

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY  
August 18, 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). Following a moment of silence, Director Ackerman led the Pledge of Allegiance and Secretary Goldsby called the roll.

**MWDOC DIRECTORS**

Al Nederhood  
Larry Dick  
Bob McVicker  
Karl Seckel  
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 Resources Analyst  
Cathy Harris, Director of H.R. & Administration  
Alex Heide, Water Resource Analyst  
Vicki Osborn, Director of Emergency Management  
Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Eff. Programs  
Kevin Hostert, Water Resources Analyst  
Charles Busslinger, Principal Engineer  
Hilary Chumpitazi, Accounting Manager  
Tiffany Baca, Public Affairs Manager  
Heather Baez, Governmental Affairs Manager

**ALSO PRESENT**

Linda Ackerman  
Dennis Erdman  
Dave Youngblood  
Kathryn Freshley  
Kay Havens  
Mark Monin  
Jose Vergara  
Peer Swan  
Paul Weghorst  
Keith Van Der Maaten  
Jim Atkinson  
Bill Moorhead  
Sherry Wanninger  
Kelly Rowe  
Mike Markus  
Chuck Gibson  
Saundra Jacobs  
Justin McCusker  
Jim Leach  
Bill Green  
Fernando Paludi

MWDOC/MET Director  
MWDOC/MET Director  
East Orange County Water District  
El Toro Water District  
El Toro Water District  
El Toro Water District  
El Toro Water District  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Laguna Beach County Water District  
Mesa Water  
Moulton Niguel Water District  
Moulton Niguel Water District  
Orange County Water District  
Orange County Water District  
Santa Margarita Water District  
Santa Margarita Water District  
Santa Margarita Water District  
Santa Margarita Water District  
South Coast Water District  
Trabuco Canyon Water District

Brooke Jones  
Tom Lindsey  
Wayne Miller  
Dick Ackerman  
Fred Jung

Yorba Linda Water District  
Yorba Linda Water District  
Yorba Linda Water District  
Ackerman Consulting  
MET Director/City of Fullerton

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Tamaribuchi announced that members of the public wishing to comment on agenda items could do so after the item has been discussed by the Board and requested members of the public identify themselves when called on. Mr. Tamaribuchi asked whether any member of the public had any comments on items that are not on the agenda.

SMWD Director Saundra Jacobs highlighted on the increased Colorado River salinity levels, and the lower levels of storage in Lake Mead, commenting on the importance of drought related public outreach, and MET’s Salinity Control Program.

OCWD Director Kelly Rowe highlighted MET’s Drought Alert and offered OCWD staff to assist MWDOC staff with its water use efficiency efforts.

Considerable discussion ensued regarding salinity control, the fact that MET General Manager Hagekhalil indicated it would be a top issue and that Tanya Trujillo is working on Paradox Valley; water use efficiency efforts and the importance of public outreach.

SCWD Director Bill Green stated that SCWD would be holding a special board meeting on September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 pm to address the Doheny Desalination Project financial assessment.

**ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED**

No items were received.

**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.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

President Tamaribuchi stated all matters under the Consent Calendar would be approved by one MOTION unless a Director wished to consider an item separately.

Secretary Goldsby advised that two minor spelling/attendance changes were made to the Board meeting minutes, and the Planning & Operations Committee meeting minutes.

Upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (7-0) the Board approved the following Consent Calendar items, by the following roll call vote:

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

**MINUTES**

The following minutes were approved.

July 7, 2021 Workshop Board Meeting  
July 21, 2021 Regular Board Meeting

**COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

The following Committee Meeting reports were received and filed as presented.

Planning & Operations Committee Meeting: July 6, 2021  
Administration & Finance Committee Meeting: June 9, 2021  
Administration & Finance Committee Meeting: July 14, 2021  
Executive Committee Meeting: July 22, 2021  
MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning Committee Meeting: July 28, 2021

**TREASURER'S REPORTS**

The following items were ratified and approved as presented.

MWDOC Revenue/Cash Receipt Register as of July 31, 2021  
MWDOC Disbursement Registers (July/August)

The following items were received and filed as presented.

MWDOC Summary of Cash and Investment and Portfolio Master Summary Report (Cash and Investment report) as of June 30, 2021

PARS Monthly Statement (OPEB Trust)

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The following item was received and filed as presented.

Combined Financial Statements and Budget Comparative for the Period ending June 30, 2021

**EAST ORANGE COUNTY FEEDER #2 EMERGENCY PILOT PROJECT**

The Board approved the Agreement with Means Consulting for work on the East Orange County Feeder #2 Emergency Pilot Project for a total not to exceed amount of \$28,000.

**AUTHORIZATION FOR STAFF TO ATTEND WATER SMART INNOVATIONS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 6-7, 2021, LAS VEGAS**

The Board authorized attendance by staff at the Water Smart Innovations Conference October 6-7, 2021 in Las Vegas.

**MWDOC STRATEGIC DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES - AUTHORIZING FIRST EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-22**

The Board authorized the General Manager to enter into a First Extension of Agreement with HashtagPinpoint® (#P™), for a one-year renewal term to continue providing strategic digital communications services for fiscal year 2021-22.

