



**REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: July 8, 2008

SUBJECT: Water Resources Association Meeting Minutes for January 2008

**Report in Brief**

Attached are the January 28, 2008 Water Resources Association Meeting Minutes. These minutes were approved at the April 28, 2008 meeting.

**Background**

The Water Resources Association meets quarterly and submits meeting minutes to all jurisdictions attending the meeting. Meeting Minutes are then shared with Council.

**Recommendation for Action**

No action required. For information only.

Prepared by: Johanna Currie  
Management Analyst

Reviewed by: Gregor G. Meyer  
Public Works Director

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Mark G. Deven  
City Manager

Attachments: January 28, 2008 Water Resources Association Meeting Minutes

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2008 OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION OF YOLO COUNTY**

**1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair, David Scheuring.

Board members present: David Scheuring-Yolo County Flood Control & WCD, WRA Chair  
Duane Chamberlain – Yolo County  
Sue Greenwald – City of Davis  
William Marble – City of Woodland  
Sid England – University of CA Davis, WRA Vice-chair  
Regina Cherovsky – Reclamation District 2035

Alternate members present: Kurt Balasek – City of Winters, WRA Treasurer  
Donita Hendrix –Dunnigan Water District  
Jacques DeBra – City of Davis, Technical Committee Chair  
Stephen Souza - City of Davis  
Helen Thomson – Yolo County  
Tim O’Halloran - Yolo County Flood Control & WCD  
Doug Baxter – City of Woodland  
Dan Mount – City of West Sacramento

Associate Members present: Fran Borcalli - floodSAFE Yolo, Wood Rodgers, Inc.  
Robin Kulakow - Yolo Basin Foundation  
Steve Macauley - West Yost Associates

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

**3. PUBLIC FORUM** – There were no comments from the public.

**4. CONSENT ITEMS:** Bill Marble requested listing absent Board members on the meeting minutes. The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the consent items.

- a. Approve Minutes: November 19, 2007 Board meeting
- b. Financial Reports: November - December 2007

**5. 2008 WRA BOARD OFFICER ELECTIONS** – The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the nominating committee’s recommendations. The Board elected William Marble, Chair; Sid England, Vice-Chair; Kurt Balasek, Treasurer and appointed Donna Gentile, Secretary; Perry, Bunch, Battaglia, & Johnston, Inc., Auditor.

**6. AUDIT REPORT – FISCAL YEARS ENDING 2006 and 2007** – Donna Gentile introduced Rick Johnston from Perry, Bunch, Battaglia, & Johnston, Inc. She commented that the audit process went very smoothly and made less demands on staff time from previous audits, because the auditor was able to access the QuickBooks records directly. Mr. Johnston gave a detailed presentation on the audit process and report. The auditor found no material weaknesses in the WRA’s accounting procedures. He made one recommendation for future consideration that the Board lower the dollar amount of the WRA’s capitalization policy. Current policy requires the capitalization of assets with a cost in excess of \$1,500.00. A typical capitalization policy for an organization with a budget the size of the WRA’s is \$250 to \$500 per asset. Although the WRA does not have many assets, the benefit of lowering the monetary policy limit is the creation of an off-site list of the Association’s assets for

record keeping purposes. For example, in the event that the WRA lost all of its records and assets in a fire, there would be no documentation for recouping any lost assets through an insurance claim due to the inability to substantiate the value and type of assets lost. This list of assets would be incorporated into the audit report. Overall the WRA's recording keeping is very organized. Rick encouraged the Board and Executive Committee to continue with the current oversight procedures of operations and staff., especially with a single staffed office. The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously received the audit report as submitted.

## **7. ANNUAL REPORT from IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS on 2007 ACTIVITIES**

The purpose of the Implementation Partners Annual Report is to update the WRA Board on the activities for the past year on the eight IRWMP Integrated Actions and receive feedback whether the implementation strategy is supporting the process to implement the IRWM plan itself. Tim O'Halloran recommended that future IRWMP updates to the WRA Board also include reports on the Foundational Actions.

