

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

February 1, 2023

At 8:30 a.m., President Yoo Schneider called to order the Workshop Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County via the Zoom Webinar application (due to the current state of emergency related to the spread of COVID-19 and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)). Director Crane 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
Megan Yoo Schneider

STAFF

Harvey De La Torre, Interim General Mgr.
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel
Maribeth Goldsby, District Secretary
Melissa Baum-Haley, Prin. Water Resource Analyst
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

*Also MWDOC-MET Directors

OTHER MWDOC-MET DIRECTORS

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman

OTHERS PRESENT

Sara Tucker
Garrett Durst
Syrus Devers
Dick Ackerman
Ed Means
Paul Jones
Dave Youngblood
Kathryn Freshley
Mike Gaskins
Kay Havens
Mark Monin
Dennis Cafferty
Vu Chu
Mike Dunbar
Toby Moore
Steve LaMar
Peer Swan
Paul Weghorst
Frank Prewoznik

NRR
NRR
Best, Best & Krieger
Ackerman Consulting
Means Consulting
Dopudja & Wells Consulting
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
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
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water
Paul Shoenberger	Mesa Water
Stacy Taylor	Mesa Water
Dick Fiore	Moulton Niguel Water District
Don Froelich	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Laura Rocha	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherri Seitz	Moulton Niguel Water District
Justin Finch	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
Dan Ferons	Santa Margarita Water District
Chuck Gibson	Santa Margarita Water District
Jim Leach	Santa Margarita Water District
Chip Monaco	Santa Margarita Water District
Greg Mills	Serrano Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Liz Mendelson-Goossens	San Diego County Water Authority
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority
Charles Luas	Orchard Dale Water District

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Yoo Schneider 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 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 REGARDING TOPICS AND ISSUES FOR THE UPCOMING MET BOARD RETREAT**

Dr. Melissa Baum-Haley (MWDOC Principal Water Resources Analyst) provided an overview and outline of the upcoming MET Board Visioning Retreat (retreat) which is intended to provide direction and agreement on a vision and planning framework (as MET and its member agencies pursue a master plan for water and climate resiliency in its second century). The overview included information on the retreat's goals (to identify targets and timelines for resource planning), regional benefits (and MET's mission), a history of MET policies (including the Laguna Declaration and San Pedro principles), as well as economic issues/status, urban and regional planning issues, and MET's proposed business model. Dr. Baum-Haley then provided an overview of uncertainties and challenges facing MET and its mission (climate change, Colorado River issues, Delta issues, and IRP needs assessment findings, etc.)

The audience members then engaged in a discussion with the Board regarding issues of importance for the MWDOC-MET Directors to pursue at the retreat. Specific emphasis was placed on Climate Change; the need for the IRP Implementation Plan; Colorado River allocations; including in-region production, such as desalination in MET's portfolio; the importance of maintaining the Delta Conveyance Project as a high priority; the need for more specifics on the proposed Business Model; how MET will financially address those agencies rolling on/off the MET system; the future of the Local Resources Program (and potential evolution); and MET's historical policies (Laguna Declaration, etc.). It was noted that it would be prudent for the MWDOC-MET Directors to layout the key issues/principles to pursue in MET's IRP Implementation Plan, including identifying MET's near and long-term goals; IRWD suggested a series of workshops among MWDOC's member agencies may be beneficial.

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

WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS AND PLANNING FOR POTENTIAL WATER SUPPLY ALLOCATIONS (FY 2023/24)

MWDOC Water Resources Analyst Kevin Hostert updated the Board on the current imported water supply conditions, highlighting the Northern California 8-station index's accumulated precipitation, snowpack, run-off percentages, key reservoir storage levels and "take" capacities, Colorado River status and Lake Mead's storage levels, the current SWP Table "A" allocation (30%), and the State's drought monitor conditions.

