

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY  
December 18, 2024**

At 8:30 a.m., 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 via the Zoom Webinar application. Following a moment of silence, Director Thomas 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, General Manager  
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel  
Maribeth Goldsby, District Secretary  
Melissa Baum-Haley, Assistant General Manager  
Heather Baez, Director of Governmental Affairs  
Alex Heide, Sr. Water Resources Analyst  
Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer  
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs  
Hilary Chumpitazi, Director of Finance/IT  
Cathy Harris, Director of Administration/HR  
Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency  
Kevin Hostert, Sr. Water Resources Analyst  
Tiffany Baca, Public Affairs Manager

**ALSO PRESENT**

Linda Ackerman  
Dennis Erdman  
Kathryn Freshley  
Mike Gaskins  
Kay Havens  
Mark Monin  
Dennis Cafferty  
Sherri Seitz  
Vu Chu  
Doug Reinhart  
Peer Swan  
Paul Cook  
Paul Weghorst  
Jim Fisler  
Dick Fiore  
Don Froelich  
Bill Moorhead  
Sherry Wanninger  
Steve Sheldon  
John Kennedy  
Chris Olsen  
Alicia Harasty  
Brad Reese  
Rick Erkeneff

MWDOC/MET Director  
MWDOC/MET Director  
El Toro Water District  
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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  
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  
Orange County Water District  
Serrano Water District  
South Coast Water District

Bill Green	South Coast Water District
Rick Shintaku	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
Gene Hernandez	Yorba Linda Water District
Dick Ackerman	Ackerman Consulting
Peter Whittingham	Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors
Paul Jones	Dopudja & Wells Consulting
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority
Charles Luas	Orchard Dale Water District
Ted Grigsby	Hyas Group
David Martinez	

**TELECONFERENCE SITES**

Director McVicker participated via teleconference location (all agenda requirements pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act requirements were complied with).

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

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. President McVicker whether any member of the public had any comments on items that were 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 McVicker 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 General Manager’s draft Comment Letter regarding the OC LAFCO MSR Focused Study was distributed to the Board and made available to the public.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

President McVicker stated that 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 Seckel, and carried (6-0), the Board approved the following Consent Calendar items by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Dick, Nederhood, McVicker, Seckel, Crane, & Thomas

NOES: None  
 ABSENT: Director Yoo Schneider  
 ABSTAIN: None

**MINUTES**

The following minutes were approved.

November 6, 2024 Workshop Board Meeting  
 November 20, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

**COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

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

Planning & Operations Committee Meeting: November 4, 2024  
 Administration & Finance Committee Meeting: November 13, 2024  
 Executive Committee Meeting: November 21, 2024

**TREASURER'S REPORTS**

The following items were ratified and approved as presented.

MWDOC Revenue/Cash Receipt Register as of November 30, 2024  
 Disbursement Registers (November/December)

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 October 31, 2024

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 October 31, 2024

MWDOC FY 2023-24 Audit Financial Report

**NOVEMBER 2024 ELECTION CERTIFICATES AND CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT IN LIEU OF ELECTION**

The Board received and filed the Certificates of Election for Karl Seckel (Division 4) and Jeff Thomas (Division 6), and the Certificates of Appointment In Lieu of Election for Robert McVicker (Division 3) and Megan Yoo Schneider (Division 7).

**CHOICE-BASED COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE FOR MAKING CONSERVATION A WAY OF LIFE FRAMEWORK**

The Board authorized the General Manager to enter into a five-year professional services agreement with Environmental Incentives, Inc. to provide Choice-based Technical Assistance to Orange County retailers for Conservation as a California Way of Life Regulation compliance. This program will utilize a combination of Choice-based member agency funding, along with federal grant and Metropolitan Conservation Credits Program funding.

**AUTHORIZE CONTINUING REIMBURSEMENT FOR COASTAL MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT EMPLOYEE RETIREE BENEFIT**

The Board (1) authorized payment of Mr. Hunter Cook’s retiree medical premiums from April through August 2024; and (2) authorized continuing reimbursement payments to Mrs. Hunter Cook for medical premiums, effective April 2024, on a continuing basis, in accordance with the MWDOC’s Retiree Medical Benefits Policy and reimbursement guidelines

**SELECTION OF CONSULTANT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ORANGE COUNTY DEMAND FORECASTS IN PREPARATION FOR 2025 URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLANS (UWMPs)**

The Board (1) authorized the General Manager to enter into a professional services agreement with Hazen and Sawyer (Hazen) to provide professional services for development of Orange County demand forecasts in preparation for the upcoming 2025 Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs) for an amount not to exceed \$318,940; and (2) authorized the General Manager to cost share with Orange County Water District (OCWD) at a 2/3 MWDOC (\$212,414) and 1/3 OCWD (\$106,526) split.

**CONTINUATION OF THE FLUME, INC. RESIDENTIAL END USES OF WATER STUDY – UPDATE #2**

The Board authorized a budgeted expenditure of \$25,000 to continue the Residential End Uses of Water Study to include 27 months of additional Flume data.