### a) Davis Woodland Water Supply Project (DWWSP) – Jacques DeBra, City of Davis

This is a regional water supply project providing treated surface water to the City of Davis, City of Woodland, and UC Davis. The catalyst is to improve water quality and comply with increasing regulatory challenges. The project supports future options to improve the water supply that serves these communities in the next 10-20 years. There will be a conjunctive use element to the project. The primary supply for DWWSP will be treated surface water, but during the summer months some of those needs would be served by the local well system. An additional benefit of the project is that urban groundwater pumping would be reduced by 30-35,000 acre feet per year. In 2007, the project completed a 2 1/2-year EIR process. The EIR was adopted and certified with a preferred alternative selected. The City of Davis is the lead agency with the City of Woodland as a responsible agency that would help meet needs to 2040. The preferred project is to receive Sacramento River water through a joint intake structure shared with RD 2035. Other 2008 activities include resolving two disputed water right protests related to the DWWSP. The City of Davis is undertaking a special study, as directed by City Council, with the National Water Research Institute to conduct a peer review of the DWWSP that should be available by summer.

### b) Reclamation District 2035 – Regina Cherovsky, RD 2035

RD 2035's surface water diversion project has been in the planning stages since 2003. The existing intake is the largest unscreened intake remaining on the Sacramento River north of the Delta. The current pump station discharges into a channel that ultimately feeds the RD 2035 water system. Water is diverted through this facility to serve agricultural and other users within RD 2035. The recent opportunity to jointly use the facility in conjunction with the DWWSP has presented a regional benefit to the diversion project. The re-designed intake modification would allow diverted water to be utilized for the DWWSP. The proposed dual-purpose intake would provide environmental, water supply reliability and water quality benefits to the region.

### c) Cache Creek Integrated Action (CCIA) – Tim O'Halloran, YCFCWCD

There are three main agencies partnering on the Cache Creek Integrated Action: the YCFCWCD, City of Woodland and County of Yolo. There are multiple local agencies that are also partners for this integrated action. Tim will report on a variety of actions for the CCIA. Funds were appropriated under the IRWMP/ Prop.50 for two projects currently underway for the CCIA. The first is the compiling of a Cache Creek documents catalog. Dan Holmes was hired to create this catalog that will be accessible through the WRA and the Water Resources Library at UC Berkeley. This is the first time a comprehensive list of documents will be available in a searchable database. This information will be very useful to anyone wanting to know what studies have been done relating to Cache Creek. The second project is a reconnaissance-level fish survey of Cache Creek. The purpose of this reconnaissance study is to determine what species inhabit the creek by observing 10 sites between the settling basin and the Yolo County line. The final report will include a summary of the sites sampled, the data collected, and the list of fish recorded. The report will also briefly outline recommendations for future monitoring. Stefan Lorenzato is coordinating both of these projects on behalf of the YCFCWCD. Both projects should be completed in the next few months.

IRWMP/Prop. 50 funds were also appropriated for the Correll-Rodgers Pond Enhancement Plan. Yolo County is coordinating this effort and is moving forward with the project after the selection of a contractor.

Conjunctive use is a major focus for the YCFCWCD. The YCFCWCD, in conjunction with Yolo County and several gravel companies, is exploring opportunities to initiate a groundwater recharge/recovery pilot program. The YCFCWCD, also in cooperation with other partners, is working on a pump incentive program to mitigate canal capacity challenges and against drought. Lastly, the Capay Dam is the heart of the YCFCWCD delivery system. It is over 100 years old and the YCFCWCD is investigating its structural integrity and maintenance needs. (IRWMP Action #WS13)

