



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 4, 2017**

- COMMISSIONERS PRESENT** Susan Lien Longville, Chair, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Ronald W. Sullivan, Vice Chair, Eastern Municipal Water District
Jasmin A. Hall, Secretary-Treasurer, Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Phil Anthony, Orange County Water District
Brenda Dennstedt, Alternate, Western Municipal Water District [9:48 a.m.]
- COMMISSIONERS ABSENT** Thomas P. Evans, Western Municipal Water District
- ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS PRESENT; NON-VOTING** Gil Navarro, Alternate, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Bruce Whitaker, Alternate, Orange County Water District
- STAFF PRESENT** Rich Haller, Larry McKenney, Mark Norton, Karen Williams, Dean Unger,
David Ruhl, Carlos Quintero, Kelly Berry

The Regular Commission Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Chair Longville at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California.

1. **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
2. **ROLL CALL**

Roll call was duly noted and recorded by the Clerk of the Board.

ADDED ITEM PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954.2(b)(2)

Chair Longville requested the Commission add an item in need of immediate action which came to the attention of the Agency subsequent to the posting of the agenda – consideration of the March 31, 2017 correspondence from General Manager Celeste Cantú to the SAWPA Commissioners tendering her resignation effective June 30, 2017.

MOVED, add to the agenda consideration of the March 31, 2017 correspondence from General Manager Celeste Cantú to Commissioners tendering her resignation effective June 30, 2017.

Result: **Adopted (Unanimously)**
Motion/Second: Anthony/Sullivan
Ayes: Anthony, Hall, Longville, Sullivan
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: Dennstedt

GENERAL MANAGER LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Chair Longville read the letter of resignation of General Manager Celeste Cantú into the record:

Dear SAWPA Commissioners,

I am writing to let you know that I will be leaving SAWPA at the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2017, to take a new position as CEO of WELL (Water Education for

Latino Leaders) in July. I appreciate that WELL is flexible enough to allow me to give SAWPA 90 days' notice to ensure a smooth transition. It has been a privilege to serve SAWPA as your General Manager for the last ten and a half years. I am pleased that I leave the agency in a strong financial position, with a stellar, highly skilled and dedicated staff capable of implementing an ambitious vision. SAWPA is well respected throughout California and enjoys a tremendous amount of goodwill.

Please be assured that I remain committed to the mediation process initiated by Valley.

Sincerely,
Celeste Cantú

Chair Longville asked legal counsel if the resignation letter complied with the terms of the employment agreement. Larry McKenney confirmed that it does; her contract requires at least 30 days' written notice. Chair Longville called for a motion to accept the letter of resignation.

MOVED, accept the March 31, 2017 letter of resignation of General Manager Celeste Cantú.

Result: **Adopted (Unanimously)**
Motion/Second: Anthony/Sullivan
Ayes: Anthony, Hall, Longville, Sullivan
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: Dennstedt

Commissioner Sullivan requested an item added to Closed Session as a personnel item to discuss appropriate action moving forward relative to process, recruitment, etc. Executive Counsel McKenney recommended against adding such an item to Closed Session, stating Brown Act provisions for Closed Session discussions do not encompass recruitment and there must be a need to take immediate action. Commissioner Anthony stated he thought 90 days was a long time. Commissioner Sullivan suggested there may be provisions within the letter in need of discussion and possible action. Commissioner Hall disagreed and recommended the discussion take place in Open Session. Commissioner Sullivan requested the matter be put to a vote, and made a motion to add the matter to Closed Session, which was seconded by Commissioner Anthony.

MOVED, add to Closed Session as a personnel item discussion of appropriate action moving forward in light of the March 31, 2017 letter of resignation of General Manager Celeste Cantú.

Result: **Adopted (Passed)**
Motion/Second: Sullivan/Anthony
Ayes: Anthony, Longville, Sullivan
Nays: Hall
Abstentions: None
Absent: Dennstedt

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Gil Navarro, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Board Vice President, extended an invitation on behalf of Valley and the City of San Bernardino to grand opening ceremonies for the Bryce Edward Hanes Park on Saturday, May 13, 2017. The park is located on the corner of 9th and E Streets in the City of San Bernardino; the event will begin at 10:00 a.m.

4. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 21, 2017

MOVED, approve the March 21, 2017 meeting minutes.

Result: **Adopted (Unanimously)**
Motion/Second: Anthony/Sullivan
Ayes: Anthony, Hall, Longville, Sullivan
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: Dennstedt

5. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION AGENDA

A. FYE 2018 AND 2019 OWOW AND ROUNDTABLES FUND DRAFT BUDGETS (CM#2017.47)

Karen Williams provided a PowerPoint presentation on the OWOW Fund Budget, Roundtables Fund Budget, Labor Distribution & Indirect Cost Allocation and Member Agency Contributions.

Alternate Commissioner Dennstedt arrived at 9:48 a.m., during the beginning of the presentation of Agenda Item No. 5.A.

Chair Longville asked for the amount of Member Agency Contributions for FYE 2017; Karen Williams stated those numbers would be brought back at a future meeting. The complete budget will be presented for further consideration at the first meeting in May and staff will address any questions from the Commission.

Mark Norton provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the need for additional staff support for SAWPA OWOW and Roundtables, which is included in the budgeted figures presented by Karen Williams. The proposed position would be a full time position and serve as a Grant/Technical writer. Norton reviewed potential grant funding SAWPA could pursue with a full time grant writer, as well as the technical writing aspects of the proposed position. In-house staff would support succession planning and provide ongoing technical writing of the OWOW Plan Update and watershed messaging.

Commissioner Sullivan requested figures outlining the total cost for this staff position with a breakdown of the fully burdened rate for a two-year period, noting perhaps hiring a consultant would be more cost effective and voicing concern there would be additional cost to the member agencies.

Norton provided an overview of Roundtables prioritization. A discussion ensued regarding Forest First and a previous \$1 million grant for fuel reduction in the San Bernardino mountains; Commissioner Sullivan requested a future report on this project and its benefits.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 5.A.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. BRINE LINE REACH 4 PROTECTION PROJECT (CM#2017.48)

Carlos Quintero provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Brine Line Reach 4 Protection Project. Storm events in late January 2017 washed out a portion of the Brine Line Reach 4 access road. SAWPA worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to obtain a General Permit 63, which allowed for an emergency repair of the washed out road. Work began on March 7 and concluded on March 14, 2017. FEMA issued a notice of major disaster declaration as a result of the mid-January storm events. Staff will seek to recover \$12,750 of the repair costs from FEMA; application deadline is April 11, 2017.

MOVED, (1) receive and file a report on the Brine Line Reach 4 protection project, (2) adopt Resolution No. 2017-06 approving Form Cal OES 130 designating the General Manager as the SAWPA authorized representative to execute an application for federal financial assistance under Public Law 93-228; and (3) direct the General Manager to submit a request for public assistance to seek reimbursement for a portion of the costs associated with the Reach 4 protection project.

Result: **Adopted (Unanimously)**
Motion/Second: Anthony/Hall
Ayes Anthony, Dennstedt, Hall, Longville, Sullivan
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: None

B. REQUEST SUPPORT IN URGING CONGRESS TO MAINTAIN TAX STATUS (CM#2017.50)

West Basin Municipal Water District is coordinating an effort to garner support from water agencies to sign a letter to Congressional leadership to request support of continuing tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.

MOVED, authorize the General Manager to sign a coalition letter to Congressional leadership supporting tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.

Result: **Adopted (Unanimously)**
Motion/Second: Dennstedt/Sullivan
Ayes Anthony, Dennstedt, Hall, Longville, Sullivan
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: None

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. INLAND EMPIRE BRINE LINE REACH V REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – PHASE 1

David Ruhl provided PowerPoint presentation with a brief progress update. The planned three-day shutdown was successful; work was completed 12 hours ahead of schedule. EMWD dischargers were notified they could begin startup procedures 10 hours ahead of schedule.

B. LAKE ELSINORE AERATION AND MIXING PROPOSAL RESPONSE (CM#2017.49)

Mark Norton reviewed the materials contained in the agenda packet.

C. OUTSTANDING MEMBER AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS – UPDATE

This will be considered by OCWD's Executive Committee later this week; a follow up report will be provided at the next Commission meeting.

D. CORRESPONDENCE WITH EMWD AND OCWD

Larry McKenney noted the revised EMWD/OCWD letter and his response were in the packet. Commissioner Anthony requested the subject of this correspondence placed on the next meeting agenda for discussion by the Commission.

E. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT

Chair Longville reminded Commissioners to make sure their respective Boards consider and approve JPA Amendment No. 6.

F. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Sullivan reported on his recent trip to Washington D.C. relative to the California Water Fix. A discussion ensued regarding the Resolution in support of the California Water Fix adopted by the Commission; staff was requested to again send the Resolution to the appropriate elected officials to ensure they are aware SAWPA supports this very important initiative, recommending both electronic and U.S. mail delivery. Commissioner Sullivan noted a past request for the report on the Verio Monitoring and Cowbird Management Project; he is still interested in obtaining a copy of the report. Commissioner Sullivan requested a copy of the SRF Loan contract.

G. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no Commissioner requests for future agenda items.

8. CLOSED SESSION

Larry McKenney noted the Commission would not discuss Agenda Item No. 8.A. At 10:45 a.m., and Chair Longville recessed the meeting to Closed Session to discuss the urgency item added to the agenda. Designated personnel essential to the discussion were present during Closed Session.

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(d)(1)

Name of Case: Spiniello Companies v. Charles King Company, Inc., Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, The Ohio Casualty Insurance Company (Superior Court of Los Angeles BC616589)

B. PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957 – PERSONNEL MATTERS


General Manager

Chair Longville resumed Open Session at 11:06 a.m., and stated there was no reportable action taken during Closed Session.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Chair Longville adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, April 18, 2017.


Susan Lien Longville, Chair

Attest:


Kelly Berry, CMC
Clerk of the Board

