

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY (MWDOC)
WITH THE MWDOC MET DIRECTORS**

July 7, 2021

At 8:30 a.m., President Tamaribuchi called to order the Regular Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County via the Zoom Webinar application (pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the meeting was conducted via Zoom). Director Nederhood led the Pledge of Allegiance and Secretary Goldsby called the roll.

MWDOC DIRECTORS

Al Nederhood
Larry Dick*
Karl W. Seckel
Bob McVicker
Sat Tamaribuchi*
Jeffery M. Thomas
Megan Yoo Schneider

STAFF

Robert Hunter, General Manager
Harvey De La Torre, Assistant General Manager
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel
Maribeth Goldsby, Board Secretary
Melissa Baum-Haley, Prin. Water Resource Analyst
Alex Heide, Water Resources Analyst
Chris Lingad, Associate Engineer
Kevin Hostert, Water Resources Analyst
Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency
Charles Busslinger, Principal Engineer
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Heather Baez, Governmental Affairs Manager

*Also MWDOC MET Directors

OTHER MWDOC MET DIRECTORS

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman

OTHERS PRESENT

Brandon Goshi
David Sumi
Stephen Faessel
Fred Jung
Sara Tucker
Garrett Durst
Syrus Devers
Kathryn Freshley
Mike Gaskins
Kay Havens
Mark Monin
Jose Vergara
Dennis Cafferty
Mike Dunbar
Ken Vecchiarelli
Steve LaMar
Peer Swan
Paul Weghorst
Frank Prewoznik

Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
MET Director/City of Anaheim
MET Director/City of Fullerton
NRR
NRR
Best, Best & Krieger
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
Emerald Bay Service District
Golden State Water Company
Irvine Ranch Water District
Irvine Ranch Water District
Irvine Ranch Water District
Irvine Ranch Water District

Keith Van Der Maaten	Laguna Beach County Water District
Debbie Baker	City of La Palma
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water
Stacy Taylor	Mesa Water
Bill Moorhead	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Kaden Young	Moulton Niguel Water District
Kelly Rowe	Orange County Water District
Mike Markus	Orange County Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Alicia Dunkin	Orange County Water District
Chuck Gibson	Santa Margarita Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Betty Olson	Santa Margarita Water District
Frank Ury	Santa Margarita Water District
Dan Ferons	Santa Margarita Water District
Laura Rocha	Moulton Niguel Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Rick Shintaku	South Coast Water District
Brooke Jones	Yorba Linda Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Wayne Miller	Yorba Linda Water District
Megan Couch	San Diego County Water Authority
Paul Jones	Eastern Municipal Water District
Denise Dolar	Orchard Dale Water District
Yvette Stevenson-Rodriguez	Orchard Dale Water District
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Ed Means	Means Consulting
Dick Ackerman	Ackerman Consulting
Kristy Khachigian	KK Consulting

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Tamaribuchi inquired whether any members of the public wished to comment on agenda items.

No public comments were received.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED - Determine need and take action to agendize item(s), which arose subsequent to the posting of the Agenda. (ROLL CALL VOTE: Adoption of this recommendation requires a two-thirds vote of the Board members present or, if less than two-thirds of the Board members are present, a unanimous vote.)

No items were presented.

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO MEETING

President Tamaribuchi inquired as to whether there were any items distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

No items were distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS**H.R. 4099 (NAPOLITANO) – LARGE SCALE WATER RECYCLING PROJECT AND INVESTMENT ACT**

Governmental Affairs Manager Heather Baez provided an overview of H.R. 4099, advising that it establishes a competitive grant program within the Department of the Interior for large-scale water recycling projects that have a total estimated cost of at least \$500 million, and that the legislation authorizes \$750 million for the program through fiscal year 2027 (projects must be within one of the Bureau of Reclamation's seventeen western states).

Mr. Paul Jones addressed the Board, providing an overview of amendments he would like incorporated into the legislation, and encouraged the MWDOC Board to adopt a "support and seek amendments" position on the legislation, rather than simply support.

Discussion ensued regarding the legislation, and the importance of coming out in front in support of the legislation. It was noted that MWDOC's legislative advocates could work with Congresswoman Napolitano's office on possible fine tuning and amendments.

Upon MOTION by Director Yoo Schneider, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (7-0), the Board adopted a Support position on H.R. 4099 (Napolitano) by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors Nederhood, Dick, McVicker, Seckel, Tamaribuchi, Yoo Schneider & Thomas
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS**LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES****a. Federal Legislative Report (NRR)**

Ms. Sara Tucker provided an overview of President Biden's nominations for key positions within the Department of the Interior and the EPA, the appointment of the Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner (Camille Touton), the House appropriations activities (including funding for PFAS treatment), and Colorado River activities (seven basin states signed a letter supporting testimony for increased investments).

