



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 17, 2018**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Susan Lien Longville, Chair, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Jasmin A. Hall, Secretary-Treasurer, Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Bruce Whitaker, Alternate, Orange County Water District
Thomas P. Evans, Western Municipal Water District [via conference call]
David J. Slawson, Alternate, Eastern Municipal Water District

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Ronald W. Sullivan, Vice Chair, Eastern Municipal Water District
Philip L. Anthony, Orange County Water District

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS
PRESENT; NON-VOTING**

Gil Navarro, Alternate, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

STAFF PRESENT

Rich Haller, Larry McKenney, Mark Norton, Dean Unger, David Ruhl,
Carlos Quintero, Ian Achimore, Mike Antos, Kelly Berry

The Regular Commission Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority was called to order at 9:30 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.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 20, 2018

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

B. COMMISSIONER COMPENSATION APPROVAL

Recommendation: Authorize compensation to Commissioner Jasmin A. Hall for attending the California Water Policy 27 conference, March 22-23, 2018.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT: MARCH 2018

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, approve the Consent Calendar.

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| Result: | Adopted (Unanimously) |
| Motion/Second: | Evans/Slawson |
| Ayes: | Evans, Hall, Longville, Slawson, Whitaker |
| Nays: | None |
| Abstentions: | None |
| Absent: | None |

5. NEW BUSINESS

The Commission first considered Agenda Item No. 5.E.

A. APPROVAL OF GRANT AGREEMENT APPLICATION TO THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FOR THE ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES IN THE SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT (CM#2018.44)

Ian Achimore provided a PowerPoint presentation on a proposed grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation. Due May 10, 2018, the grant application would allow SAWPA to compete for \$300,000 to fund drought-tolerant landscaping on commercial properties in the Santa Ana River Watershed. There is a required fifty percent cost share, and the project must be completed in two years.

MOVED, approve Resolution No. 2018-3 authorizing the General Manager to submit a Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Application to the Bureau of Reclamation for the Advancing Sustainable Landscapes in the Santa Ana River Watershed Project.

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| Result: | Adopted (Unanimously) |
| Motion/Second: | Hall/Whitaker |
| Ayes: | Evans, Hall, Longville, Slawson, Whitaker |
| Nays: | None |
| Abstentions: | None |
| Absent: | None |

B. 2019 OWOW CONFERENCE | WATER EDUCATION FOUNDATION AGREEMENT | SPONSORSHIPS (CM#2018.41)

Mark Norton provided an oral presentation on the 2019 OWOW Conference, an agreement with the Water Education Foundation (WEF), and sponsorships. Commissioner Evans moved Agenda Item No. 5.B. for approval, and Commissioner Hall seconded the motion.

Chair Longville requested the WEF agreement include language requiring WEF and SAWPA solicit input from each member agency prior to and during development of the conference agenda. Commissioners Evans and Hall approved this modification to the motion.

MOVED, authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement with the Water Education Foundation (WEF) to create, develop and deliver the 2019 State of the Santa Ana River Watershed Conference, with the requirement that WEF and SAWPA solicit input from each member agency prior to and during development of the conference agenda; and, to secure \$5,000 sponsorship payments from each member agency, payable upon proper invoice to the Water Education Foundation (WEF) by August 18, 2018, in support of the 2019 Conference.

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| Result: | Adopted (Unanimously) |
| Motion/Second: | Evans/Hall |
| Ayes: | Evans, Hall, Longville, Slawson, Whitaker |
| Nays: | None |
| Abstentions: | None |
| Absent: | None |

C. MEMBERSHIP IN THE CA ASSOCIATION OF SANITATION AGENCIES (CASA) (CM#2018.42)

It was recently suggested by a Commissioner that SAWPA become a member in CASA; staff accordingly brought the item before the Commission. A roll call vote was taken at the request of Chair Longville.

MOVED, authorize membership in the CA Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) for a pro-rated membership rate of \$2,500 through December 31, 2018 (seven months based on annual membership dues of \$4,285).

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| Result: | Adopted (Passed) |
| Motion/Second: | Hall/Evans |
| Ayes: | Evans, Hall, Longville, Slawson |
| Nays: | Whitaker |
| Abstentions: | None |
| Absent: | None |

D. DRAFT ROUNDTABLES BROCHURE REVIEW – WOODARD & CURRAN (CM#2018.43)

A draft public outreach brochure template for SAWPA Roundtables, which was not available until after the posting of the agenda, was provided to the Commission and members of the public. Mark Norton solicited Commissioner comments, which were positive with the following suggestions: The timeline is too small and difficult to read, and the SAWPA map should be smaller.