The flood management element has been the focus for both the CCIA and Sloughs, Canals & Creeks program. Fran Borcalli is the program manager coordinating these efforts under the *floodSAFE Yolo Pilot Program*. This program will coordinate with the floodSAFE California program. The geographic scope of *floodSAFE Yolo* includes Cache Creek and the west side watershed that tributary into the Colusa Basin Drain and the Yolo Bypass (does not reach into the Bypass or over to the east side of the Bypass or Sacramento River). There is a program advisory committee comprised of staff-level participants from the three MOU partners: YCFCWCD, City of Woodland and County of Yolo. The committee is developing a mission statement with goals, program elements, and a work plan for tasks related to the flood element for Cache Creek and some of the other watershed areas. Stakeholder groups will be involved during the process. A preliminary study updating the hydrology of Cache Creek was prepared by David Ford Consulting at the request of the City of Woodland. Phase II of this study is pending. When completed, this report will be a valuable technical piece of information for future Cache Creek projects. *floodSAFE Yolo* is coordinating its efforts with the DWR and USACE. DWR is beginning an extensive data collection activity, in part by utilizing aircraft carrying LIDAR equipment, to gather current information about floodplains and the flood management system. *floodSAFE Yolo* will be coordinating the inclusion of Yolo County areas in this survey to acquire additional useful data for our region.

Local elected officials annually attend CAP-to-CAP in Washington, DC to lobby Congressmen and Senators regarding funding for local projects/issues. Bill Marble attended last year as part of the flood issues group. Local officials would like Yolo County's flood priorities included in the 2009 appropriations requests presented at the April 2008 CAP-to-CAP. Certain forms and "white papers" or technical reports need to be presented with the appropriations request to gain priority listing. Fran explained that usually a project has to be well-defined with community support before it is ready for appropriations funding. It needs to be determined whether there are Yolo County flood-related projects that are ready for a funding request. Fran will continue discussing this possibility with locals that will be attending CAP-to-CAP.

#### d) Yolo County Sloughs, Canals & Creek Program Management Program – Tim O'Halloran

The YCFCWCD is the lead agency for this program along with multiple local partners. This program is also part of *floodSAFE Yolo*. Tim highlighted several ongoing partnerships that are accomplishing work in this program area. The Yolo RCD received a CALFED Ecosystem Restoration grant with the YCFCWCD as a coordinating agency. The major work falls into four areas: canal revegetation, riparian restoration, ponds for native fish, and permit coordination. The University Canal site is being revegetated to mitigate ongoing breaching problems into Putah Creek. The University Canal costs are being shared between UC Davis, YCFCWCD and the grant.

#### e) Putah Creek Integrated Action – Rich Marovich, LPCCC

One of the biggest achievements this year was the completion of the Lower Putah Creek Watershed Management Action Plan which was under development since 2002. There were a series of scientific assessments of Putah Creek (physical and biological) done between 2002 and 2005. Stakeholder meetings were conducted in 2006 and input received resulted in 63 recommended projects for the Putah Creek Integrated Action that were included in the final Yolo County IRWMP. Rich highlighted several projects in his

presentation: Winters Putah Creek Park improvement project that includes invasive species control and canal realignment; Yolo Bypass Fish Bypass Channel realignment (in partnership with the Yolo Basin Foundation); bank hydroseeding along Putah Creek and bank stabilization on Dry Creek below Hwy. 128.

f) Yolo Bypass Integrated Action – Robin Kulakow, Yolo Basin Foundation & Dave Ceppos, CCP

The Yolo Basin Foundation is the implementing partner for the Yolo Bypass Integrated Action. The Yolo Bypass Working Group (YBWG) is an ad hoc group of stakeholder group with an interest in land use and resources issues in the Bypass. In late 2006, in response to development of the IRWMP, the YBWG created a process to enable proposed Bypass actions to be prioritized, reviewed, revised and eventually implemented as appropriate by Yolo Bypass stakeholders. This process established an IRWMP subcommittee comprised of YBWG stakeholders. Subcommittee work was partially funded through the WRA's IRWMP Proposition 50 grant and the Yolo Basin Foundation. Dave Ceppos, Center for Collaborative Policy, is the facilitator for this effort under a contract with DWR Department of Planning & Local Assistance. The IRWMP Subcommittee is a collaborative, consensus-seeking group that makes decisions as informed by a broader community of Bypass stakeholders. In 2007, the Subcommittee met four times. IRWMP-related activities included defining a subcommittee membership, developing and adopting subcommittee operating rules and coordinating governance with the WRA Technical Committee, DWR and other partners. The Subcommittee also developed a list of new Bypass projects, discussed prioritization and integration of projects for the IRWMP and actively participated in the Delta Vision process as it related to the Yolo Bypass.

