

**Water Resources Association of Yolo County and
Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes**

Monday, June 17, 2019, 3:00 p.m.

Woodland Community and Senior Center, 2001 East Street, Woodland, CA 95776

- 1. CALL TO ORDER and DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:** Meeting called to order at 3:06 p.m. by Jesse Loren, Vice-Chair.

Tim O'Halloran conducted a roll call and determined a quorum was present for both agencies.

The following WRA Board members and (alternates) were in attendance:

City of Davis: absent
City of West Sacramento: Martha Guerrero
City of Winters: Jesse Loren, WRA Vice-Chair
City of Woodland: absent
County of Yolo: Gary Sandy
Dunnigan Water District: (Bill Vanderwaal)
Reclamation District (RD)108: (Hilary Reinhard)
RD 2035: (Mike Hall)
University of California Davis (UCD): absent
Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (YCFC&WCD): Tom Barth, (Tim O'Halloran, WRA Treasurer)

The following YSGA Board members and (alternates) were in attendance:

California American Water, Dunnigan: Evan Jacobs
City of Davis: absent
City of West Sacramento: Martha Guerrero
City of Winters: Jesse Loren, YSGA Vice-Chair
City of Woodland: absent
Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company (CDMWC): Lynnel Pollock
County of Yolo: Gary Sandy
Dunnigan Water District: (Bill Vanderwaal)
Esparto Community Service District (CSD): Charlie Schauup
Environmental Representative: absent
Madison CSD: absent
Reclamation District (RD)108: Hilary Reinhard
RD 150: absent
RD 537: Tom Ramos
RD 730: Jim Heidrick
RD 765: David Dickson
RD 785: absent
RD 787: (Dominic Bruno)
RD 827: Dan Ramos
RD 999: Tom Slater *
RD 1600: Michele Clark
RD 2035: (Mike Hall)

University of California Davis (UCD): absent
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation: (Mark Fawns)
Yolo County Farm Bureau (YCFB): Stan Lester
Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (YCFC&WCD): Tom Barth, (Tim O'Halloran, YSGA Executive Officer)

Absent: City of Davis, City of Woodland, University of CA Davis, Madison CSD, RD 150, RD 785, Environmental Representative

* Note: RD 999 was in attendance but has not taken the Oath of Office, therefore they will not be voting during this meeting.

2. **APPROVE AGENDA:** The Board approved the June 17, 2019 agenda as posted. Motioned by County of Yolo to approve the agenda, seconded by RD 108 and unanimously approved.

Absent: City of Davis, City of Woodland, University of CA Davis, Madison CSD, RD 150, RD 785, Environmental Representative

3. **PUBLIC FORUM:** No comments from the public.

4. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR and EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Vice-chair Loren did not have anything to report. Executive Officer, Tim O'Halloran highlighted activities in his written report included with the agenda and summarized current water conditions.

5. **WRA CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. Approved April 22, 2019 WRA Board of Directors meeting minutes
- b. Received WRA Fiscal Year End 2018-2019 Financial Statements: April - May 2019
- c. Received minutes of WRA Executive Committee
- d. Received minutes of WRA Technical Committee

Motioned by the YCFC&WCD to approve all consent items, seconded by DWD and unanimously approved.

Absent: City of Davis, City of Woodland, University of CA Davis

6. **YSGA CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. Approved April 22, 2019 YSGA Board of Directors meeting minutes
- b. Received YSGA Fiscal Year End 2018-2019 Financial Statements: April - May 2019
- c. Received minutes of YSGA Executive Committee
- d. Approved renewal of Service Agreements between YSGA and YCFC&WCD and YSGA and WRA.

Motioned by the CDMWC to approve all consent items, seconded by YCFC&WCD and unanimously approved.

Absent: City of Davis, City of Woodland, University of CA Davis, Madison CSD, RD 150, RD 785, Environmental Representative

7. **CONSIDERATION: APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 OPERATING BUDGETS**

- a. **Water Resources Association of Yolo County Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget:**

Motioned by the YCFC&WCD to approve Fiscal Year 2019-2020 operating budget, seconded by DWD and unanimously approved.

Absent: City of Davis, City of Woodland, University of CA Davis

b. **Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget:**

Motioned by the CDMWC to approve Fiscal Year 2019-2020 operating budget, seconded by YCF&WCD and unanimously approved.

Absent: City of Davis, City of Woodland, University of CA Davis, Madison CSD, RD 150, RD 785, Environmental Representative

8. UPDATE ON WATER LEGISLATION, REGULATORY & DELTA ISSUES

Adam Robin, Legislative Affairs Director, Northern California Water Association (NCWA), gave an update on pertinent legislative and regulatory issues related to water and groundwater as they relate to the State budget. The State Legislature adopted the FY2019-20 budget on June 13th. The Governor has until June 27th to sign it.