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

E. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE (CM#2018.45)

Mike Antos provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Housing Authority of the City of Riverside, including a timeline on the development of the MOU. Representatives from the City of Riverside – Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager; Emilio Ramirez, Director, and Jeffrey McLaughlin, Housing Project Manager, Office of Homeless Solutions, of the Community & Economic Development Department – provided a PowerPoint presentation, *Partnerships for Ending the Impacts of Homelessness in Riverside*, outlining the growing homeless population within the Santa Ana River, city action taken, costs incurred, and the financial and economic consequences for maintaining the current course of action. In developing and working toward permanent solutions, the City of Riverside is reaching out to other governmental agencies and non-profits within the community to develop policies reducing current and future homeless impacts within the Santa Ana River.

Chair Longville referenced pages 65-84 contained in the agenda packet, which outlined the City of Riverside Housing First Strategy and funding strategies for development and operation of supportive housing. Chair Longville specifically noted, as set forth on page 83 of the agenda packet referencing SAWPA funding, potential projects would be submitted as part of SAWPA's competitive grant process. Chair Longville has been working with SAWPA staff and together they have met with City of Riverside representatives to find common ground in addressing issues of concern. Agencies within the Santa Ana River have voiced concern regarding homeless population impacts on foundational issues such as habitat creation, conservation efforts and other pressing environmental issues.

A proposed Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Housing Authority of the City of Riverside and the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, dated April 17, 2018, which was not available until after the posting of the agenda, was provided to the Commission and the public.

Chair Evans noted that the City of Riverside is responsible for housing and SAWPA is responsible for watershed, water quality, habitat restoration, etc. There are many entities with an interest and a responsibility regarding the impacts occurring within the Santa Ana River; cohesiveness is important and SAWPA has a responsibility in this process. Chair Evans made a motion to finalize the MOU as presented.

A discussion ensued regarding regional projects within the Santa Ana River providing environmental cleanup, habitat conservation and habitat restoration efforts, and how homelessness within those same areas minimize or negate those efforts because the core problem is not addressed.

Commissioner Hall voiced her support of this collaborative partnership creating a common mission to address the issues impacting the watershed.

Alternate Commissioner Slawson voiced concern that other disadvantaged communities (communities with failing septic systems, communities without adequate water supply, etc.) may feel excluded from Proposition 1 funding given the exclusiveness to the homeless community addressed by the MOU.

Alternate Commissioner Whitaker noted he would need to first address any concerns on the part of the OCWD Board before he could support moving forward with the MOU. Whitaker voiced concern the MOU does not work within the purpose of SAWPA's Joint Powers Authority agreement and would create an agreement with a single city within the watershed containing stronger language than he could recommend; specifically, language contained in Attachment "A" that SAWPA will partner to support the City's Plan to build Housing First projects and address the related environmental damage that homeless encampments cause along and within the Santa Ana River. Whitaker expressed concern this language takes SAWPA and its member agencies into a different arena not part of SAWPA's core mission, noted that within Orange County the county itself and impacted cities have become the key solution partners in addressing homelessness within the county, and stated each member agency represented on SAWPA's Commission might be the more appropriate party to an agreement of this nature.

Further discussion ensued regarding language supportive to the MOU contained within the policy principles of the Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Program adopted by the Commission February 20, 2018; Alternate Commissioner Whitaker noted similar concern was expressed at that time relating to the City of Riverside MOU. Approving policy principles that SAWPA work toward partnerships is not the same as having approved any particular partnership or final language in an agreement.

Larry McKenney noted the MOU makes no specific funding commitments; it is an agreement to work together and is a manifestation of the Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Grant scope which includes a technical assistance program the point of which is to work with other specific community representatives to develop projects that then could be competitive for implementation funding. The policy principles arose out of a discussion about how we are going to consider specific opportunities for technical assistance under the technical assistance program, which is a specific part of the grant. From staff's perspective, this is an opportunity to utilize the technical assistance program. It does not presuppose, preapprove or bias any particular project going forward; utilization of the technical assistance program is not a requirement to compete for implementation funding.

