

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

April 5, 2023

At 8:30 a.m., President Yoo Schneider called to order the Workshop Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County in the Board Room at the District facilities located in Fountain Valley, as well as including attendance via the Zoom Webinar application. Director Nederhood led the Pledge of Allegiance and Secretary Goldsby called the roll.

MWDOC DIRECTORS

Al Nederhood
Larry Dick*
Karl W. Seckel*
Bob McVicker
Randall Crane
Jeffery M. Thomas (absent)
Megan Yoo Schneider

STAFF

Harvey De La Torre, Interim General Mgr.
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel
Maribeth Goldsby, District Secretary
Melissa Baum-Haley, Int. Dir. of MET Issues/Policy
Alex Heide, Water Resources Analyst
Charles Busslinger, Dir. of Engineering/Dist. Eng.
Kevin Hostert, Water Resources Analyst
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Heather Baez, Governmental Affairs Manager
Vicki Osborn, Director of Emergency Management
Joe Berg, Director of WUE
Cathy Harris, Director of H.R. & Administration

*Also MWDOC-MET Directors

OTHER MWDOC-MET DIRECTORS

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman

OTHERS PRESENT

Sara Tucker (absent)
Garrett Durst
Syrus Devers
Dick Ackerman
Ed Means
Paul Jones
Peter Whittingham
Brad Coffey
Dave Youngblood
Kathryn Freshley
Mike Gaskins
Kay Havens
Mark Monin
Jose Vergara
Dennis Cafferty
Vu Chu
Mike Dunbar
Steve LaMar

NRR
NRR
Best, Best & Krieger
Ackerman Consulting
Means Consulting
Dopudja & Wells Consulting
Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors
Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
East Orange County 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
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
Emerald Bay Service District
Irvine Ranch Water District

Doug Reinhart	Irvine Ranch Water District
Peer Swan	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Frank Prewoznik	Irvine Ranch Water District
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water
Paul Shoenberger	Mesa Water
Stacy Taylor	Mesa Water
Dick Fiore	Moulton Niguel Water District
Don Froelich	Moulton Niguel Water District
Bill Moorhead	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Laura Rocha	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
Adam Hutchinson	Orange County Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Betty Olson	Santa Margarita Water District
Jim Leach	Santa Margarita Water District
Chip Monaco	Santa Margarita Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Rick Erkeneff	South Coast Water District
Rick Shintaku	South Coast Water District
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority
Kristy Khachigian	KK Consulting

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

SMWD Director Saundra Jacobs referenced OCWD’s recent meeting wherein OCWD discussed consolidation as well as their application to LAFCO for a Municipal Services Review Focused Study; she suggested that MWDOC request that alternatives to consolidation be explored.

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 Yoo Schneider 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 meeting.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

PRESENTATION BY MET STAFF UPDATING THE BOARD ON WATER SURPLUS AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

Mr. Brad Coffey (MET Group Manager/Water Resource Management) provided a water supply and drought management update. His presentation included information on hydrologic conditions (snowpack at 200% of average, and the Northern Sierra Precipitation/8 station index), storage conditions, the water supply demand balance, and an update on the Water Supply Demand Management (WSDM) program (including Table "A" allocations of 75% and Article 21 water supplies). He concluded his report by providing an overview of MET's next steps (member agency local groundwater/reservoir water management workshop, plans to initiate the cyclic cost-offset program, and efforts to seek additional cyclic storage partners).

The audience members then engaged in a discussion with the Board regarding various issues including the chances of the Table "A" allocation increasing, Colorado River supplies (and trigger balances between Lakes Powell and Mead), potential additional strategies to capture more water (e.g., programs with the Bureau of Reclamation and shifting water from the State Water Project to Colorado River), the groundwater workshop, the potential for rescinding the non-functional turf resolution, and storage conditions and capacities.

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

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

a. Federal Legislative Report (NRR)

Mr. Garrett Durst (NRR) reviewed NRR's written report in the packet, highlighting the appropriations process (including efforts regarding the WEROC earmark funding), the Waters of the U.S. activities, Colorado River negotiations, and the House National Resources Committee hearing regarding water storage. He also highlighted the draft water bill by Congressman Garamendi which was included in the packet and encouraged comments and feedback by the end of April; it was noted that any comments be provided to Heather Baez.

The Board received and filed the report.

b. State Legislative Report

Mr. Syrus Devers, of BBK, reviewed his report, highlighting the process for AB 1572 (Friedman regarding non-functional turf) suggesting an "oppose unless amended" position; and SB 687 (Eggman regarding Water Quality Control Plan/Delta Conveyance Project). Discussion ensued regarding the future of the State's Water Use Efficiency standards and pursuing all efforts to influence the process.

