

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

May 3, 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 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
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 (absent)
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
Garrett Durst
Syrus Devers
Dick Ackerman
Ed Means
Paul Jones
Peter Whittingham
Steve Faessel
Philip Bogdanoff
Yvette Hanna
Dave Youngblood
Kathryn Freshley
Mike Gaskins
Kay Havens
Mark Monin
Jose Vergara
Dennis Cafferty
Vu Chu

NRR
NRR
Best, Best & Krieger
Ackerman Consulting
Means Consulting
Dopudja & Wells Consulting
Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors
MET Director/City of Anaheim
City of Anaheim
City of Fullerton
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

Mike Dunbar	Emerald Bay Service District
Ken Vecchiarelli	Golden State Water Company
Steve LaMar	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
Stacy Taylor	Mesa Water
Dick Fiore	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Laura Rocha	Moulton Niguel Water District
Kaden Young	Moulton Niguel Water District
Johnathan Cruz	Moulton Niguel Water District
Kelly Rowe	Orange County Water District
Mike Markus	Orange County Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Bruce Dosier	Orange County Water District
Andre Casasola	Orange County Water District
Alicia Dunkin	Orange County Water District
Chuck Gibson	Santa Margarita Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Jim Leach	Santa Margarita Water District
Chip Monaco	Santa Margarita Water District
Nicole Standfield	Santa Margarita Water District
Greg Mills	Serrano Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority
Kristy Khachigian	KK Consulting
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.

Interim General Manager Harvey De La Torre advised that a letter from Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District regarding the ACWA/JPIA Executive Committee Election (Item 4 on the agenda) was distributed to the Board and made available to the public.

To accommodate schedules, the meeting was reorganized as follows:

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

Mr. Garrett Durst (NRR) reviewed NRR's written report in the packet, highlighting the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries which held a hearing to review two pieces of legislation, namely, H.R. 215 (Valadao/Water for California Act) and H.R. 872 (Calvert/the Fish Act); he then provided information on each bill. Mr. Durst also highlighted the Waters of the US activities, as well as activities relating to the WEROC earmark funding (Congresswoman Kim submitted a funding request for the mobile WEROC operations center).

Ms. Sara Tucker then reviewed issues relating to the Colorado River negotiations, noting the Department of the Interior released a draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) that lays out how the Department could operate the Glen Canyon and Hoover Dam to conserve additional water given the ongoing drought.

The Board received and filed the report.

b. State Legislative Report

Mr. Syrus Devers, of BBK, reviewed his report, highlighting various media articles, including (1) an influential piece by Peter Moyle regarding how hatcheries alone do not work in restoring ecosystems, and (2) contradicting statements/pieces by Public Radio and the Associated Press regarding the effects of fire on fisheries. Mr. Devers also commented on Colorado River activities, and the various pieces of legislation outlined in his report.

(President Yoo Schneider and Director Thomas arrived at 8:43 a.m.)

The Board discussed AB 1572 (Friedman re: Non-Functional Turf), its financial impacts (costs to implement), the high probability it will move forward in the legislature, and the need for a broader effort (through water use efficiency) to provide substantive data. Several directors spoke in opposition to AB 1572 with Director Nederhood expressing concern and opposition to this legislation, as well as the term "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 a CEQA hearing by the Little Hoover Commission, and opposition to AB 1337 (Wicks).

The Board received and filed the report.

(President Yoo Schneider left the meeting at 9:00 a.m.)

d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)

Mr. De La Torre advised that although Mr. Whittingham was not in attendance, Governmental Affairs Manager Heather Baez was available to answer any questions.

Director Nederhood referenced the LAFCO MSR Focused Study initiated by OCWD (regarding consolidation) and considerable discussion ensued regarding the LAFCO process, legal issues, whether it would be prudent to take a formal position on the matter (or premature to do so), and the importance of evaluating all options available (including providing South County access to the groundwater basin).

(President Yoo Schneider returned at 9:15 a.m. and assumed the Chair position.)

e. MWDOC Legislative Matrix

The Board received and filed the reports.

PRESENTATION BY MET STAFF REGARDING NEXT STEPS ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION MASTER PLAN

Ms. Liz Crosson, MET's Chief Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation Officer, along with Brad Coffey (MET Group Manager/Water Resource Management) provided an overview of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP) process. The presentation material included information on the Board's (MET) objectives in creating the CAMP, the planning process (including engaging the public and member agency participation), and workshops which will focus on communicating interests, needs and terminology (reliability, resilience, affordability, and financial sustainability), as well as member agency needs, identifying gaps, and alignment planning between the agencies and MET.

The audience members then engaged in a discussion with the Board with specific emphasis on infrastructure, implementation costs (energy, equipment, etc.), effects on MET's budget, how this CAMP integrates the elements of the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP), the balance between qualitative and quantitative goals and methods, the importance of including the member agencies in all discussions, the need to keep the planning within MET's core mission, and the number of complex issues to be addressed and evaluated during the process.

Following discussion, 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 Erdman noted the summary of MET's Board actions from April was included in the packet. He then highlighted the Engineering, Operations & Technology Committee activities, including several system-improvement contracts, as well as a procurement contract for butterfly valves and flow monitoring equipment along the Colorado River Aqueduct.

Director Seckel highlighted the Western Municipal Water District (WMWD) addition of a service connection, the CAMP process, the Pure Water Southern California contracts and increased costs, and the Delta Islands investment (and the MET Board's question of whether value remains in owning the islands).

Director Dick highlighted MET's recent \$640,000 video production effort (expressing concern), and he commented on the WMWD service connection (and the need to support it), MET's Business Plan, the LRP program discussions (grants v. equity positions), and his support for the Delta Islands purchase (in that it could be used to store more water).

Responding to inquiries from the audience, the Board then discussed SWP Article 21 (surplus) water, and the process by which Article 21 water becomes available (with staff noting that once Table A allocations reach 100%, the Article 21 water ceases because of limited capacity in the aqueduct).

ACTION ITEMS

AUTHORIZATION TO VOTE ON BEHALF OF MWDOC IN ACWA JPIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION

Upon MOTION by Director Seckel, seconded by Director McVicker, and carried (7-0), the Board authorized Director Jeff Thomas, MWDOC's ACWA JPIA Board Member, to cast the District's ballot for the ACWA JPIA Executive Committee at ACWA's Spring Conference on May 8, 2023, by the following roll call vote:

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

AB 755 (PAPPAN) – WATER: COST OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

Upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (7-0), the Board adopted an oppose position on AB 755 (Pappan), and authorized sending a letter to the author's office and the Orange County delegation, by the following roll call vote:

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

**AB 1594 (E. GARCIA) – MEDIUM AND HEAVY DUTY ZERO EMISSION VEHICLES:
PUBLIC AGENCIES**

Upon MOTION by Director Seckel, seconded by Director Dick, and carried (7-0), the Board adopted a support position on AB 1594 (E. Garcia) and authorized joining CMUA’s coalition letter and outreach efforts, by the following roll call vote:

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

MWD ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY

- a. MET Finance and Rate Issues
- b. MET Water Supply Conditions Update
- c. Water Quality Update
- d. Colorado River Issues
- e. 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 April MET Board Meeting
- b. MET 4-Month Outlook on Upcoming Issues (not available)
- 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 10:29 a.m.

Maribeth Goldsby
Board Secretary