Mr. Garrett Durst reported on the House Transportation Bill (INVEST Act), the White House Infrastructure negotiations, the Western Water Legislation, and the status of the Congressionally Directed Spending requests for WEROC's Emergency Operations Center (would know more by the end of July).

In response to a comment by Director Chuck Gibson (SMWD) discussion ensued regarding the importance of reauthorizing the WIIN Act and the need to educate the public and legislators on Southern California water issues. It was noted that Director Tamaribuchi, General Manager Hunter and SMWD Director Gibson would meet to discuss this matter.

The Board received and filed the report.

- b. **State Legislative Report**
- c. **MWDOC Legislative Matrix**

Mr. Syrus Devers of BBK, reviewed his report, highlighting the budget process and key water issues with the budget. He noted that currently unemployment, health care, and the Governor's recall election have been the focus of the legislature.

Following discussion regarding recycling, internal consumption (including water use efficiency efforts), wastewater issues, funding for the WEROC Emergency Operations Center, and wildfire bills, the Board received and filed the report.

INPUT OR QUESTIONS ON MET ISSUES FROM THE MEMBER AGENCIES/MET DIRECTOR REPORTS REGARDING MET COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Director Ackerman highlighted that MET's new General Manager Adel Hagekhalil had assumed his position; Western Municipal Water District replaced the recently deceased MET Director Don Galleano with Brenda Dennstedt on the MET Board; MET acknowledged the 50th anniversary of the San Fernando tunnel disaster by commemorating a plaque in memory of the event; MET approved \$25 million of liability insurance coverage (21% budget increase, or \$250,000); the MET CFO was authorized to invest funds for FY 2021-22; the approval of an \$8 million appropriation for an engineering and technology study (for environmental planning for the Carson Regional Recycled Water Project); MET adopted a Resolution supporting the WaterSmart Title 16 WIIN Water Reclamation & Reuse Grant application; and she noted that the State of California would be releasing a study regarding Direct Potable Reuse in approximately March 2022. Director Ackerman continued her report advising that the La Verne machine shop was able to assist SCWD with emergency pipeline repairs; the MET Board approved the MWDOC/MET/SMWD LRP Program (Las Flores Recycled Water Project), as well as authorized amending four existing LRP contracts (extensions); the MET Board authorized \$780,000 in support of the Colorado River Board, authorized an agreement with USBR/Central Arizona Water Conservation District/Southern Nevada Water Authority, authorized \$8.8 million regarding conserving water from following programs, and the MET Board would be extending the contract for audit services to KPMG. She advised that a report from the Shaw Law Group regarding Equal Employment Opportunity issues would be presented to the Board in July. Finally, she noted that presentations were received regarding the following: California Proposition 1 (Water Storage Investment Program), water supply conditions (noting the grim outlook this year), the IRP gap analyses, the Delta Conveyance Tribal Consultations, on-going science programs on the Delta, the FY external audit, and a report by the Ethics Officer.

Due to the in-depth report by Director Ackerman, Directors Dick, Faessel, and Jung stated they had nothing further to report.

President Tamaribuchi announced that MET General Manager Adel Hagekhalil would be attending MWDOC's August 4, 2021 Workshop Board meeting which would be held both in-person and on Zoom, and that the July 14, 2021 Water Policy Dinner would feature MET's prior General Manager Jeff Kightlinger.

The Board received and filed the reports.

REVIEW OF MET'S AND MWDOC'S WATER SUPPLY ALLOCATION PLANS

Assistant General Manager, Harvey De La Torre, provided a presentation on MET's and MWDOC's Water Supply Allocation Plans (WSAP). His presentation included an overview of water supply conditions and MET water storage levels, triggers for water supply allocations, key elements of MET's WSAP, key elements of MWDOC's WSAP, and agency examples of local or extraordinary supplies.

Discussion ensued with specific emphasis on the WSAP calculation factors; how each MWDOC member agency would be affected (using the percentage outlined in the calculation factors); the need to minimize impacts to the agencies if allocations are implemented; the details of calculations for Stage 1 allocations; how groundwater agencies are treated during allocation implementation; and consumptive use needs versus groundwater basin needs. Responding to groundwater specific questions raised by OCWD General Manager Markus, President Tamaribuchi suggested MWDOC staff meet with him to review the issues/OCWD's needs.

Following discussion, the Board received and filed the report as presented.

INFORMATION ITEMS

MWD ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY

- a. MET Finance and Rate Issues
- b. MET General Manager Recruitment Process
- c. MET Review of Equal Employment Opportunity Policies and Practices
- d. MET Integrated Resources Plan Update
- e. MET Water Supply Conditions
- f. Colorado River Issues
- g. Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

The Board received and filed the report as presented.

METROPOLITAN (MET) BOARD AND COMMITTEE AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Summary regarding the June MET Board Meeting
- b. Review items of significance for the upcoming MET Board and Committee Agendas

The report was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Maribeth Goldsby
Board Secretary