

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
September 4, 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, Chair
Kathryn Barr
Cathy Green
Vincent Sarmiento
Steve Sheldon

OCWD Staff

Mike Markus, General Manager
Christina Fuller – Recording Secretary
Gina Ayala, John Kennedy, Diane Pinnick
Eleanor Torres, Greg Woodside

Alternates

Roger Yoh (arrived at 8:05 a.m.)
Shawn Dewane (not present)
Jan Flory (not present)
Denis Bilodeau (not present)
Philip Anthony

Others

Christopher Townsend, Cori Williams,
Heather Stratham - Townsend Public Affairs
Wendy Leece - City of Costa Mesa
Vern Nelson - Orange Juice Blog
Paul Weghorst - Irvine Ranch Water District
Robert Hunt, Karl Seckel - MWDOC
Don Calkins - City of Anaheim
Donna Acevedo - Anaheim
John Earl – Surf City Voice
Milt Dardis – R4RD

Via Teleconference

Jim McConnell – McConnell & Associates
Eric Sapirstein – ENS Resources
Casey Elliott – Townsend Public Affairs

Director Yoh arrived at 8:05 a.m. during visitor comments.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Surf City Voice Representative John Earl expressed concerns about the need for transparency regarding Committee meeting times and locations. He recommended reaching out to the public to encourage residents to attend OCWD Committee meetings.

Debbie Cook expressed concerns that Committee meetings are not listed as meetings of the Board. She also stated the need for clarification to the public regarding the extent of meeting audio archives.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Barr, seconded by Director Sarmiento and carried 5-0.

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

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the August 7, 2014 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meeting were approved as presented.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. Federal Legislative Update

Legislative consultant Eric Sapirstein (ENS Resources) briefed the Committee on current legislative activities in Washington D.C. He gave an update on the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA), as well as S. 2771 and its companion bill in the House of Representatives, H.R. 5363. If passed, he stated these bills would establish a series of policy initiatives to address the long-term implications of drought and climate resiliency needs. Both Eric Sapirstein and Jim McConnell provided an update on US Army Corps of Engineer activities related to the Prado Basin CA Feasibility Study. **No action was taken**

3. State Legislative Update

Townsend Public Affairs (TPA) Legislative consultant Cori Williams briefed the Committee on current legislative activities in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. She reported the legislative session wrapped up on Saturday and gave an update on passed and upcoming bills. TPA President Christopher Townsend provided an update on AB 2712. He reported that OCWD and the Orange County Business Council (OCBC) collaborated with Assemblyman Daly to incorporate amendments to AB 2712 that would have continued to protect OCWD's authority to effectively remediate groundwater contamination in the basin and seek cost recovery, noting however that the amendments were not accepted by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee. He stated that given the legislative deadline to pass bills out of both houses by August 31, the author withdrew the Bill. Mr. Townsend reported that since this is the end of a legislative session, the Bill cannot continue where it left off and must be reintroduced in the next legislative session and start the process again. **No action was taken**

4. Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Act of 2014

Public Affairs Director Eleanor Torres gave an update on the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Act of 2014 (Water Bond), reporting that it was signed by Governor Brown on August 13 and will appear on the November 2014 ballot as Proposition 1. She advised that a majority of the OCWD water bond guiding principles were incorporated into the Water Bond. Ms. Torres noted that many agencies and associations have taken a support position on the Water Bond and Townsend Public Affairs and staff is seeking Board support for the measure. Director Sheldon noted the Water Bond creates a perception that the water crisis has been averted and therefore, he would not support the recommendation. After discussion, the following action was taken.

Upon motion by Director Sarmiento, seconded by Director Barr and carried [4-1] with Director Sheldon voting "No," the Committee recommended this item be agendized as a Matter for Consideration at September 17 Board Meeting.

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. Municipal Water District of Orange County – Orange County Water Reliability Study 2015

Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) General Manager Rob Hunter reported that MWDOC is beginning preparations for the Orange County Water Reliability Study to be completed during the fiscal year. He stated that a workgroup is currently reviewing a proposal from CDM Smith to assist in preparing the report. Mr. Hunter noted the general intent of the reliability study is to inform Orange County water agencies and decision makers of water supply reliability needs and potential projects and programs for the county. He emphasized that MWDOC's role is not to

be the decision-maker for all, and the information developed through the process would be available to all agencies. Mr. Hunter informed the Committee that a full Workgroup meeting is being scheduled for the first or second week in September to discuss the proposal, scope of work and to provide input on the best way to move forward. The Committee expressed concerns that MWDOC received only one proposal for the study and suggested MWDOC reconsider the scope of work and collaborate with OCWD.

6. Public Affairs Outreach Report

Ms. Torres updated the Committee on the Hotel Conservation Program and the Water Hero program.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

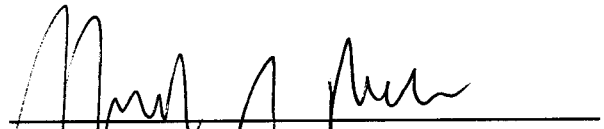
Director Green requested a copy of the Arizona/Princeton Study on the drought.

ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON CONSENT CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 17 BOARD MEETING

The Committee recommended that Item No. 4 be agendaized as a Matter for Consideration at the September 17 Board Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.


Harry Sidhu, Chair