Commissioner Evans referenced SAWPA's MOU with the US Forest Service to provide technical support, which is a collaborative effort and does not presuppose funding. This MOU is a step toward formalizing the focus of the interests of SAWPA and the City of Riverside; this concept could be entered into by other entities and create opportunities for collaboration on a broader basis.

Commissioner Hall and Chair Longville expressed their support of this version of the MOU.

Rich Haller noted he is comfortable with the language, that SAWPA will not work within a vacuum and will continue to keep the Commissioners and General Managers informed before any action is taken. Haller assured he will continue to work with the General Managers to ensure we do not veer from common interests, stating he looks forward to working collaboratively to address the habitat and water

quality issues within the Santa Ana River.

Michael Markus noted the MOU wording has changed from the version initially reviewed by the General Managers, which they had discussed with their board members. They desire to stay away from the concept of providing permanent supportive housing, with the focus moving toward IRWM and impacts on water, septic systems failure, etc. The General Manager discussions have been regarding SAWPA's role in establishing permanent housing.

Chair Longville reiterated the MOU also references addressing environmental damage brought about by the homeless within the Santa Ana River; she stated SAWPA should only apply for joint funding when a project will bring in funding to deal with the environmental damage as it relates to water management.

Alternate Commissioner Whitaker also referenced the letter from the City Manager (page 84 of the agenda packet) wherein it is stated the Housing Authority and SAWPA will partner to build housing projects, which is active, clear direction that will be problematic for him going forward. Chair Longville emphasized that language was not contained in the MOU. Alternate Commissioner Whitaker noted the more specific language in parts of the MOU is troubling and suggested the following revision:

- Attachment "A", Paragraph 1. Delete the first words "Partnering to" so the paragraph would read, "Support the City's Plan to build Housing First projects in appropriate locations..."

Alternate Commissioner Whitaker expressed hesitation in committing the member agencies to open-ended headaches and liabilities in the future, and requested the language reflect that SAWPA maintain some autonomy and ability to say what SAWPA is and is not involved with.

Commissioner Evans concurred with the revision as set forth by Alternate Commissioner Whitaker. Commissioner Evans revised his motion to direct staff to finalize the MOU presented today based on the discussions, including the specific language revision to Paragraph 1 of Attachment "A", and bring the MOU back for consideration at the May 15 Commission meeting.

Alternate Commissioner Whitaker noted he would need the final form of the MOU early enough to provide time to discuss it with the OCWD Board prior to voting on the MOU. This MOU represents a fairly large shift into an arena that seems different from SAWPA's past role.

Chair Longville expressed she does not support SAWPA building a housing project; she does support partnering with a community building a housing project because it provides water benefits into the future.

A discussion ensued regarding consideration of the goals and objectives of the City of Riverside and how common goals and objectives should be expressed within the MOU. Chair Longville directed staff to actively work with the City of Riverside and member agency staff to bring back an MOU for consideration on May 15; it was reiterated that the MOU should be included in the meeting agenda packet.

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

The Commission next considered Agenda Item No. 5.A., and followed the order of the agenda for the remainder of the meeting.

6. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

The following oral/written reports/updates were received and filed.

- A. CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – FEBRUARY 2018**
- B. INTER-FUND BORROWING – FEBRUARY 2018 (CM#2018.37)**
- C. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – FEBRUARY 2018 (CM#2018.38)**
- D. OWOW PLAN UPDATE 2018 STATUS (CM#2018.39)**
- E. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**
Rich Haller advised the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will conduct a Change of Command ceremony July 19, 2018; more information will be forthcoming. SAWPA staff will participate in Western Municipal Water District's Earth Night event on April 20, 2018.
- F. SAWPA GENERAL MANAGERS MEETING NOTES**
March 20, 2018 | April 10, 2018
- G. STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**
- H. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT**
Chair Longville led a discussion regarding future Commissioner and Alternate reports about meetings attended in the prior month. Staff was directed to include an item on the first monthly meeting agenda allowing Commissioners and Alternates to offer information and insight relating to meetings attended.
- I. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**
There were no Commissioners' comments.
- J. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
There were no requests for future agenda items.

7. CLOSED SESSION

There was no Closed Session.


8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Chair Longville adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, May 1, 2018.


Susan Lien Longville, Chair

Attest:


Kelly Berry, CMC
Clerk of the Board