

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
July 3, 2014 @ 8:00 a.m.

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

Committee Members

Harry Sidhu
Kathryn Barr
Cathy Green
Vincent Sarmiento (arrived 8:10 a.m.)
Steve Sheldon

OCWD Staff

Mike Markus - General Manager
Joel Kuperberg - General Counsel
Judy-Rae Karlsen - Assistant District Secretary
Gina Ayala, Bruce Dosier, Adam Hutchinson,
John Kennedy, Crystal Nettles, Diane Pinnick,
Eleanor Torres, Mike Wehner, Greg Woodside

Alternates

Roger Yoh (not present)
Shawn Dewane
Jan Flory
Denis Bilodeau
Phil Anthony

Teleconference

Jim McConnell - McConnell & Associates
Eric Saperstein - ENS Resources
Casey Elliott - Townsend Public Affairs
Sean Rossell – Cerrell Associates

Others

Christopher Townsend, Cory Williams,
Ian Delzer, Heather Stratam - Townsend Public Affairs
John Earl – Surf City Voice
Milt Dardis – R4RD
Debbie Cook

VISITOR COMMENTS

Surf City Voice Representative John Earl voiced a concern about the accuracy of comments made at the July 2 Board meeting. Debbie Cook reported she submitted a public records request and then provided OCWD documents to Director Jan Flory to assist her with cost saving ideas.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the June 20, 2014 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meeting were approved as presented.

2. Sponsorship of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority and the Water Education Foundation's 2014 Santa Ana River Watershed Conference

Recommended for approval at July 16 Board meeting: Authorize financial participation in the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority and Water Education Foundation's 2013 Santa Ana River Watershed Conference in the amount of \$2,000.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

3. State Legislative Update

Director of Public Affairs Eleanor Torres briefed the Committee on legislative activities in Sacramento. Townsend Public Affairs (TPA) representative Casey Elliott reported on current legislation and the process for amending bills in Sacramento. The Committee discussed current legislation and expressed concerns about SB 1390 (Correa) which creates the Santa Ana River Conservancy. The Committee requested that TPA extend an invitation to Senator Correa to meet with Directors for a roundtable discussion on the bill. Ms. Torres reported that TPA is monitoring the bill closely and staff will return to Committee with updates and additional information.

Director Sarmiento arrived at 8:10 a.m. during the following discussion.

4. Water Bond Principles

Ms. Torres requested the Committee review and discuss the Water Bond guiding principles and provide direction on how to proceed. Following a lengthy discussion the Committee recommended the proposed Water Resources Funding Policy Principles include the following items:

- *State water bonds should fund projects and programs that increase water supplies for California.*
- *State water bonds should include funds that develop programs to reduce the operating cost to provide water supplies to California residents.*

Director Sheldon said the Water Bond creates a perception that the water crisis has been averted and therefore, he would not support the recommendation. The Committee requested that staff incorporate Committee comments and bring a finalized policy to the July 16 Board meeting for adoption. The Committee then took the following action.

Upon motion by Director Sarmiento, seconded by Director Green and carried [4-1] with Director Sheldon voting “No”, the Committee recommended the Board take the following action at the July 16 Board meeting: Adopt the Water Resources Funding Policy Principles as presented.

(Yes – Sidhu, Barr, Green, Sarmiento /No – Sheldon)

Water Resources Funding Policy Principles

- 1. Funding for any Delta restoration shall support the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration.**
- 2. Support adequate funding to expand statewide and/or regional above ground and/or below ground water storage. Any proposed water bond shall provide funding for above ground surface storage and below ground groundwater storage to capture excess storm flows; No less than \$250 million in a bond measure for storm water capture.**
- 3. Support adequate funding for newly created water supplies through water recycling/reuse, brackish water desalination and seawater desalination; No less than \$1 billion in a bond measure for advanced water recycling/reuse, seawater desalination and related infrastructure.**
- 4. Support regional projects through the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) process; No less than \$1.5 billion for IRWMP in a bond measure.**
- 5. Support adequate funding for remediation of groundwater contamination.**
- 6. Bond proceeds should be distributed to beneficial projects throughout the State in an equitable, balance and reasonable manner.**

7. **Any proposed water bond or water infrastructure financing measure should include specific criteria which must be met before a project obtains funding. The specific criteria should include cost-effectiveness, a project proponent's ability to implement the project, specific timelines for project implementation and a high level of measureable benefit.**
8. **Bond proceeds should be leveraged to the maximum extent possible utilizing local or federal matching funds. Projects funded with a higher percentage of non-state funds should be given priority.**
9. **The allocation of bond funds should be handled within existing State resources to minimize bond administration costs.**
10. **State water bonds should fund projects and programs that increase water supplies for California.**
11. **State water bonds should include funds that develop programs to reduce the operating cost to provide water supplies to California residents.**

5. California Special District Association (CSDA) Board of Directors Election 2014 – Region 6, Seat C

General Manager Mike Markus reported the California Special District Association (CSDA) will hold an election for an open seat on the Board of Directors for Region 6, Seat C, which represents the counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego. He advised the District has one vote. Director Anthony reported the ISDOC Executive Committee voted unanimously to endorse Arlene Schaefer. After a brief discussion, the Committee recommended Arlene Schaffer as the CSDA Director of Region 6 Seat C. The Committee then took the following action.

Upon motion by Director Barr, seconded by Director Green and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board take the following action at the July 16 Board meeting: Cast ballot for Arlene Schaffer for CSDA Board of Directors - Region 6 Seat C.

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

6. Internet Streaming OCWD Board meetings

Director Flory reported she requested the subject of videotaping Board meetings be agendized for discussion. Director of IS Bruce Dosier gave a presentation on estimated costs for recording and broadcasting Board meetings. He reported there are a variety of options to consider and the technology required for this new project may cost \$15,000 to \$50,000. Director Flory reported that Directors approved the \$1.2 million expenditure for the hallway project and she stated that videotaping and/or streaming meetings is another significant component of Public Affairs and community outreach. Director Sheldon noted that Producers are not requesting this project and he would not support the expenditure. Director Green stated she would require additional information before supporting a move towards videotaping/streaming meetings. Directors Sidhu and Sarmiento voiced their support of the proposal for greater transparency. The Committee held a lengthy discussion on the investment of staff time and resources, current projects and the desire for increased accessibility and transparency. John Earl, Debbie Cook and Milt Dardis spoke in favor of increased public access and they voiced support for the move towards greater transparency in government proceedings. The Committee then took the following action.

Upon motion by Director Sheldon, seconded by Director Green and carried [3-2] with Directors Sidhu and Sarmiento voting “No” the Committee recommended the Board take the following action at the July 16 Board meeting: Table this matter.

(Yes –Barr, Green, Sheldon /No – Sidhu, Sarmiento)

Director Flory requested the matter of internet streaming be agendaized for a full Board discussion. Director Barr stated the procedure is that Committee recommendations are placed on the July 16 Board meeting Consent Calendar and Director can pull items they would like to discuss. Director Dewane reported that "tabling" the item would place a moratorium on the discussion, however the duration of the tabling action was unclear and Mr. Markus noted that staff will request clarification from General Counsel.

7. Public Affairs Outreach Report

Cerrell Associates representative Sean Rossell teleconferenced into the meeting and gave a brief report on recent outreach activities.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Flory requested that voice recordings of Committee meetings be preserved by staff until the issue of videotaping/streaming meetings has been resolved.

ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON CONSENT CALENDAR FOR JULY 16 BOARD MEETING

The Committee recommended that Items No. 2,4,5,6 be placed on the Consent Calendar for the July 16 Board meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.


Harry Sidhu, Chair