Dave Ceppos distributed two handouts: a Yolo Bypass IRWMP Subcommittee membership list and the Yolo Bypass IRWMP projects list. Dave gave an update on a recent Subcommittee workshop meeting held to review the projects list and discuss how these projects could be integrated and packaged together. The workshop attendees concluded that the Yolo Bypass would benefit from being more focused on regional coordination centered on the concept of flood management, rather than focusing on a collection of smaller projects.

g) Dunnigan Integrated Action – Donita Hendrix, Dunnigan Water District

Dunnigan Water District (DWD) has recently applied for a AB303 grant to further study the deeper aquifer, which is a foundational action for the Dunnigan area. The Dunnigan Integrated Action strives to assure existing and future residents of Dunnigan with a reliable long-term water supply and protection from hazards associated with storm runoff and flooding. The DWD Board has been actively meeting with developers throughout the year to promote open discuss and planning regarding new developments. The DWD is supplied water from the Tehama Colusa Canal (TCC). The Tehama Colusa Canal Authority is pursuing a new pumping plant through the Bureau of Reclamation to alleviate restricted flow issues. A new pumping plant would allow more reliable water flows for all TCC users including DWD.

h) Sacramento River West Bank Integrated Action – Dan Mount, City of West Sacramento

This IRWMP Integrated project is evaluating the habitat and recreational value along the entire west bank of the Sacramento River in Yolo County, in cooperation with the County of Yolo. The City of West Sacramento contacted Jones & Stokes, the consultant for the City's flood program, and asked them to analyze existing data collected over the last eight months to prepare a proposal for this project. A final scope should be available in the next 30 days, which will be reviewed by Yolo County staff and then the WRA Technical Committee.

**8. IRWMP UPDATE: Summary 1/10/08 meeting with DWR and discuss next steps**

Sid England gave a summary of the meeting held with representatives from DWR and the WRA technical committee and consultants who prepared the WRA's Prop 50 Round 2 application. The Yolo County IRWMP was evaluated as part of the application process and this meeting was a follow-up to the written critique of the Plan. DWR representatives in attendance were: Norman Shopay (Grants & Loans), two of the DWR reviewers (that evaluated WRA's grant), Tasmin Eusuff and Bill Brewster (who were involved during the development of the Yolo County IRWMP). WRA representatives in attendance included Jacques DeBra, Sid England, Helen

Thomson, Julia McIver, Max Stevenson, Donna Gentile, and Monique de Barruel (West Yost Associates). The discussion was very productive. Following is a recap of the points noted regarding the Yolo County IRWMP:

- Reviewers had difficulty locating information in the IRWMP for the grant application
- Areas of the IRWMP to improve for future grant evaluations are: 1) some areas of the Plan were lacking supporting documentation or needed further explanation or development; 2) improve references within the document so that information is easier to find; 3) add information to the IRWMP to comply with new requirements for IRWMP's that will be issued with Prop 84 guidelines later this year (e.g. a section on climate change, more emphasis on Disadvantaged Communities and regional coordination); and 4) explain how/why Yolo County is defined as the region's boundary.
- Yolo County specifically wrote the IRWMP as a planning document to help Yolo County and not as a document to acquire funding; however the IRWMP that the reviewers highlighted as easy to review was structured to fit the Prop. 50 guidelines, which will make it more difficult for them to match the Prop 84 guidelines. The lesson learned is that a companion document to the IRWMP might need to be developed to be successful in acquiring grant funding. DWR representatives complimented Yolo County's IRWMP as a document that would better serve our region and they did not recommend the document be restructured. In many ways, Yolo County is ahead of other regions regarding integration and coordination. WRA representatives interpreted this as a mixed message.
- DWR is striving to strengthen communication between their own departments, (e.g. reviewers, grants and loans management and planning and local assistance staff) and communication with local agencies.
- DWR is still developing the Prop. 84 guidelines, which will not be available until early 2009. DWR agreed to keep Yolo representatives as informed as possible about the changing IRWMP requirements. The WRA's challenge is to determine how to adapt the IRWMP to the new Prop. 84 guidelines (while under development) to position future WRA grant applications competitively for funding.

