

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

October 4, 2023

At 8:30 a.m., President Yoo Schneider called to order the Workshop Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County in Conference Room 101 at the District facilities located in Fountain Valley, as well as including attendance via the Zoom Webinar application. Director McVicker 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, Dir. of MET Issues/Policy
Alex Heide, Water Resources Analyst (absent)
Charles Busslinger, Dir. of Engineering/Dist. Eng.
Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs
Hilary Chumpitazi, Director of Finance/IT
Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer
Kevin Hostert, Sr. Water Resource Analyst
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs

*Also MWDOC-MET Directors

OTHER MWDOC-MET DIRECTORS

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman

OTHERS PRESENT

Don Barnett
Sara Tucker (absent)
Garrett Durst (absent)
Syrus Devers
Dick Ackerman
Ed Means (absent)
Paul Jones
Peter Whittingham
Doug Davert
Dave Youngblood
Fred Adjarian
Kathryn Freshley
Mike Gaskins
Kay Havens
Mark Monin
Sherri Seitz
Vu Chu
Steve La Mar

Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
NRR
NRR
Syrus Devers Advocacy
Ackerman Consulting
Means Consulting
Dopudja & Wells Consulting
Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors
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
Irvine Ranch Water District

Doug Reinhart	Irvine Ranch Water District
Peer Swan	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Jim Atkinson	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
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
Alicia Dunkin	Orange County Water District
Sandra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Frank Ury	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
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Brett Barbre	Yorba Linda Water District
Wayne Miller	Yorba Linda Water District
Mark Toy	Yorba Linda Water District
Dennis Davis	San Diego County Water Authority
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority
Kristy Khachigian	KK Consulting
Charles Luas	

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 to the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**PRESENTATION ON THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL FORUM (FORUM) BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DON BARNETT**

Mr. Don Barnett (Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum) provided an update on the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program's (Program) efforts to improve water quality by reducing salinity levels. His presentation included an overview of the history of the Program, an outline of how the Program works and its efforts to date, as well as information on the geology (sources of salt), increases in salinity over time, the Program genesis, Paradox Valley Unit project (including environmental and other issues), quantified annual salinity damages, and Program accomplishments. Mr. Barnett then reviewed various scenarios for potential funding sources, appropriations, and cost share arrangements among the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund. He concluded his presentation with an overview of potential salinity control legislation to assist with the efforts.

Considerable discussion ensued with specific emphasis on the "zero" liquid discharge test (and whether it was successful), the potential for energy generation, whether additional work/testing was being done on areas other than Paradox Valley, agricultural conservation/efficiency activities recognized by the Bureau of Land Management, examples of salinity damages in the lower basin states (e.g., water heaters), how the salinity levels affect the drinking water supplies, ways to reduce downstream damages, the Program's annual budget, and the need for additional work (e.g., a broader study on the overall salinity impacts).

The Board received and filed the report as presented.

ACTION ITEM**S. 2514 (BENNET, D-CO) – COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL FIX ACT**

Upon MOTION by Director Crane, seconded by Director Dick, and carried (6-0), the Board voted to adopt a support position on S. 2514 (Bennet, D-CO), by the following roll call vote:

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

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

Director of Governmental Affairs Baez reviewed NRR's written report in the packet, noting that Laphonza Butler was appointed by Governor Newsom to replace Senator Dianne Feinstein. She also provided updates on the appropriations process and twelve appropriations bills.

The Board received and filed the report.

b. State Legislative Report

Mr. Syrus Devers, of SDA, reviewed his report, highlighting AB 334 (Rubio) and ACA 13 (Ward) which passed the Legislature and will be placed on the November 2024 ballot.

Following discussion, the Board received and filed the report.

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Mr. Dick Ackerman referenced his report, highlighting the fact that the SWRCB ordered BlueTriton (owner of Arrowhead Water) to stop using natural spring water (which has been done since 1906), noting that potential litigation may be pursued.

The Board received and filed the report.

d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)

Mr. Whittingham was not present; the Board received and filed his report.

Director Nederhood referenced the Doheny Desalination Project, noting that a future presentation would be prudent.

e. MWDOC Legislative Matrix

The Board received and filed the report.

f. Metropolitan Legislative Matrix

The Board received and filed the report.

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

Director Erdman referenced MET's Engineering, Operations & Technology Committee activities and three projects totaling approximately \$7.6 million which are on the MET Board agenda (Consent Calendar).

Responding to an inquiry by SMWD Director Sandra Jacobs, it was noted that in the event two San Diego districts leave SDCWA the change in SDCWA's voting percentage would be de minimis.

No further MET reports were given.

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 September MET Board Meeting
- b. 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 10:34 a.m.

Maribeth Goldsby
Board Secretary