**- END CONSENT CALENDAR -**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**MWDOC’s PARTICIPATION IN METROPOLITAN’S REVERSE CYCLIC PROGRAM**

Mr. Alex Heide, Sr. Water Resources Analyst presented this item for approval, noting that subsequent to MWDOC’s Planning & Operations Committee meeting, MET had truncated down the amount of water available for purchase under this program to more than 100,000 AF for all of its member agencies. Following discussion regarding the benefits of the program to the agencies and its effects on MET’s financial stability, as well as whether MET would be better served by monetizing its water held in storage, upon MOTION by Director Yoo Schneider, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (7-0), the Board (a) authorized the General Manager to execute a

Reverse-Cyclic Program Agreement with Metropolitan; (b) authorized the General Manager to facilitate participation in the program for any MWDOC member agencies interested in purchasing Reverse Cyclic water, including executing related contracts and/or purchase orders; and (c) approved MWDOC’s purchase of up to 600 acre-feet of Reverse Cyclic water. Said action was taken via the following roll call vote:

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

**AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT’S 401 (a) AND 457 (b) RETIREMENT PLAN ACCOUNTS**

Director of Human Resources & Administration Cathy Harris provided an overview of the item, and the associated discussion held at the Administration & Finance Committee; she then addressed the proposed scope of work as well as several questions raised by the Committee regarding the scope. Ms. Harris, Legal Counsel, and Mr. Ted Grisby (Hyas Group) answered questions from the Board, and provided clarity on the issues raised, noting Hyas would act in an advisory capacity on investments (non-commission based). Upon MOTION by Director Yoo Schneider, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (7-0), the Board awarded a contract for investment management services for the District’s Retirement Plan Accounts to Hyas Group and authorized the General Manager to execute the contract in the amount of \$20,000 (with the option to renew annually for four additional years), by the following roll call vote:

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

**REORGANIZATION OF THE MWDOC BOARD OF DIRECTORS; ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT**

President McVicker advised that the election of Board officers (President and Vice President) was before the Board for consideration.

Upon MOTION by Director Dick, seconded by Director Crane, and carried (7-0), the Board adopted RESOLUTION NO. 2151, electing Director Bob McVicker as President and Director Jeffery Thomas as Vice President, each for one year terms. RESOLUTION NO. 2151 was adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

**APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY, TREASURER(S), AND LEGAL COUNSEL**

President McVicker announced that the proposal to appoint the District’s Secretary, Treasurer(s), and Legal Counsel was before the Board for consideration.

Upon MOTION by Director McVicker, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (7-0), the Board adopted RESOLUTION NO. 2152 appointing Maribeth Goldsby as District Secretary, Hilary Chumpitazi as Treasurer, Harvey De La Torre as Deputy Treasurer, Lina Gunawan as Alternate Deputy Treasurer, and Best, Best & Krieger and Joe Byrne as Legal Counsel, by the following roll call vote:

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

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**GENERAL MANAGER COMMENT LETTER REGARDING THE OC LAFCO MSR FOCUSED STUDY**

General Manager De La Torre provided an overview of MWDOC’s draft response letter to the OC LAFCO MSR Focused Study which stated MWDOC was not in support of a consolidated agency as it was not in the best interests of the rate payers of Orange County; he provided an overview of the detailed responses in the letter to LAFCO.

Each of the Board members weighed in and provided substantive comments on the draft letter, noting it was a thorough, in-depth response. Comments included how a consolidated agency would affect MWDOC’s representation at MET, the lack of water management benefits addressed by the Study, the improved relationship of the two agencies due to new General Managers, the lack of any compelling reason to consolidate, budget issues, no benefits to the South County agencies, and the fact that there was no scale of economy. It was also noted that the two agencies have two completely different functions and governmental Acts. The Board recommended some organizational changes to the letter, adding some minor nuances, and suggested a press release be issued. The Board also generally expressed opposition to a consolidated agency at this time.

**INFORMATION CALENDAR**

**GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT, DECEMBER 2024**

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

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 the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning Committee, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), the MET meetings, the WACO and WACO planning meetings, the Ad Hoc Committee meeting (re the LAFCO MSR Focused Study), the Southern California Water Coalition meeting, and the OC Water Summit planning meeting.

Director Dick stated that he attended the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning Committee, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), the regularly scheduled MET Board and Committee meetings, the UWI Executive Committee meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee meeting (re the LAFCO MSR Focused Study), and the WACO and WACO planning meetings.

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 Board meetings), the MET Board and Committee meetings, a meeting with General Manager De La Torre, the ISDOC Executive Committee meeting, the SWRCB Delta update, the WACO and WACO planning meetings, and a webinar on the State Water Project.

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 and Regular Board meetings), the regularly scheduled MET Board and Committee meetings, and the WACO meeting.

Director Crane 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 and Regular Board meetings), the ACWA conference, the OC Water Summit planning meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee (re the LAFCO MSR Focused Study), the WACO meeting, two IRWD meetings, and OCWD meeting(s).

Director Thomas stated 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), as well as the MET Finance Committee meeting, the OC Water Summit planning meeting, and the WACO meeting.

Director Yoo Schneider advised that she 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

ACWA conference, member agency Board and Committee meetings, the MET meeting(s), a meeting with a MWDOC MET Director and the WACO meeting.

**b. REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

No new items were presented.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, President McVicker adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maribeth Goldsby, Secretary