A Board member summarized the challenge: how to adapt the existing IRWMP document to meet the continually evolving demands of grant funding without getting bogged down in the revision/ amendment process which is resource intensive (labor and financial). The WRA Technical Committee will be discussing the best approach for amending or revising the IRWMP in the next several months.

## **9. PRESENTATION: Global Warming, Climate Change, & CA Water Urban Resources**

Steve Macaulay, Vice-President, West Yost Associates

In the last few years, the topic of climate change has captured the public's attention. Especially after the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released in 2007 (a UN affiliated research organization). Future State bonds, such as Proposition 84, are including requirements for IRWMP's that address climate change. Global warming and climate change are not interchangeable terms. It is the warming of the earth that has caused changes to our climate on a regional basis. Climate change is happening throughout the world. Potential impacts are not the same around the world, some will experience colder conditions, some warmer and some areas a mix of both.

Steve distributed a copy of the California Urban Water Agencies summary report on "*Climate Change & Urban Water Resources – Investing for Reliability*", December 2007 (download report [www.cuwa.org](http://www.cuwa.org)). The report was based on a detailed survey on 11 major California urban water utilities and how they are dealing with water management related to climate changes. The study focused on four areas: 1) Leadership- what management level is the agency engaged; 2) Vulnerability – how are they assessing the vulnerability of their water system; 3) Adaptation – what actions are needed to maintain, improve water system reliability; and 4) Mitigation – what to do to reduce greenhouse gases, save the ratepayer money, improve energy source reliability.

Climate change has the potential to affect our stream systems in the Sacramento Valley. Most of the studies indicate that California could lose up to 1/3 of our snow pack over the next 100 years (California's largest reservoir of water). We are already seeing changes in hydrology that are likely associated with climate changes that can affect water supply reliability (both surface and ground water) and water quality. Flood flow could be

increased due to the earlier melting of the snow pack, even if annual rainfall remains the same. This will create more flood management and operation challenges related to public safety and water supply reliability. The California Water Plan Update and DWR emphasize the importance of diversifying water supply and integrated regional water management. Steve focused on two key terms - adaptation and mitigation. The concepts of adaptation are optimizing storage, aggressive conservation, regional partnerships and projects and diversification of supplies. The concepts of mitigation are renewable energy and energy conservation. Steve gave specific examples of both and how certain California agencies are implementing these concepts.

Suggested next steps to address climate change challenges:

- Urban water utilities identify climate change as a major water management challenge and become engaged
- Improve urban water use efficiency and diversity water “portfolio”
- Better understanding of potential impacts and appropriate responses
- Engage political support at the local and federal level
- Improve public education
- Implement Integrated Regional Water Management

Steve’s PowerPoint presentation for the WRA Board is available upon request, please email [info@yolowra.org](mailto:info@yolowra.org).

#### **10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT AND INFORMATION**

- a) The Executive Committee had nothing additional to report.
- b) The Administrative Coordinator had nothing additional to report.

#### **11. MEMBERS’ REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Reclamation District 2035 and YCFC&WCD gave brief member reports. Sid England formally thanked outgoing chair, David Scheuring for his 3 years of service to the WRA Board and welcomed incoming chair, Bill Marble.

**12. NEXT MEETING DATE:** April 28, 2008, 3-5 pm in City of West Sacramento City Hall

#### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Donna L. Gentile*

Donna L. Gentile

WRA Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator