

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

March 1, 2023

At 8:30 a.m., Vice President McVicker 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 Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance and Secretary Goldsby called the roll, noting that Director Seckel would be participating via Zoom under the “just cause” exception of AB 2449 and that due to a lack of quorum in person, the meeting would continue as an informational committee meeting.

**MWDOC DIRECTORS**

Al Nederhood  
Larry Dick\* (arr. at 9:20 am)  
Karl W. Seckel\* (via Zoom)  
Bob McVicker  
Randall Crane (absent)  
Jeffery M. Thomas  
Megan Yoo Schneider (arr. at 8:43 am)

**STAFF**

Harvey De La Torre, Interim General Mgr.  
Patrick Skahan, 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  
Heather Baez, Governmental Affairs Manager  
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 (absent)  
Syrus Devers  
Dick Ackerman  
Ed Means  
Paul Jones  
Doug Davert  
Dave Youngblood  
Kathryn Freshley  
Kay Havens  
Mike Gaskins  
Mark Monin  
Jose Vergara  
Dennis Cafferty  
Vu Chu

NRR  
NRR  
Best, Best & Krieger  
Ackerman Consulting  
Means Consulting  
Dopudja & Wells Consulting  
East Orange County Water District  
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

Doug Reinhart	Irvine Ranch Water District
Peer Swan	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Christine Compton	Irvine Ranch Water District
Keith Van Der Maaten	Laguna Beach County Water District
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water
Dick Fiore	Moulton Niguel Water District
Don Froelich	Moulton Niguel Water District
Diane Rifkin	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Laura Rocha	Moulton Niguel Water District
Kelly Rowe	Orange County Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Chuck Gibson	Santa Margarita Water District
Frank Ury	Santa Margarita Water District
Dan Ferons	Santa Margarita Water District
Jim Leach	Santa Margarita Water District
Greg Mills	Serrano Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Bill Green	South Coast Water District
Rick Shintaku	South Coast Water District
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Brett Barbre	Yorba Linda Water District
Wayne Miller	Yorba Linda Water District
Mark Toy	Yorba Linda Water District
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Charles Luas	Orchard Dale Water District
Brooke Jones	

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Vice President McVicker 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**

Vice President McVicker 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 AND RECAP (BY MWDOC STAFF) REGARDING THE MET BOARD RETREAT**

Dr. Melissa Baum-Haley (MWDOC Principal Water Resources Analyst) provided an overview of the recent MET Board Visioning Retreat (retreat) which was intended to provide direction to MET staff from the MET Board (through consensus on a vision and planning framework as Metropolitan and its member agencies pursue a master plan for water and climate resiliency in its Second Century). She advised that the retreat was meant to be the first in a series of Board discussions that will continue to build understanding and agreement about climate impacts, risks, and vulnerabilities facing the region's water systems and the communities it serves.

(Director Yoo Schneider arrived at 8:43 a.m., at which time the meeting continued as a full Board meeting).

Dr. Baum-Haley then provided a recap of both days of the retreat, including an overview of the MET staff presentations, which included current climate conditions and climate vulnerabilities; Colorado River issues; Bay-Delta issues; operations; storage supply and availability; a review of the IRP Needs Assessment findings; an overview/summary of the interviews with Directors and member agencies (to receive input on member agency engagement, priorities, and future challenges); and regional supply resiliency. She noted that the retreat also included small group discussions on the topics outlined. Dr. Baum-Haley reported that at the conclusion of the retreat, Chair Ortega discussed resource master planning and provided direction to MET staff regarding next steps (a document titled "Master Planning for Climate Action Master Plan for Water" which presents goals and planning considerations for the proposed master planning, including financial and water planning and to develop criteria for prioritizing investments for climate resiliency, will be used to establish a framework.

(Director Dick arrived at 9:20 a.m.).

The audience members then engaged in a discussion with the Board regarding various issues outlined at the retreat. The discussion included emphasis on the small group discussions (of which member agency managers were invited to participate); MET's reliability (and what is achievable); challenges facing MET's future; the importance for a more focused effort on the planning process (rather than jumping to solutions/projects); conflicting elements such as affordability and equity; the high costs and risks associated with climate action; the potential down-side of MET's Board voting structure; the new MET Committee structure; the need for improved financial planning, MET's business model; somewhat inefficient funding of demand management; and how the planning process would tie-in to the IRP Implementation Plan (and regional planning).

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

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

In the absence of NRR staff Sara Tucker and Garrett Durst, Ms. Heather Baez provided an overview of NRR's written report in the packet, as well as efforts in Washington, DC regarding WEROC earmark funding and the tax parity for water rebates.

The Board received and filed the report.

**b. State Legislative Report**

Mr. Syrus Devers, of BBK, reviewed his report, highlighting various bills/legislation, the state’s budget (\$10.5 million deficit). Discussion and concern ensued regarding AB 1572 (Friedman) regarding non-functional turf.

Following discussion, the Board received and filed the report.

**c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)**

Mr. Dick Ackerman referenced his report, highlighting CEQA reform and PFAS issues.

The Board received and filed the report.

**d. MWD OC 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**

No new information was presented.

(President Yoo Schneider stepped out of the meeting).

**ACTION ITEMS**

**SB 23 (CABALLERO) – WATER SUPPLY AND FLOOD RISK REDUCTION PROJECTS: EXPEDITED PERMITTING**

Governmental Affairs Manager Heather Baez provided an overview of SB 23 (Caballero), recommending the Board adopt a support position.

Upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director Nederhood, and carried (5-0), the Board adopted a support position on SB 23 (Caballero) and authorized joining ACWA’s coalition letter and outreach efforts, by the following roll call vote:

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

Interim General Manager Harvey De La Torre announced that the Table "A" allocation (from the State Water Project) was increased to 35%. Discussion ensued regarding the MET's SWP Health Human & Safety (HH&S) pay-back obligation for the SWP dependent areas, with Mr. De La Torre stating that the HH&S SWP pay-back requirements do not take effect until the Table "A" allocations reach above 40-45%.

The Board received and filed the report as presented.

**METROPOLITAN (MET) BOARD AND COMMITTEE AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a. Summary reports regarding the February 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 10:02 a.m.

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Maribeth Goldsby  
Board Secretary