Following discussion, the Board received and filed the report.

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Mr. Dick Ackerman referenced his report, highlighting CEQA reform.

The Board received and filed the report.

d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)

Mr. Peter Whittingham referenced his report, and the upcoming LAFCO agenda.

e. MWDOC Legislative Matrix

The Board received and filed the reports.

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

Director Ackerman highlighted the new Committees created at MET; the approval of an \$8 million contract with Black & Veatch (Pure Water/Reach 2); the approval of a change order for overhead cranes; a presentation on Power Operations and Planning; a problem with turbidity at the Jensen Power Plant; the Colorado River shutdown (complete); and an agreement with Western MWD regarding providing assistance with deliveries to disadvantaged communities.

Director Seckel commented on his activities on the Pure Water Committee (noting a concern on increased costs), and the Legal & Claims Committee. Considerable discussion ensued regarding the Pure Water activities, costs (and increase in rates), and the upcoming cost of service analysis.

Director Dick reported on the approval of several high-dollar contracts, AB 1572, the efforts to modernize water rights, the naming of the "Pace" Board Room, activities on the Finance Committee, annexation efforts of Eastern MWD, and the scheduled future workshops on risk assessments, definitions, and ethics.

ACTION ITEMS

AB 557 (HART) – OPEN MEETINGS: TELECONFERENCES

Upon MOTION by Director Dick, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (6-0), the Board adopted a support position on AB 557 (Hart) and authorized joining CSDA's coalition letter and outreach efforts, by the following roll call vote:

- AYES: Directors Nederhood, Dick, Crane, McVicker, Seckel, Yoo Schneider
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: Director Thomas
- ABSTAIN: None

AB 735 (BERMAN) – WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: UTILITY CAREERS

Upon MOTION by Director McVicker, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (6-0), the Board adopted a support position on AB 735 (Berman) and authorized joining CMUA's coalition letter and outreach efforts, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Nederhood, Dick, Crane, McVicker, Seckel, Yoo Schneider
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: Director Thomas
 ABSTAIN: None

AB 1572 (FRIEDMAN) – POTABLE WATER, NONFUNCTIONAL TURF

Upon MOTION by Director McVicker, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (6-0), the Board adopted an oppose unless amended position on AB 1572 (Friedman) and authorized joining ACWA's coalition letter and outreach efforts, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Nederhood, Dick, Crane, McVicker, Seckel, Yoo Schneider
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: Director Thomas
 ABSTAIN: None

SB 366 (CABALLERO) – THE CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN: LONG-TERM SUPPLY TARGETS

Upon MOTION by Director Nederhood, seconded by Director McVicker, and carried (6-0), the Board adopted a support position on SB 366 (Caballero) and authorized joining CMUA's coalition letter and outreach efforts, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Nederhood, Dick, Crane, McVicker, Seckel, Yoo Schneider
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: Director Thomas
 ABSTAIN: None

AB 460 (BAUER-KAHAN), AB 1337 (WICKS), & SB 389 (ALLEN): WATER RIGHTS

Upon MOTION by Director Seckel, seconded by Director Nederhood, and carried (6-0), the Board adopted an oppose position on AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan), AB 1337 (Wicks), and SB 389 (Allen), and authorized joining ACWA and CMUA's coalition and outreach efforts, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Nederhood, Dick, Crane, McVicker, Seckel, Yoo Schneider
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: Director Thomas
 ABSTAIN: None

INFORMATION ITEMS**MWD ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY**

- a. MET Finance and Rate Issues
- b. MET Integrated Resources Plan Update
- c. MET Water Supply Conditions Update
- d. Water Quality Update
- e. Colorado River Issues
- f. Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

Discussion was held regarding the history of MWDOC's participation in the OC MET Caucus meetings (how previously they were hosted by MWDOC and included the cities of Anaheim, Santa Ana, and Fullerton (three cities), and the reasons why the OC and Inland Agency Caucus were moved to the Inland Empire Utilities Agency). Following discussion on MWDOC's outreach efforts with the three cities, staff was directed to continue to send invitations to the cities of Anaheim, Santa Ana, and Fullerton to attend these meetings. OCWD General Manager Markus encouraged the Caucus meetings return to MWDOC.

The Board received and filed the report as presented.

METROPOLITAN (MET) BOARD AND COMMITTEE AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Summary reports regarding the March MET Board Meetings
- b. MET 4-Month Outlook on Upcoming Issues
- c. 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 10:18 a.m.

Maribeth Goldsby
Board Secretary