

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WATER POLICY COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT**

July 16, 2019

The Water Policy Committee of Westlands Water District convened on July 16, 2019, at approximately 11:00 AM, at the District's Fresno Office, 3130 N. Fresno Street, Fresno, California 93703.

Committee Members present:

Dan Errotabere, Chairman
Todd Neves
Don Peracchi

Staff present:

Tom Birmingham, General Manager
Jose Gutierrez, Chief Operating Officer
Bobbie Ormonde, Deputy General Manager - Finance & Administration
Russ Freeman, Deputy General Manager – Resources
Jon Rubin, General Counsel
Katarina Campbell, Supervisor of Resources
Tom Boardman, Water Resources Engineer
Antonio Solorio, Resources Engineer
Diana Giraldo, Public Affairs Representative
Kathryn Boren, Special Advisor
Kelly Vandergon, Supervisor of Field Engineering and Planning
Bill Pierce, Director of Operations and Maintenance
Shelley Ostrowski, Associate General Manager Water Policy -
videoconference

Call to Order

The meeting was noticed to commence at 10:00 AM, however, at that time, there was a lack of a quorum. Between 10:00 and 11:00, the Committee members present (Errotabere and Peracchi) proceeded as a committee of the whole. The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 11:00 AM upon the arrival of Member Neves and the quorum requirement being met.

Committee to Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.

Mr. Freeman recommended moving Item number six (6) to number four (4).

Approval of the Minutes

There being no additions or corrections, the draft minutes of the Committee's Regular Meeting, held on May 21, 2019, were approved as circulated.

Committee to Consider Recommending that the Board of Directors Authorize a Contribution of \$15,000 to the San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint, 501(c)(3) Organization

Mr. Freeman presented the item, asking the Committee to consider a recommendation to the Board that it authorize a contribution of \$15,000 to the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint.

The organization consists of water agencies, SGMA “white area” landowners and interested trade and community organizations participating in an educational effort focusing on the impacts of within the San Joaquin Valley due to additional surface water supplies.

Mr. Peracchi moved that the Committee recommend that the Board contribute \$15,000 to the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint and Mr. Neves seconded the motion.

Mr. Birmingham reported after a roll call vote that the Committee recommended to the Board approve a contribution to the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Organization with the vote as follows:

Chairman Errotabere: Aye
Director Anderson: Absent
Director Neves: Aye
Director Peracchi: Aye

Committee to Receive an Update and Provide Input on Effort to Develop a Capital Improvement Program

Ms. Campbell updated the Committee on efforts to develop a Capital Improvement Program through multiple projects. Ms. Campbell asked for recommendations from the Committee, to the Board, as to whether staff should continue pursuing them and what their priorities should be.

After discussing the projects, the Committee decided to prioritize the Yolo Ranch Restoration Project, Laterals 6, 5, and 4 Interconnection Project, the Groundwater Replenishment Project, continuation of Land Acquisition Program, and Above Ground Storage Project, in that order.

The Committee continued discussion by prioritizing projects from Distribution System Reliability and Water Measurement Projects list. Projects were prioritized based on recommendations from staff.

Mr. Peracchi moved that the Committee direct staff to prepare a memorandum to the Board prioritizing the projects as discussed for further consideration at the August meeting and Mr. Neves seconded the motion.

Mr. Birmingham reported after a roll call vote that the Committee recommended directing staff to prepare a memorandum to prioritize Capital Improvement Projects with the vote as follows:

Chairman Errotabere: Aye
Director Anderson: Absent
Director Neves: Aye
Director Peracchi: Aye

Committee to Consider Draft Policy Pertaining to Water Transfers Out of the District for Groundwater Banking Projects and Water Exchanges

Mr. Freeman distributed a revised Draft Policy prior to the start of the discussion. Mr. Freeman presented the item, stating the policy was put forth for the Water Policy Committee's consideration with the intent to expedite water banking transfers by delegating approval authority to the General Manager or his designee. He added, that the terms of the policy were intended to reflect input the Committee provided during previous discussions.

Condition 2d of the Draft Policy was discussed with regards to how staff would determine that additional groundwater was being pumped to make surface water available to bank. Mr. Birmingham explained that the circumstances would make it apparent to staff that that is what is happening. He added that the draft policy contains the conditions under which staff would delegate authority to approve transfers for purposes of banking exchanges and that transfers that fell outside these parameters would continue to be reviewed by the Committee and Board.

Mr. Peracchi moved that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Policy Pertaining to Water Transfers Out of The District for Groundwater Banking Projects, to be brought up to the Board next month, and Mr. Neves seconded the motion.

Mr. Birmingham reported after a roll call vote that the Committee recommended that the Board adopt the revised Policy Pertaining to Water Transfers Out of The District for Groundwater Banking Projects, with the vote as follows:

Chairman Errotabere: Aye
Director Anderson: Absent
Director Neves: Aye
Director Peracchi: Aye

Committee to Receive Update on Delta Channel Maintenance Program for the Protection of Beneficial Users.

This item was not discussed during the regular meeting of the Water Policy Committee.

Committee to Consider Report on Past and Projected Water Supply.

This item was not discussed during the regular meeting of the Water Policy Committee.

Committee to Consider Board of Directors July 16, 2019 Agenda Items.

This item was not discussed during the regular meeting of the Water Policy Committee.

Public Comment

Daniel Hartwig asked the Committee for the status of Solar Development Following. The

Committee informed Mr. Hartwig that work was being done on this item, but at the time there was nothing new to report.

Closed Session

The Committee met in Closed Session. Upon returning from Closed Session it was reported that the Committee provided direction to real property negotiators.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 PM.