

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
February 6, 2014 @ 8 a.m.

Director Sidhu called the Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee meeting to order in Conference Room C-2 at the District office. The Recording Secretary called the roll as follows:

Committee Members

Harry Sidhu
Kathryn Barr
Cathy Green
Vincent Sarmiento (arrived 8:05 a.m.)
Steve Sheldon (arrived 8:05 a.m.)

Alternates

Roger Yoh (not present)
Shawn Dewane
Jan Flory (not present)
Denis Bilodeau (arrived 8:20 a.m.)
Phil Anthony

OCWD Staff

Mike Markus, General Manager
Eleanor Torres, Director of Public Affairs
Judy-Rae Karlsen, Recording Secretary
Gina Ayala, Robert Ennis, Cristabel Nichols

Others

Jim McConnell – McConnell & Associates
Christopher Townsend, Cory Williams,
Heather Stratman - Townsend Public Affairs

Teleconference

Eric Saperstein - ENS Resources
Casey Elliott – Townsend Public Affairs

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Barr and carried 5-0. (Yes - Sidhu, Barr, Green, Dewane, Anthony /No – 0/Absent- Sarmiento, Sheldon, Yoh, Flory, Bilodeau).

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the January 9, 2014 Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee meeting were approved as presented.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

Directors Sarmiento and Sheldon arrived at 8:05 am during the following discussion.

2. Federal Legislative Update

Legislative consultant Jim McConnell presented a briefing on legislative activities in Washington D.C. Legislative consultant Eric Saperstein (ENS Resources) teleconferenced into the meeting and reviewed proposed legislation. The Committee recommended that staff transmit letter to Senator Feinstein recommending that desalination be included in the bill for federal funding.

Director Green reported she is traveling to Washington D.C. to attend the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Washington D.C. conference and could meet with legislators at that time. The Committee took the following action.

Upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Sarmiento and carried [5-0] the Committee recommended that the Board at its February 19 Board meeting: Transmit letter to Senator Feinstein to include desalination in the bill for federal funding.

(Yes - Sidhu, Barr, Green, Sarmiento, Sheldon / No - 0)

3. State Legislative Update

Legislative consultant Casey Elliott (Townsend Public Affairs) teleconferenced into the meeting and gave a update on legislative activity in Sacramento, CA. He reviewed proposed legislation and discussed the Governors current interest in drought relief proposals. The Committee discussed the importance of including desalination in drought relief discussions and recommended that the Governor be encouraged to include desalination in State drought relief proposals. The Committee discussed the need for the GWRS project to move into its final expansion phase and become a qualified "shovel ready" project. After a lengthy discussion on the need for reliable sources of water in California, the Committee recommended that staff begin preparation of the Feasibility Study for the Final Expansion of the GWRS project. The Committee then took the following actions.

Upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Sarmiento and carried [5-0] the Committee recommended that the Board at its February 19 Board meeting: 1) Transmit a letter to Governor Brown to include desalination in State drought relief proposals; and 2) Authorize preparation of the Feasibility Study for the GWRS Final Expansion Project.
(Yes - Sidhu, Barr, Green, Sarmiento, Sheldon / No - 0)

Director Bilodeau arrived at 8:20 a.m. during discussion of the next item.

4. OCWD Website Design and Development

Director of Public Affairs Eleanor Torres reported the District's website requires technical upgrades in order to organize increasing amounts of electronic information and communicate more effectively. She stated the website design and development project will cost approximately \$100,000 and areas to be improved include, but are not limited to, the streamlining of existing information; the overall functionality for visitors to access public records; making the site compatible with smart phone and tablet devices; and the incorporation of the latest available website technology. Ms. Torres advised that staff was requesting authorization to establish a project budget and prepare a Request for Proposals for qualified vendors. She recommended the Board designate an ad hoc Information and Technology Committee that would review and make recommendations to the Board on the future design and functionality of the proposed website. The Committee took the following actions.

Upon motion by Director Barr, seconded by Director Sarmiento and carried [5-0] the Committee recommended that the Board at its February 19 Board meeting: 1) Establish a budget for the design and development of a new OCWD website for an amount not to exceed \$100,000; 2) Authorize staff to prepare a Request for Proposals for the design and development of a new OCWD website; and 3) Designate the Information and Technology Ad Hoc Committee to make recommendations to the Board regarding the design and development of the new OCWD website.
(Yes - Sidhu, Barr, Green, Sarmiento, Sheldon/No-0)

5. Public Affairs Outreach Report - January

Ms. Torres noted the staff report in the packet provides the details of the Public Affairs outreach activities and media contacts during the month of January. Principal Communications Specialist Gina Ayala presented a new online program that tracks media coverage of OCWD news and generates monthly reports.

6. 7th Annual Orange County Water Summit

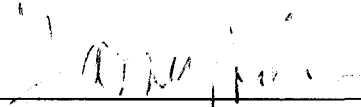
Ms. Torres reported the 7th Annual Orange County Water Summit is scheduled for Friday, May 16, 2014 at the Grand California Hotel in the Disneyland Resort and U.S. Representative for California's 3rd Congressional District - Congressman Garamendi has agreed to speak at the event.

DETERMINATION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON CONSENT CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 19 BOARD MEETING

The Committee recommended that Items No. 2-4 be placed on the Consent Calendar for the February 19 Board meeting.

Ms. Torres then introduced Cristabel Nichols, as a new hire in the Public Affairs department, who will work on the Children's Drinking Water Festival.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.



Harry Sidhu, Chair