- Voluntary Agreements: Efforts to update the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) related to river flows. The voluntary agreements represent an alternative proposal for water users to support environmental objectives while protecting water supply reliability. Proposition 68 allocated \$200 million for the implementation of these agreements. The budget that just passed allocates \$70 million for implementation projects consistent with these agreements.
- Multi-Benefit Flood Project Funding: A total of \$92 million from Propositions 1 and 68 for four projects. Three of these projects are in the Sacramento Valley and include the continuation of the Yolo Bypass Phase 1 projects. There may be additional funding available for future projects next year.
- Safe Drinking Water: Long running debate and discussion within the Legislature and with regulatory agencies on how get the State to recognize the human right to safe, accessible and affordable clean drinking water throughout California in the communities most impacted. Discussions had focused mostly on a “water tax” or “user fee” primarily focused on urban communities. However, the Legislature advanced a funding solution that does not include a water tax. The details of how this program will be implemented should be introduced in a budget trailer bill soon.
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program: Round 3 funding cycle for planning and implementation grants, primarily from Proposition 68. *PLANNING:* DWR released draft Program Solicitation Package (PSP) guidelines in May 2019 with a summer submission date and an anticipated award date in fall 2019; \$47 million available. *IMPLEMENTATION:* PSP anticipated by early 2020 with submissions by summer 2020 and awards in winter 2020 with at least \$88 million available for projects that address “drought and groundwater investments to achieve groundwater sustainability”.
<https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Sustainable-Groundwater>
- Governor’s Executive Order: In April 2019, the Newsom Administration directed three state agencies to prepare a water resilience portfolio that recommends a suite of priorities and actions to build a climate-resilient water system and ensure healthy waterways for California’s water future.
<http://waterresilience.ca.gov/>

9. PRESENTATION ON THE NATURE CONSERVANCY TOOLS FOR ASSESSING GROUNDWATER-SURFACE WATER CONNECTIVITY UNDER SGMA,

Sandi Matsumoto, California Water Program, The Nature Conservancy, smatsumoto@tnc.org

Sandi gave some background context why The Nature Conservancy (TNC) created tools to address sustainable management of groundwater resources and interconnectivity to surface water as it relates to the TNC’s conservation mission statement. TNC was heavily involved in the negotiation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the provisions that impact groundwater dependent ecosystems. She summarized some of SGMA’s beneficial users requirements for nature. TNC launched the Groundwater Resource Hub, <https://groundwaterresourcehub.org/> which is specifically tailored to SGMA implementation efforts and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development. This resource provides the information and

tools to create a localized, systematic and defensible framework for including Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) for GSP development. GDEs are plant and animal communities that require groundwater to meet some or all their water needs. In California, GDEs provide important benefits to habitat for animals, water supply, water purification, flood mitigation, erosion control and recreational enjoyment of natural landscapes.

Sandi described the SGMA interactive tool developed in collaboration with the California Departments of Water Resources and Fish & Wildlife (<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/NCDatasetViewer/>) to view and download vegetation and wildlife layers contained in the Natural Communities Commonly Associated with Groundwater dataset (*GDE Mapping Indicators Tool* based on satellite imagery).

Next she discussed how the GDE Pulse project tools assist Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) and conservation organizations in assessing the health of their GDE using the following resources on the Groundwater Resource Hub website (<https://groundwaterresourcehub.org/gde-tools/>)

- *GDE Mapping Indicators Tool* – spatial database map of locations that are indicators of GDEs
- *GDE Guidance Document for GSPs* – identify beneficial use and user of groundwater
- *GDE Rooting Depth Database* – identify groundwater levels needed to sustain species-specific rooting depth for vegetation
- *Arundo Evapotranspiration (ET) Literature Review* – Information on annual ET rates for Arundo to support the removal of this invasive, non-native plant along riparian corridors. Removal provides co-benefits for groundwater sustainability and native ecosystem restoration.

Sandi shifted the presentation to focus on beneficial users and groundwater-surface water interactions. TNC is recommending first identifying beneficial users of surface water. Then identifying their surface water needs before determining how and to what degree groundwater depletions are impacting them and what actions would potentially protect those users. She illustrated identification with this GDE tool: <https://groundwaterresourcehub.org/gde-tools/environmental-surface-water-beneficiaries>. Another tool that should be released soon is the *Critical Species LookBook* that lists California species with a direct and indirect reliance on groundwater.

TNC has created a recommended checklist for GSAs to adequately address nature in their GSPs based on DWR’s guidelines for GSP development (<https://groundwaterresourcehub.org/gde-tools/gde-checklist-for-gsps>).

Sandi answered questions from the Board and public. To view handouts distributed and Sandi’s PowerPoint presentation go to: http://www.yolowra.org/meeting_directors.html

10. UPDATE ON GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (GSP) DEVELOPMENT

(*Agenda note:* Item #10 was moved up on the agenda after Item #7 because the speakers for Items #8 and #9 had not arrived by 3:25 pm.) Tim O’Halloran reported on the water budget and RFQs for the hydrogeologic conceptual model. Kristin Sicke reported on the remaining four topics outlined below.

- a. Water Budget – Refinements to Budget
- b. Hydrogeological Conceptual Model – Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
- c. Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Outline
- d. Groundwater Monitoring and Reporting – Refinements to Model
- e. Surface Water and Groundwater Modeling – Refinements to Model
- f. Sustainable Management Criteria – Management Area Workshops

11. MEMBERS' REPORTS and FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – WRA and YSGA Members were invited to briefly report on current issues and recommended topics for future Board of Directors meetings. Nothing was presented.

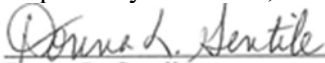
YSGA Issues:

- a. "White" Area Annexation
- b. White Paper on Areas of Special Concern

12. NEXT MEETING – Monday, September 16, 2019 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT – Vice-chair Loren adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna L. Gentile
Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator