committee: 11/3/16 pending approval at January meeting
- e. Received *The Year in Review*: 2016 WRA Annual Newsletter

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. Report from the WRA Chair: Chair Sandeen acknowledged that this is her first meeting as Chair and looks forward to serving the WRA in her new role.

6. UPDATE ON WATER LEGISLATION & REGULATORY ISSUES

- a. Legislation, Regulatory and Delta Updates: Todd Manley, Northern California Water Association (NCWA) provided the following updates.

State Legislation: The 2017 session of the legislature is just starting as new legislators are being sworn in. New versions of water bonds are being developed through both the legislative and referendum process. Water transfers and additional groundwater regulation issues that were

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discussed last year may be the subject of legislation again this year. Attempts to decrease the role of predation on salmon populations will also likely be the subject of legislation this year. But, rather than increasing the take limits on predators like the striped bass, there will be proposed changes to regulations calling for the relocation of predators out of the Delta.

Federal Legislation: The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN) just passed. Congress introduced HR23, the "Guiding Responsibility on Water Act" (GROW). The GROW Act would reform the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, promote CALFED storage projects, streamline water supply and Bureau of Reclamation project permitting and recognize and support water rights protections. Also there are already about 40 new bills introduced in the new Congress related to changes to environmental regulations.

Regulatory Issues: Todd distributed NCWA's letter to the SWRCB related to the unimpaired flow approach for the draft Phase II Scientific Basis Report (Copy of letter available at: www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html.) An environmental document for the California WaterFix project was released in late December (90,000 pages!). The California Water Commission adopted regulations to guide Proposition 1 funding for public benefits associated with new water storage projects. It is being reviewed by the Office of Administrative Law and once approved; the solicitation of applications can begin.

7. PRESENTATION: City of Winters Hexavalent Chromium 6 Compliance Update, John Donlevy, City Manager for the City of Winters provided an update on the City's progress for complying with the State's new Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) regulation for Chromium 6 (Cr6) in drinking water. The Federal MCL for Cr6 is 100 parts per billion (ppb). California's MCL regulation was 50 ppb until July 2014 when that limit was lowered to 10 ppb. John gave a history of the City's water system. They have a population of about 7200 with 2400 water customers. The water system has about 30 miles of water line and five operational water wells. In 2007, the City financed \$20 million dollars to rehabilitate their water and waste water system. He explained the benefits of this rehabilitation. However, three of their five water wells are not MCL compliant, which includes the most recently constructed well. The two compliant wells have a 5 MCL and the other three are at 17 MCL. Developing and implementing a Cr6 compliance plan will place an additional burden on the City's finances. Winters has been formally cited for violation of Cr6 compliance. John explained the challenges of dealing with the enforcement division of the State Water Resources Control Board. The City is required to inform their customers that the City is non-compliant with state regulations. The City is developing a plan to come into compliance, but it will require about \$40 million of improvements to their water system that is currently valued at \$35 million. John stated that Winters' operating costs will double because they need to build a water treatment facility to comply with Cr6 MCL. He explained the challenges of implementing and financing their compliance plan. The State offers low interest loans through their Revolving Funds program – 1.6% interest for 20 years. John answered questions from the Board about drilling test wells, what enforcement actions the State has taken and the impacts of increasing water utility rates to their small customer base. Many other cities are also voicing their concerns to the State about passing along these higher utility costs to their lower and fixed income residents.

8. WRA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE UPDATE, Elisa Sabatini, Committee Chair (absent)

a. *Technical Committee (TC) Activities and Westside IRWMP Update* – Tim O'Halloran reported on TC activities as Elisa was unable to attend today. The TC did not meet in January. Tim asked Jeanette Wrynski to give an update on Westside-Sacramento IRWM activities as the Westside's

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Administrative Project Manager. The Westside Coordinating Committee (CC) meetings rotate through each of its member agencies locations throughout the year. The next meeting is being held in Woodland at the YCFC&WCD on January 11th at 10 am. She reviewed the process for adding new projects to the Westside IRWMP (~168 projects currently listed). The Westside has also started a small grants program like the WRA's project fund to assist small projects that need seed money. They will be hearing updates from some of the projects that were allocated funding this year. The CC will also be discussing the possibility of increasing the MOU partner's dues to further fund this small grant program. The main focus of IRWM project funding for the Westside has been emergency drought and infrastructure related, but there are many other smaller educational and watershed program projects that have a more difficult time finding funding. Max added that the WRA's cost share for the Westside is \$20,000/year and we received over \$4 million in grant funding for local water projects for the City of Woodland and the YCFC&WCD.

9. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA)

- a. SGMA Implementation Activities:* Tim O'Halloran began with an update on water conditions with all the recent winter storm activity. He distributed the YCFC&WCD's January 9th Water Conditions Report with current Clear Lake and Indian Valley Reservoir water levels compared to December 2016 and this time last year. He explained how the District's seasonal diversion activities help to recharge the groundwater aquifer. He discussed recent flood response monitoring and communications with Yolo County Office of Emergency Services (OES) staff.

Tim gave an update on the recent activities of the Yolo SGMA Working Group and Committees. He distributed an email sent to the SGMA Eligible Entities Working Group summarizing what was accomplished in 2016. The Working Group is discussing and developing details for Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) governance and a draft JPA agreement. A JPA agreement will be reviewed and adopted in the coming months to meet the GSA formation deadline of 6/30/17. The three major issues to be resolved while finalizing the JPA agreement include: deciding on a voting structure, establishing a fee allocation for the first two years and administration of the white areas. The Working Group will meet 3 times over the next six weeks as detailed in the email handout. Two public meetings have been established in conjunction with the Yolo County Farm Bureau. One meeting will be in Woodland on February 8th and one in Winters on February 15th (changed to 2/22). Tim's PPT reviewed the SGMA requirements and milestones established by the State. He answered questions from the Board. The strategy for how to efficiently blend the functions of the current WRA's role and the new GSA are part of the ongoing discussions. In March, the WRA Board will have to discuss and eventually approve how the WRA will be moving forward over the next 2 years post GSA formation. Tim's PPT presentation and handouts can be viewed here: www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html.

- 10. PRESENTATION: Assessing Perspectives on Land Subsidence in Yolo County,** Esther Conrad Stanford University, presented preliminary survey findings conducted in collaboration with the WRA Technical Committee (TC) on land subsidence in Yolo County. In her presentation, she will give an overview of the research project, preliminary findings on perspectives about land subsidence in Yolo County and the next steps planned. Esther informed there are two project components to the research study: geophysics and social science. The geophysics component is being conducted by her colleague Jesse Crews. She synopsized how land subsidence monitoring and groundwater management correlates to SGMA's six "undesirable results" and the development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans. Esther briefly explained a new approach to tracking and analyzing subsidence data using Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR). InSAR may provide higher resolution measurements,

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potentially cost less and DWR may provide statewide InSAR data in the future. Yolo County's history of subsidence monitoring allows for comparison between GPS survey data and InSAR. An update on Jesse's research is planned for the March 2nd WRA TC meeting.

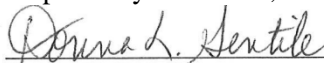
The social science component is being conducted by Esther to better understand the attitudes toward subsidence and assess the potential role of InSAR in decision-making to address land subsidence in Yolo County. The WRA TC received a preliminary geophysics component presentation from Jesse Crews at their July 7, 2016 meeting. She summarized the interviews conducted and survey participants that provided the data for her assessment in response to the July 7th data presented. The survey's topics for Yolo County included: the level of concern about subsidence, perspectives on whether action is needed, and perspectives on current monitoring and whether additional information can help in the decision-making process. All those individuals she surveyed were involved in water management in Yolo County. Esther reviewed the results in each of the topic areas. Here is a summary of the perspectives among those interviewed or surveyed:

1. Concern about subsidence is moderate, ranking below other undesirable results
2. Majority believe action is needed to address subsidence, but are uncertain as to what actions, how to implement
3. Majority believe current WRA monitoring efforts are adequate, but more information would still be useful
4. Information about policy options, costs of monitoring, link between subsidence and pumping likely to be helpful

The next steps for the social science component will be a short survey to assess reactions to the InSAR data after it is presented to the WRA TC on March 2nd. A final report discussing the findings is anticipated in fall 2017. Esther answered questions from the Board. Esther's PPT presentation and report on the *Perspectives on Land Subsidence in Yolo County: Baseline Survey Results* can also be found here: www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html.

- 11. MEMBERS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Reminder that the City of Woodland will have a dedication for their Recycled Water Project and Water Pollution Control Facility at 3 pm on January 19th.
- 12. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** Monday, March 20, 2017 from 3-5 pm, Woodland Community & Senior Center.
- 13. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned by Chair Sandeen at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna L. Gentile

Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator