

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY  
November 15, 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, Director Seckel 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, District 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  
Cathy Harris, Director of HR/Administration  
Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency  
Charles Busslinger, Dir. of Engineering/Dist. Eng.  
Heather Baez, Director of Governmental Affairs  
Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer  
Hilary Chumpitazi, Director of Finance/IT

**ALSO PRESENT**

Linda Ackerman  
Dennis Erdman  
Kathryn Fresley  
Mike Gaskins  
Kay Havens  
Mark Monin  
Dennis Cafferty  
Sherri Seitz  
Doug Reinhart  
Paul Weghorst  
Jim Atkinson  
Stacy Taylor  
Diane Rifkin  
Sherry Wanninger  
Kelly Rowe  
Mike Markus  
John Kennedy  
Saundra Jacobs  
Dan Ferons  
Jim Leach  
Chip Monaco  
Greg Mills  
Brad Reese  
Rick Shintaku  
Jennifer Lopez

MWDOC/MET Director  
MWDOC/MET Director  
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  
Mesa Water  
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  
Serrano Water District  
Serrano Water District  
South Coast Water District  
South Coast Water District

Glen Acosta  
Tom Lindsey  
Mark Toy  
Lisa Ohlund  
Dick Ackerman  
Charles Luas

Trabuco Canyon Water District  
Yorba Linda Water District  
Yorba Linda Water District  
Ohlund Management & Technical Services  
Ackerman 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.

No public comments were received.

**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 advised that the Strategic Goals and Implementation Plan, along with the accompanying presentation materials were distributed to the Board and made available to the public.

**EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS**

Interim General Manager Harvey De La Torre presented an award to Director of Finance/IT, Hilary Chumpitazi for 10 years of service with the District.

**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.

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

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

**MINUTES**

The following minutes were approved.

October 4, 2023 Workshop Board Meeting  
October 18, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

**COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

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

Planning & Operations Committee Meeting: October 2, 2023  
Administration & Finance Committee Meeting: October 11, 2023  
Executive Committee Meeting: October 19, 2023  
MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning Committee: October 25, 2023

**TREASURER'S REPORTS**

The following items were ratified and approved as presented.

MWDOC Revenue/Cash Receipt Register as of October 31, 2023  
Disbursement Registers (October/November)

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 September 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 September 30, 2023
- Quarterly Budget Review

**2024 HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT CONTRIBUTIONS**

The Board of Directors approved an increase to the District’s annual Health Savings Account (HSA) contribution amounts to the Kaiser and Anthem Consumer Driven Health Plans (CDHP) for the 2024 plan year, Option 1.

**MWDOC LEGISLATIVE POLICY PRINCIPLES ANNUAL UPDATE**

The Board of Directors adopted the Legislative and Regulatory Policy Principles as updated and streamlined for 2024.

**- END CONSENT CALENDAR -**

**PRESENTATION ITEM****STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Interim General Manager Harvey De La Torre presented staff's Implementation Plan (Plan) for the recently finalized MWDOC Board Strategic Priorities (MWDOC's mission and roles, MET's policy positions, MET Director consultation, reliability planning, member agency collaboration, communications, and staff development). He advised that the intent of the Plan was to provide a structured and actionable roadmap for staff to achieve each priority with a specific set of goals and action.

Mr. De La Torre's presentation included the background for developing the priorities (as well as their purpose), the intent of the Plan, how staff will utilize the Plan, as well as a detailed review of how staff plans to implement each priority.

Discussion ensued with comments that highlighted the facilitated process with the member agencies (which helped improved coordination and communication with the member agencies). Several Board members commended President Yoo Schneider's direction and leadership skills which challenged staff to develop the Implementation Plan.

President Yoo Schneider suggested the current workload of staff be evaluated to ensure that the Implementation Plan is achievable (not adding additional work but fine-tuning or eliminating programs that do not maximize staff's talents). She referenced Conservation as a Way of Life efforts and suggested MWDOC's role shift to that of a support role to the member agencies, as well as Cyber Security and exploring the member agency needs in this regard (emphasizing MWDOC's of support to the agencies).

The Board received and filed the presentation; it was noted that periodic updates on staff's progress would be made to the Board.

**INFORMATION CALENDAR****GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT, NOVEMBER 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 advised that he was recently appointed to MET's task force on the CAMP4W process.

Director Nederhood referenced the recent MET Board meeting wherein a MET member agency Board member expressed concerning remarks and accusations against their MET Director representative. He also highlighted MET's reduced water sales (\$300 million loss in revenue), and the presentation on MET's the Long Range Finance Plan Needs Assessment.

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 Board meetings), the WACO and WACO planning meetings, the OC Water Summit, the OCSD State of the Organization event, and the MET Committee and Board meetings.

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 Board meetings), the regularly scheduled MET Board and Committee meetings, the Pure Water dedication event, the WACO meeting, the ad hoc committee meeting regarding the Grand Jury Report, the ISDOC Executive Committee meeting, the Water Policy dinner, MET preparation meeting for the subcommittee meeting on the Long Term Financial Plan, the MET Caucus, the Corps of Engineers of Southern California, a Chamber of Commerce meeting, and the OC Water Summit.

Director McVicker reported that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning, Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop meeting and Regular Board meetings), MET's Board and Committee meetings, the ISDOC Executive Committee meeting, and the ad hoc committee meeting regarding the GM Recruitment.

Director Seckel advised that he attended the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, and MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop Board meeting), the regularly scheduled MET Board and Committee meetings, a meeting with SMWD regarding South County Pipeline issues, the WACO Planning meeting, a meeting with Dick Ackerman, the OC Water Summit and speakers' dinner, the Pure Water dedication event with the San Joaquin Blueprint, the AVEK dedication event, a meeting with MET staff, the Coastkeeper Toast to the Coast event, and a meeting with Deven Upadhyay. Director Seckel also provided clarification on MET's draft Long Range Finance Plan document.

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 and Regular Board meetings), the WACO meeting, a presentation on water to the Girl Scouts, the South OC Watershed Management Executive Committee meeting, the ad hoc committee meeting regarding the Grand Jury report, a meeting with SMWD Director Chuck Gibson (regarding the revised Legislative Policy Principles), and the IRWD Board meeting.

Director Thomas noted that he attended most of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings, (the Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), the WACO

meeting, the OC Water Summit Planning meeting(s), the OC Water Summit and speakers' dinner, and ad hoc committee meetings regarding the GM recruitment.

Director Yoo Schneider advised that she attended most of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations and MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), several ad hoc committee meetings regarding the GM recruitment, the SMWD ribbon cutting event in San Juan Capistrano, the SMWD Board meeting, a meeting with staff, the SCWD Administration & Finance Committee meeting, and the LBCWD Commission meeting.

**a. REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

No items for future agenda topics were presented.

**CLOSED SESSION ITEM**

At 9:26 a.m, Legal Counsel Bryne announced that the Board would adjourn to closed session to discuss the following item:

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION**

(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)

Name of case: In re: Aqueous Film-Forming Foams Products Liability Litigation, Case No. 2:18-mn-2873-RMG

**RECONVENE**

At 9:46 a.m. the Board reconvened into open session, and Legal Counsel Bryne announced that by a 6-0 vote, the Board voted to opt out of the proposed settlements on the litigation and authorized Interim General Manager De La Torre to work with legal counsel on the necessary documents.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Yoo Schneider adjourned the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maribeth Goldsby, Secretary