

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

February 5, 2025

At 8:30 a.m., President McVicker 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 Dick 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
Megan Yoo Schneider

STAFF

Harvey De La Torre, General Manager
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel
Maribeth Goldsby, District Secretary
Melissa Baum-Haley, Assistant General Mgr.
Charles Busslinger, Dir. of Engineering/Dist. Eng.
Heather Baez, Director of Governmental Affairs
Joe Berg, Director of WUE
Alex Heide, Sr. Water Resource Analyst
Kevin Hostert, Sr. Water Resource Analyst
Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer
Rachel Waite, WUE Program Supervisor

*Also MWDOC-MET Directors

OTHER MWDOC-MET DIRECTORS

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman

OTHERS PRESENT

Sara Tucker (absent)
Garrett Durst
Syrus Devers
Dick Ackerman
Peter Whittingham
Paul Jones
Doug Davert
Dave Youngblood
Kathryn Freshley
Mike Gaskins
Kay Havens
Wyatt McClean
Mark Monin
Dennis Cafferty
Sherri Seitz
Vu Chu
Dan Ferons
Doug Reinhart
Peer Swan

NRR
NRR
Syrus Devers Advocacy
Ackerman Consulting
Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors
Dopudja & Wells Consulting
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
Irvine Ranch Water District

Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Keith Van Der Maaten	Laguna Beach County Water District
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water
Jim Fislser	Mesa Water
Dick Fiore	Moulton Niguel Water District
Don Froelich	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Marina Lindsay	Moulton Niguel Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Chris Olsen	Orange County Water District
Laura Freese	Santa Margarita Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Margaret Novak	Santa Margarita Water District
Jerry Vilander	Serrano Water District
Bill Green	South Coast Water District
Trudi DesRoches	Yorba Linda Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Mark Toy	Yorba Linda Water District
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority
Chuck Gibson	
Mike Markus	
Richard Bell	

TELECONFERENCE SITE

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

President McVicker inquired whether any members of the public wished to comment on agenda items.

Newly appointed El Toro Water District Director Wyatt McClean was introduced to the Board.

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 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 presentation material for Item 1 (regarding Metropolitan's CAMP4W Process and Business Model) was distributed to the Board and made available to the public less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**PRESENTATION REGARDING METROPOLITAN'S CAMP4W PROCESS AND BUSINESS MODEL**

Senior Water Resources Analyst Alex Heide provided an update on MET's Business Model Process. The presentation included an overview of the CAMP4W process, Business Model background, process, and retreat, and an update on working group meetings (financial policies, water resources, and engineering sub-working groups). He concluded the presentation with an outline of the next steps, which include evaluating a potential program for MET to enable member agency local supply exchanges, as well as future discussions regarding a possible MET policy for water sales outside the service area, and additional conservation and local resource planning.

The Board and audience then discussed various topics, including funding for the programs outlined in the Business Model as well as other financial issues (surcharges, how to pay for the programs, how to incorporate the issues/programs into the biennial budget, revenue sources, how to remain revenue neutral, etc.). Additional topics addressed were State Water Project dependent areas, the budget schedule, the importance of having the CFO report directly to the Board, and cyber security issues.

Following discussion, the Board received and filed the information.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES**a. Federal Legislative Report (NRR)**

Mr. Garrett Durst of NRR reviewed his written report, and he highlighted (1) two Executive Orders signed by President Trump on California water which would loosen restrictions on the Delta, and (2) the federal funding freeze (which was subsequently rescinded), noting that Bureau of Reclamation projects are not the target of the funding freeze, and these projects should not be in jeopardy. Mr. Durst advised that Doug Burgum was appointed as Secretary of the Interior.

The Board received and filed the report.

b. State Legislative Report (SDA)

Mr. Syrus Devers of SDA reviewed his report, highlighting MWDOC staff's recent trip to Sacramento where the theme was to highlight returning issues in 2025 focusing on the reintroduction of SB 366 (Caballero), now SB 72 (Caballero) – California Water for All, Low Income Rate Assistance for water, and flood flow diversions. He also provided an update on the Governor's proposed budget, as well as the California Air Resources Control Board's (CARB) recent withdrawal of its request for a waiver from the EPA to implement the Governor's Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) program.

The Board received and filed the report.

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Mr. Dick Ackerman reviewed his report, highlighting the Nutria situation (a beaver like rodent which has invaded the Delta), as well as the Palisades Fire and associated water related issues.

Following a discussion regarding the possible effects Nutria may have on the levees, the Board requested a future update. The Board received and filed the report.

d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)

Mr. Peter Whittingham reviewed his report with the Board and the Board received and filed the written report.

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

Director Ackerman advised that David Palumbo was appointed Acting Director of the Bureau of Reclamation. She also highlighted various issues including MET’s pre-stressed concrete pipe rehabilitation project of \$3.1 billion, the Quagga mussels (which have been found in the State Water Project), the Sites Project, and Bay-Delta investments.

Director Erdman reported on MET’s Engineering, Operations & Technology Committee activities and he highlighted several projects which will be brought to the Committee in February.

Director Seckel reported on the Business Model, as well as the Pure Water Subcommittee activities.

Director Dick highlighted the following: (1) MET appointed Deven Upadhyay as its new General Manager, and (2) MET’s budget issues and the importance of focusing on revenue options.

ACTION ITEM

SB 72 (CABALLERO) – THE CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN: LONG-TERM SUPPLY TARGETS

Upon MOTION by Director Seckel, seconded by Director Crane, and carried (5-0), the Board adopted a support position on SB 72 (Caballero) and authorized staff to join CMUA’s coalition letter and outreach efforts, by the following roll call vote:

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

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 report regarding the January MET Board Meeting
- b. Review items of significance for the upcoming MET Board and Committee Agendas

The report was received and filed.

CLOSED SESSION ITEM

At 10:52 a.m., Legal Counsel Byrne announced that the Board would adjourn to closed session to discuss the following matter with Legal Counsel:

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California et al. v. California Department of Fish & Wildlife et al. (MWDOC is a petitioner in this lawsuit), Sacramento County Superior Court Case No. 34-2021-80003692-CU-WM-GDS.

RECONVENE

The Board reconvened at 11:17 a.m., and Legal Counsel Byrne announced that no reportable action was taken in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Maribeth Goldsby
District Secretary