Dr. Melissa Baum-Haley then provided an update on MET's potential water supply allocation planning efforts based on the current state of State Water Project and Colorado River supplies. She included an overview of implementation considerations and the main components of the Water Supply Allocation Plan (WSAP) (credits and adjustments, allocation formula factors, and implementation and surcharges).

Following a brief discussion, the Board received and filed the report.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES**a. Federal Legislative Report (NRR)**

Ms. Sara Tucker of NRR, provided an overview of NRR's written report in the packet, highlighting Colorado River activities, stating that a letter was sent to the Bureau of Reclamation (signed by six Colorado River basin states) asking for allocation cuts to the lower basin states, but more heavily on California and Mexico. She then reviewed California's response, noting that it asked that the Law of the River be upheld (appropriate cuts to all states). The Bureau of Reclamation will review both proposals and make the appropriate allocation cuts to protect the basin.

Mr. Garrett Durst then highlighted Waters of the US ruling, the Water for California Act, and an overview of legislative committees.

The Board received and filed the report.

b. State Legislative Report

Mr. Syrus Devers, of BBK, reviewed his report, highlighting various bills/legislation, including atmospheric rivers (4 bills have been introduced); he noted the deadline to submit new legislation is February 17, 2023. He also highlighted a recent report regarding the Delta ecosystem restoration, which indicated that no Delta Smelt have been captured since 2017.

Following discussion, the Board received and filed the report.

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Mr. Dick Ackerman referenced his report, highlighting a study by Scripps Institute of Oceanography regarding the recent storms, noting that climate scientists generally agree that the recent storms are not the result of global warming, but reflect California's climate history.

The Board received and filed the report.

d. 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

President Yoo Schneider stated that this item provides member agencies the opportunity to question and communicate with MWDOC's MET Directors on various MET issues; she encouraged questions from the audience.

SMWD Director Gibson thanked MWDOC for including a section on water quality in the monthly matrix for this meeting.

Director Erdman highlighted MET's Engineering, Operations, & Technology Committee activities, noting that \$177 million worth of projects were approved; he then provided an overview of the projects.

Director Ackerman advised that she attended an update with MET Staff (Nina Hawk) regarding the Delta Conveyance Project and that this issue will be a discussion point at the upcoming retreat. She also noted MET installed several new Board members including Director Seckel.

She encouraged MWDOC's member agencies to communicate issues that are important to address at the retreat.

Director Dick referenced the recently approved engineering projects, noting the wealth of knowledge and expertise that Directors Erdman and Seckel offer will be a great asset. He then reviewed issues he believed important to be addressed at the retreat. These included: Colorado River activities, climate change issues (and the importance of prioritizing water storage); the Local Resources Program (along with potential changes which would involve ways MET could be re-paid on its investment in these projects); and fixed charges.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSIDER CONTINUATION OF REMOTE MEETINGS PURSUANT TO AB 361 AND MAKE REQUIRED FINDINGS

President Yoo Schneider advised that the proposal to continue remote meetings was before the Board for consideration.

Upon MOTION by Director McVicker, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (6-1), the Board voted to continue virtual meetings pursuant to AB 361 for an additional 30 days based on the findings that (1) it has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency for COVID-19, and (2) state and local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing, by the following roll call vote:

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

The Board received and filed the report as presented.

METROPOLITAN (MET) BOARD AND COMMITTEE AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Summary reports regarding the January 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.

CLOSED SESSION

At 10:46 a.m., President Yoo Schneider announced that the Board would adjourn to closed session to discuss the following item. She stated that the Board would adjourn in memory of General Manager Robert Hunter who recently passed away.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Title: Interim General Manager
Government Code Section 54957

RECONVENE

The Board reconvened at 11:14 a.m., and Legal Counsel Byrne announced that the Board unanimously voted to appoint Harvey De La Torre as Interim General Manager. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Legal Counsel Byrne advised that he was directed to develop terms for a contract with Mr. De La Torre and return to the Board on February 15, 2023 with said contract.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned in memory of Robert Hunter at 11:16 a.m.

Maribeth Goldsby
Board Secretary