

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
June 21, 2023**

At 8:30 a.m., as President Yoo Schneider participated via the Zoom webinar application, Vice President McVicker called to order the Regular 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. Following a moment of silence, Director Crane led the Pledge of Allegiance and Secretary Goldsby called the roll.

MWDOC DIRECTORS

Al Nederhood
Larry Dick
Bob McVicker
Karl Seckel
Randall Crane
Jeffery M. Thomas
Megan Yoo Schneider

STAFF

Harvey De La Torre, Interim General Manager
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel
Maribeth Goldsby, Board Secretary
Melissa Baum-Haley, Int. Dir. of MET Issues/Policy
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Cathy Harris, Director of HR and Administration
Vicki Osborn, Director of Emergency Management
Heather Baez, Governmental Affairs Manager
Hilary Chumpitazi, Accounting Manager
Tiffany Baca, Public Affairs Manager
Charles Busslinger, Dir. of Engineering/Dist. Eng.

ALSO PRESENT

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman
Doug Davert
Dave Youngblood
Kathryn Freshley
Mike Gaskins
Kay Havens
Mark Monin
Jose Vergara
Dennis Cafferty
Vu Chu
Doug Reinhart
Paul Weghorst
Jim Atkinson
Dick Fiore
Don Froelich
Bill Moorhead
Sherry Wanninger
Kelly Rowe
John Kennedy
Sandy Scott-Roberts
Saundra Jacobs
Frank Ury
Jim Leach
Chip Monaco

MWDOC/MET Director
MWDOC/MET Director
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
Irvine Ranch Water District
Irvine Ranch Water District
Mesa Water
Moulton Niguel Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
Orange County 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

Greg Mills	Serrano Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Jerry Vilander	Serrano Water District
Greg Pennington	South Coast Water District
Jennifer Lopez	South Coast Water District
Glen Acosta	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Brett Barbre	Yorba Linda Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Mark Toy	Yorba Linda Water District
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority
Kristy Khachigian	KK Consulting
Tim Kearns	HashtagPinpoint, Inc.
Nina Habib	Colleague, LLC
Gillian Smith	Colleague, LLC
Brooke Jones	
Richard Bell	

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice President McVicker 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. Vice President McVicker asked whether any member of the public had any comments on items that are not on the agenda.

OCWD Director Kelly Rowe referenced MET’s water surplus, noting that OCWD is able to store approximately 350,000 acre-feet of the surplus water; he asked that MWDOC staff contact OCWD staff to discuss further.

SMWD Director Saundra Jacobs announced that SMWD has placed a standing item on its Board agenda to receive updates from both MWDOC and OCWD.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

No items were received.

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 to the Board within 72 hours of the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

President Yoo Schneider requested that Item No. 7 (Award of Contract for Strategic Digital Communications) be pulled from the Consent Calendar for further discussion.

Director Nederhood commented on Item No. 9 (Renew Contract with Ackerman Consulting), noting he appreciates Mr. Ackerman’s reports and insights.

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

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

MINUTES

The following minutes were approved.

- May 3, 2023 Workshop Board Meeting
- May 5, 2023 Special Board Meeting
- May 17, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

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

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|---|--------------|
| Planning & Operations Committee Meeting: | May 1, 2023 |
| Administration & Finance Committee Meeting: | May 15, 2023 |
| Executive Committee Meeting: | May 18, 2023 |

TREASURER’S REPORTS

The following items were ratified and approved as presented.

- MWDOC Revenue/Cash Receipt Register as of May 31, 2023
- Disbursement Registers (May/June)

The following items were received and filed as presented.

- Summary of Cash and Investment and Portfolio Master Summary Report (Cash and Investment Report) as of April 30, 2023

- PARS Monthly Statement (OPEB Trust)

FINANCIAL REPORT

The following items were received and filed as presented.

Combined Financial Statements and Budget Comparative for the Period Ending April 30, 2023

ANNUAL APPROVAL OF DISTRICT SALARY SCHEDULE

The Board approved the proposed Pay Structure, as presented, effective July 1, 2023; adjusting the salary ranges by 7.45%, as approved during the budget process; and approve changes to positions, as noted. (Option 1).

AWARD CONTRACT FOR EXECUTIVE SEARCH FIRM SERVICES FOR THE GENERAL MANAGER RECRUITMENT

The Board authorized the President of the Board to enter into a consulting services agreement for the District's General Manager recruitment, with Colleague, LLC, based upon 25% of the first-year guaranteed earnings of the successful candidate, calculated to be approximately \$79,000, plus reimbursable expenses, as outlined in the proposal.

AWARD CONTRACT FOR GRANTS TRACKING AND ACQUISITION SERVICES

The Board authorized the Interim General Manager to enter into a professional services contract with Soto Resources to provide grants tracking and acquisition services.

RENEW CONTRACT WITH ACKERMAN CONSULTING

The Board approved entering into a Sole Source contract with Ackerman Consulting for specialized services for Fiscal Years 2023-24 and 2024-25.

ALLIANCE FOR WATER EFFICIENCY COMMERCIAL TURF REPLACEMENT AND SPRAY-TO-DRIP PROGRAM PROCESS AND IMPACT WATER SAVINGS EVALUATION

The Board authorized a cost share contribution in the amount of \$18,500 for participation in the Alliance for Water Efficiency Outdoor Water Savings Research Initiative Phase 3: Evaluating & Optimizing Large-Scale Landscape Irrigation Management and Transformation Strategies. MWDOC's \$18,500 cost share will leverage a total research investment of \$345,000.

- END CONSENT CALENDAR -

ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR STRATEGIC DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

President Yoo Schneider commented on the Board's recent strategic planning discussions wherein the Board is in the process of adjusting its strategy relative to public outreach and communications; she inquired as to the flexibility of the contract in the event the Board shifts its public outreach strategy. She also referenced Hashtag's client list, whether there were any potential conflicts, and whether any references were contacted. President Yoo Schneider then expressed concerns relative to Hashtag's ability to provide measurable outcomes and attention to detail (typographical errors were throughout Hashtag's proposal).

The Board held considerable discussion regarding the concerns raised, and Interim General Manager De La Torre confirmed that the contract is flexible enough to address the Board’s changing strategy. President Yoo Schneider suggested the Board provide clear direction to staff, and she encouraged the Public Affairs staff to provide input and potential strategies to the Board.

Following discussion, and upon MOTION by Director Dick, seconded by Director Thomas, and carried (6-0), the Board authorized the Interim General Manager to enter into a professional services contract with HashtagPinpoint Inc. (Hashtag) for three years (with two consecutive options to renew for one additional year), to provide Strategic Digital Communications Services for the Municipal Water District of Orange County’s (MWDOC or District) outreach initiatives, by the following roll call vote:

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

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

2022-2023 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT – HISTORIC RAIN, YET DROUGHT REMAINS

Interim General Manager De La Torre advised that the Orange County Grand Jury released the 2022-23 report: *Historic Rain, Yet Drought Remains*, which presents information about the “current crisis in water planning, existing projects to increase the supply of non-potable water for irrigation, and storage issues” (Report).

Mr. De La Torre reviewed the contents of the Report, noting that MWDOC is required to provide a response (by September 5, 2023) to the Report’s recommendations: #2-Orange County water agencies should expedite the planning, development, and construction of desalination plants over the next five years to insure a sustainable and reliable drought-resistant source of water; and #4- Orange County water agencies should update their public communication strategies, by calendar year end 2023, to inform the public of lifestyle changes if additional water sources are not developed.

The Board held extensive discussion regarding the contents of the Report, expressing concern with many of the issues outlined in the Report. Members of the Board suggested staff educate the Grand Jury members on local water issues, so they have a better understanding of what each agency is responsible for, water systems/operations, enabling legislation, the issues surrounding desalination, communication strategies, etc.

Mr. De La Torre advised that staff is currently developing a draft response and plans to present it to the Board in August to meet the September 5, 2023 deadline.

ACTION CALENDAR

SPONSORSHIP OF URBAN WATER INSTITUTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director Nederhood, and carried (6-0), the Board approved sponsoring the UWI Annual Conference in August 2023, at the Platinum Level of \$5000, by the following roll call vote:

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

INFORMATION CALENDAR

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT, JUNE 2023

Interim General Manager De La Torre advised that the full General Manager's report was included in the Board packet.

Public Affairs Manager Tiffany Baca advised that MWDOC is hosting the winning posters from Metropolitan's Water is Life Poster Contest and encouraged all present to drop by the main hallway to view the posters.

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.

Director Nederhood advised that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular, and Special Board meetings), the MET Committees, the WACO and WACO Planning meetings, the ACWA conference and the Ad Hoc Committee meeting regarding the Grand Jury report.

Director Dick stated that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings, (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular and Special Board meetings), the regularly scheduled MET Board and Committee meetings, the MWDOC/MET Director delegation meetings, a meeting with Serrano Water District new Director Mike Pelly, the Ad Hoc Committee meetings regarding the Grand Jury report, the WACO and WACO planning meetings, and a meeting with Interim General Manager De La Torre.

Director Seckel advised that he attended the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular and Special Board meetings), the regularly scheduled MET Board and Committee meetings, the MET Caucus meeting, MWDOC/MET Director delegation meetings, a Colorado River inspection trip, the WACO and WACO Planning meetings, the GWRS tour with representatives from Huntington Beach and Seal Beach, the Mesa Water Board meeting, and the MET Innovation Awards for Conservation event. He advised that SCWD be holding a meeting later in the week to discuss the Doheny Desalination Project, including updated cost estimates.

Director Crane reported that he attended the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings, (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop meeting and Regular and Special Board meetings), the Ad Hoc Committee meetings regarding the Grand Jury Report, the IRWD Board meeting, the South Orange County Watershed Authority meeting, and the ACWA conference. He noted that he attempted to attend he OCWD Board meeting but was met with technical difficulties.

Director Thomas stated that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings, except Planning & Operations and Executive Committees (the Administration & Finance meeting, as well as the Workshop and Regular and Special Board meetings), the Ad Hoc Committee meetings (GM Recruitment), the ACWA conference, and the OC Water Summit planning meeting.

Director McVicker reported that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop meeting and Regular and Special Board meetings), the OCWA luncheon, the WACO meeting, the Coronet Pocket Park dedication event, the ISDOC Executive Committee meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee meetings (GM Recruitment), the MET Board and Committee meetings, and the OCBC Infrastructure Committee meeting.

Director Yoo Schneider advised that she attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular and Special Board meetings), the Ad Hoc Committee meetings (GM Recruitment), a meeting with Interim General Manager De La Torre, the SMWD Water Quality & Treatment Committee meeting, a meeting with Peter Whittingham, the CCEEB meeting, and the Coronet Pocket Park dedication event.

a. REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

No new topics were suggested.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice President McVicker adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maribeth Goldsby, Secretary