**INFORMATION CALENDAR**

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT, JULY 2021**

General Manager Hunter advised that the General Manager's report was included in the Board packet.

Mr. Hunter highlighted that the Water Policy dinner would be held on September 30, 2021 (featuring the new MET General Manager Adel Hagekhalil as speaker), and the Orange County Water Summit is scheduled for October 15, 2021, and he encouraged those attending to register early. Director Seckel noted that although Mr. Hagekhalil would speak at both events, he would be speaking on different topics.

Director Nederhood thanked the General Manager and staff for a very informative report.

The Board received and filed the report as presented.

**MWDOC GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS**

**a. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board members each reported on their attendance at the regular (and special) MWDOC Board and Committee meetings. In addition to these meetings, the following reports were made on conferences and meetings attended on behalf of the District. Due to COVID 19, most of the meetings outlined were attended virtually.

Director Nederhood advised that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), the Special Board meeting regarding the General Manager's evaluation, Water Policy dinner, the WACO and WACO Planning meetings, the ISDOC luncheon, and the Yorba Linda Water District Board meeting.

Director Dick reported on attending all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), the regularly scheduled MET Board and Committee meetings, the Special Board meeting regarding the General Manager's evaluation, the ISDOC meeting, the MET Caucus, a special MET meeting regarding the Shaw Report, a meeting with Marcia Scully, MWDOC/MET Directors pre-caucus prep meeting, and a meeting with Carolyn Cavecche of the OC Taxpayers Association.

Director McVicker reported that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning Committee, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), the Special Board meeting regarding the General Manager's evaluation, the MET IRP and Bay-Delta committee meetings, the ISDOC luncheon and ISDOC Executive Committee meeting, the MET Finance & Insurance, Engineering & Operations, and Water Planning Committee meetings, the WACO meeting, and a meeting with Senator Umberg.

Director Seckel advised that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning Committee, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), the Special Board meeting regarding the General Manager's evaluation, the OC Water Summit planning meeting, the MET IRP committee meeting, the MET Board meeting, a meeting with Senator Umberg, a presentation by DWR regarding the Delta Fisheries, and the WACO and WACO Planning meetings.

Director Thomas stated that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings, (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning Committee, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), the Special Board meeting regarding the General Manager's evaluation, SMWD meeting, the OC Water Summit planning meeting, the ISDOC meeting, a meeting with a Director from EOCWD, and the WACO meeting.

Director Yoo Schneider advised that she attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), the Special Board meeting regarding the General Manager's evaluation, the OC Water Summit planning meeting, several SCWD Board meetings, the SMWD Board meeting, an Asian American Architects/Engineers Association Women Leaders in Water meeting wherein she was speaker, a MET/City of Los Angeles webinar, the California WEA Executive Committee, Leadership Development, and Planning & Program Development Committee meetings, the WEF Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Board of Trustees subcommittee, as well as its Leadership, and Strategy Roadmap meetings, the LBCWD Commission meeting, the Women in Water planning meeting, the WACO meeting, the South Orange County Watershed Management Area Executive Committee meeting, the Festival of the Butterflies event, and the SMWD Water Quality and Treatment Committee meeting.

Director Tamaribuchi reported on attending the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), the regularly scheduled MET Board and Committee meetings, the Special Board meeting regarding the General Manager’s evaluation, four MWDOC/MET Director meetings, a meeting with staff regarding the August 4, 2021 Board meeting (dry-run), a meeting with staff regarding drought messaging, the DWR Delta Conveyance Fisheries meeting, the Southern California Water Coalition webinar, the ACWA Bay-Delta working group meeting, and the MET Caucus.

**a. REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

No requests were received.

**CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

At 9:00 a.m., Legal Counsel Byrne announced that the Board would adjourn to closed session regarding the following items:

**THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES OR FACILITIES.** Consultation with MWDOC General Manager and other appropriate Security Staff Pursuant To Government Code Section 54957

**PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

Title: General Manager  
Government Code Section 54957

**CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS**

District Designated Representatives: Joseph Byrne, Legal Counsel  
Unrepresented Employee: General Manager  
Government Code Section 54957.6

**RECONVENE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CLOSED SESSION**

At 10:46 a.m., the Board reconvened into open session and Legal Counsel Byrne announced that no reportable action was taken in closed session.

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL MANAGER CONTRACT**

Following discussion regarding the General Manager’s employment contract, and upon MOTION by Director Tamaribuchi, seconded by Director Yoo Schneider, and carried (7-0), the Board authorized an amendment to the General Managers Employment Agreement to amend Section 4(B) of the agreement as follows:

1. To increase the base salary by \$ 6,707.67 effective July 1, 2021; and
2. To increase the 401(a) Contribution by \$ 6,707.68 effective July 1, 2021 and amend the 401(a) Plan accordingly and authorize the Board

3. President to execute the Plan amendment on behalf of the District; and To amend Section 5 to reinstate the vacation accrual cap to 400 hours and grant the General Manager an additional 40 hours of vacation per year for the next 4 years effective upon execution of an amendment. The 40 hours must be used each year or will be lost. In case of retirement or discontinuation of employment, any accrued hours above 400 hour cap will not be paid out.

Said action was taken by the following roll call vote:

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Tamaribuchi adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maribeth Goldsby, Secretary