

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
August 16, 2023**

At 8:30 a.m., President Yoo Schneider 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, Secretary Goldsby led the Pledge of Allegiance and 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, Director of MET Issues/Policy
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Vicki Osborn, Director of Emergency Management
Alex Heide, Sr. Water Resources Analyst
Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency
Charles Busslinger, Dir. of Engineering/Dist. Eng.
Hilary Chumpitazi, Director of Finance/IT
Heather Baez, Director of Governmental Affairs

ALSO PRESENT

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman
Dave Youngblood
Kathryn Freshley
Kay Havens
Mark Monin
Jose Vergara
Dennis Cafferty
Sherri Seitz
Vu Chu
Doug Reinhart
Peer Swan
Paul Weghorst
Jim Atkinson
Jim Fidler
Paul Shoenberger
Stacy Taylor
Kelly Rowe
Mike Markus
John Kennedy
Alicia Dunkin
Chuck Gibson
Saundra Jacobs
Dan Ferons
Jim Leach
Chip Monaco

MWDOC/MET Director
MWDOC/MET Director
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
Irvine Ranch Water District
Mesa Water
Mesa Water
Mesa Water
Mesa Water
Orange County 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
Santa Margarita Water District

Erica Castillo
Jennifer Lopez
Fernando Paludi
Tom Lindsey
Dick Ackerman
Lisa Ohlund
Kristy Khachigian
John Lewis

Santa Margarita Water District
South Coast Water District
Trabuco Canyon Water District
Yorba Linda Water District
Ackerman Consulting
Ohlund Management & Technical Services
KK Consulting

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENT

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

OC LAFCO Commissioner (and Mesa Water Director) Jim Fisler updated the Board on OC LAFCO activities, including the OC LAFCO communication tools (e.g., newsletters and the on-line Pulse publication). He noted that OC LAFCO recently updated its website which functions as a resource tool for various information.

A brief discussion ensued regarding OC LAFCO’s dues structure (no changes to the current structure) and the opportunities missed by OC LAFCO to be more helpful with the MSR Focused Study process.

SMWD Director Saundra Jacobs referenced the letter SMWD received from OC LAFCO regarding the MSR Focused Study, noting there was some confusion as it asked for input to the Study, but didn’t include opportunity for feedback. It was noted that the issues surrounding the Study would be discussed at a future date.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

No items were received.

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.

Secretary Goldsby noted that the District’s response to the OC Grand Jury Report (Item 6-1) was distributed to the Board and made available to the public.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Director Nederhood pulled Item No. 2d (MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning Committee meeting minutes/report) from the Consent Calendar for further discussion.

Upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director McVicker, 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.

July 5, 2023 Workshop Board Meeting
 July 19, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

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

Planning & Operations Committee Meeting: July 3, 2023
 Administration & Finance Committee Meeting: July 12, 2023
 Executive Committee Meeting: July 20, 2023

TREASURER'S REPORTS

The following items were ratified and approved as presented.

MWDOC Revenue/Cash Receipt Register as of July 31, 2023
 Disbursement Registers (July/August)

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 June 30, 2023

PARS Monthly Statement (OPEB Trust)

FINANCIAL REPORT

The following items were received and filed as presented.

- Draft Combined Financial Statements and Budget Comparative for the Period Ending June 30, 2023
- Quarterly Budget Review (deferred to FY 2022-23 Audited Annual Financials)

REVIEW CANDIDATES FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES’ (ACWA) ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND REGION 10 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board restated its prior vote to designate President Yoo Schneider, or her designee to cast the District’s ballot within her discretion.

- END CONSENT CALENDAR -

ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Director Nederhood commented on the Treasurer’s Reports, highlighting that pursuant to the recently adopted (and amended) Reserve Policy, the member agencies were issued credits on their accounts totaling approximately \$500,000. He commended the Board, staff, and agencies for the collaborative approach to revising the District’s Reserve Policy.

MWDOC/OCWD JOINT PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT FROM JULY 26, 2023

President Yoo Schneider advised that this item was inadvertently pulled from the Consent Calendar and suggested the Board vote on the item.

Upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director Crane, and carried (7-0), the Board received and filed the meeting report from the MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning Committee meeting (July 26, 2023), by the following roll call vote:

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

ACTION CALENDAR

MWDOC’S RESPONSE LETTER TO ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT - “HISTORIC RAIN, YET DROUGHT REMAINS”

Dr. Melissa Baum-Haley, Director of MET Issues and Policy, provided an overview of MWDOC’s response to the OC Grand Jury Report “Historic Rain, Yet Drought Remains” pursuant to comments received by the Board at the Administration & Finance Committee meeting.

Director Seckel asked that Findings Response 1 (F1- Future Water Supplies are Impacted By Climate Change and Current Supplies Will Not Meet Future Demands) be amended to reflect that MWDOC partially disagrees with the findings, and to include MET as part of the process in ensuring future demands are satisfied and additional supply investments are being developed.

The Board members commended staff for their preparation of an excellent response on behalf of MWDOC.

Upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (7-0), the Board approved (as revised above) MWDOC’s response letter on the Orange County Grand Jury’s findings and recommendations regarding its report entitled “Historic Rain, Yet Drought Remains” and have staff submit such a letter to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court before September 5, 2023, by the following roll call vote:

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

INFORMATION CALENDAR

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT, AUGUST 2023

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

Mr. De La Torre reported that MET is in the process of overhauling its website to improve and expand its section on transparency, noting MET is using MWDOC’s transparency section within our website as a model to follow. He commended staff for their efforts with not only the website, but efforts relating to the Transparency and District of Distinction awards received from the California Special Districts Association.

Director Crane congratulated Director Dick on his 20th anniversary as a MET Director.

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, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular, and Special Board meetings), the WACO and WACO Planning meetings, a virtual Town Hall featuring the ACWA officer candidates, the OCWD Board meeting, the July MET Committees (2), and the July MET Board meeting.

Director Dick stated that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings, (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular and Special Board meetings), the regularly scheduled MET Board and Committee meetings, the Southern California Water

Committee meeting, the ISDOC Executive Committee, the WACO and WACO planning meetings, the Ad Hoc Committee regarding the Grand Jury Report, a meeting with Mohsen Mortada (MET) regarding MET's desert housing and the Solar Cup, a meeting with Supervisor Wagner, and a meeting with Director of Public Affairs Damon Micalizzi regarding venue options for policy dinners. He also advised that he would be hosting (along with Director Seckel) an inspection trip (Orange County) for Grand Jury members.

Director McVicker reported that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop meeting and Regular and Special Board meetings), the ISDOC Executive Committee meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee regarding the GM Recruitment, the WACO meeting, the OCBC Infrastructure Committee meeting, and the MET Board and Committee meetings.

Director Seckel advised that he attended the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular and Special Board meetings), the regularly scheduled MET Board and Committee meetings, the WACO planning meeting, the OC Water Summit planning meeting(s), the MET Caucus, a presentation to the City of Huntington Beach regarding MET's One Water Award, a meeting with representatives from MNWD, and the YLWD Board meeting wherein he made a presentation on Colorado River issues. He noted that he has been meeting with the various MET delegations, and most recently Cynthia Kurz of Pasadena. Director Seckel encouraged all in attendance to download MET's 2023 Draft Long-Range Finance Plan Needs Assessment, and he acknowledged the upcoming retirement of ETWD Director Jose Vergara.

Director Crane reported that he attended the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop meeting and Regular and Special Board meetings), the Ad Hoc Committee regarding the Grand Jury Report, the OC Water Summit planning meeting(s), the ISDOC meeting, the WACO meeting, the MET meetings, and a roundtable discussion regarding environmental and conservancy issues, organized by Senator Dave Min.

Director Thomas noted that he attended most of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings, (the Planning & Operations, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular and Special Board meetings), the OC Water Summit planning meeting(s), the WACO meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee regarding the GM Recruitment, and a meeting with Doug Davert regarding various issues.

Director Yoo Schneider advised that she attended most 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 CCEEB conference, a meeting with MWDOC staff, the Ad Hoc Committee regarding the GM Recruitment, the WEF Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Board/Committee meeting, the SCWD Board meeting, a meeting with Laguna Beach Councilmember Rounaghi, the Festival of the Butterflies event, the SMWD Water Quality and Treatment Committee, and a public meeting of the Canyon Democrats.

a. REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

Director Seckel requested a presentation regarding MET's 2023 Draft Long-Range Finance Plan Needs Assessment be agendized in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Yoo Schneider adjourned the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maribeth Goldsby, Secretary