



City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: December 16, 2008

SUBJECT: Water Resources Association Meeting Minutes for July 2008

Report in Brief

Attached are the July 1, 2008 Water Resources Association Meeting Minutes. These minutes were approved at the October 6, 2008 meeting.

Background

The Water Resources Association meets bi-monthly 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.

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Reviewed by: Gregor G. Meyer
Public Works Director

Mark G. Deven
City Manager

Attachments: July 1, 2008 Water Resources Association Meeting Minutes

**MINUTES OF JULY 1, 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, William Marble.

Board members present: William Marble – City of Woodland, WRA Chair
Sid England – University of CA Davis, WRA Vice-chair
Duane Chamberlain – Yolo County
Tom Stone – City of Winters

Alternate members present: Kurt Balasek – City of Winters, WRA Treasurer
Jacques DeBra – City of Davis, Technical Committee Chair
Helen Thomson – Yolo County
Tim O’Halloran - Yolo County Flood Control & WCD
Doug Baxter – City of Woodland

Members Agencies absent: City of West Sacramento
Dunnigan Water District
Reclamation District 2035

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Change to Consent Item 4a. - Replacement agenda page 5 (4/28/08 minutes) was available at the meeting and online. Notice of the correction was also emailed to the agenda meeting distribution list. The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the agenda.

3. PUBLIC FORUM – There were no comments from the public. Tim O’Halloran, YCFCWCD, informed the WRA Board that David Scheuring has resigned from the YCFCWCD Board. A new YCFCWCD representative to the WRA Board will be appointed at their next board meeting.

4. CONSENT ITEMS: The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved all consent items.
a. Approve Minutes: April 28, 2008 Board meeting with replacement of duplicate page with missing page.
b. Financial Reports: April - May 2008
c. Request for Associate Membership – Yolo County Resource Conservation District

5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT AND INFORMATION

a. *Executive Committee Report:* The Committee met twice since the last Board meeting and focused on finalizing the 08-09 budget including the Technical Committee recommendations that pertain to the budget. They also discussed the proposed Yolo County water ordinances and the potential impact on the WRA.
b. *Administrative Coordinator Report:* Nothing additional to report

6. ADOPTION of FISCAL YEAR 2008-09 BUDGET

A proposed 2008-09 budget was presented at the April WRA Board meeting for review and comment. Donna Gentile explained the development of the 08-09 budget as outlined in the staff report. Each year a list of the WRA’s annual accomplishments will be included with the budget approval process. This year’s list includes accomplishments from 2004 to the present. Board adoption of this budget also includes approval of the Technical Committee recommendations for the 08-09 project funds allocations. These recommendations were presented to the Board at the April 28, 2008 meeting. The 2007-08 year end figures are pending inclusion of a few final invoices through 6/30/08. Chair Marble additionally pointed out membership dues were increased by 1% and budgeted expenses included an increase in staffing costs (details will be discussed in closed session at

the end of the meeting). The carryover funds at the end of fiscal year 2009 are estimated to be \$49,776. WRA Board policy requires maintaining a 3 month operating reserve of \$30,000 based on the administrative budget. Dues invoices will be mailed to all member agencies within the next week. The Board motioned, seconded and unanimously adopted the 08-09 WRA operating budget as presented.

7. WRA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (TC) UPDATE

Jacques DeBra, TC Chair, highlighted the Committee's activities in the second quarter of 2008 and discussed the status of project funds in fy2007-08 and 2008-09. The WRA will be requesting a detailed scope, budget and schedule for all the projects that have been allocated funding in 08-09.

Two projects did not utilize the allocated funding during the 2007-08 fiscal year. The City of West Sacramento Levee Survey project has been unable to move forward due to interagency decision-making challenges. The City will provide an update to the TC in September. The TC will consider whether to re-allocate these funds and would return to the WRA Board with recommendations. Ample time is given to all projects to make use of funding prior to re-allocation. The Yolo Bypass Working Group was also not able to spend their full allocation from 07-08 and those funds have been rolled back into the WRA project budget. Long-term funding options for the Yolo County Groundwater Monitoring Program is under discussion by the TC and an update will be presented to the Board before the end of the year for consideration. The Cache Creek library catalog was established from 07-08 funds and additional work will continue in fy2008-09. This catalog is an excellent resource of information about Cache Creek that will be available online through the UC Berkeley Water Resources Center Archives.

Two Yolo County agencies were awarded AB 303 funding for groundwater related projects: Dunnigan Water District and the YCFC&WCD. Successful funding highlights the cooperative efforts of WRA member agencies.

Jacques gave an update on the 2008 Regional Subsidence Project coordinated by DWR that conducted observations this summer. Yolo County's monitoring network was the inspiration for expanding subsidence monitoring across multiple Northern California counties. The data should be available in Fall 2008.

8. PRESENTATION: Update on floodSAFE Yolo Pilot Program

Tim O'Halloran, YCFCWCD and Fran Borcalli, floodSAFE Yolo Program Manager, updated the Board on the 2-year Pilot Program activities. The City of Woodland, County of Yolo and the YCFCWCD partnered an agreement (MOU) in June 2007 to continue addressing flood related issues and solutions raised from the development of the Yolo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). Today's Pilot Program presentation is the first of four scheduled this month to the WRA and YCFCWCD Boards (July 1), Woodland City Council and Yolo County Board of Supervisors (July 15). A copy of the PPT presentation is included at the end of these minutes.

Tim O'Halloran began the presentation with the history of the original Cache Creek Flood Management effort established as a result of the Cache Creek Integrated Action from the IRWMP. Tim began by illustrating that Yolo County is in a floodplain and flooding can not be stopped, but can we can learn how to mitigate the impact of flooding. The floodSAFE Yolo Pilot Program seeks to analyze water management choices and make recommendations. Local agencies have contended that the FEMA issued flood rate maps do not represent an accurate picture. FEMA is in the process of updating these maps, which will be released this year. Tim illustrated some of the geographic areas that the Pilot Program addresses along lower Cache Creek. The Cache Creek Settling Basin is a problematic area for flooding compounded by the fact that it is a multi-jurisdictional area (federal, state, city, county and private landowners). Problems in multi-jurisdictional areas require regional solutions. Several slides modeled flooding scenarios of what could happen if the north and/or south side of Cache Creek flooded (only conceptual illustrations). If the north side of Cache Creek floods then rural homes would get wet and flood water stacks up and overtops Interstate 5 if the flood event is large enough. If

the south side of Cache Creek floods then North Woodland would get wet, water stacks up against the Settling Basin and Interstate 5 could go under water. Flood waters on the north side would peak and dissipate in a day or two, but on the south side the water doesn't have any where to go and would stack up against the Yolo Bypass levee. The City of Woodland's pumps would be not working underwater and it would take weeks to pump the water out of this area (including I-5).

Tim explained the purpose of the MOU agreement: "To develop the institutional, financial, and legal framework for creating an ongoing flood management division within the YCFCWCD or a new organization." Information about the floodSAFE Yolo Pilot Program can be found online: www.ycfcwcd.org/floodsafeyolo.html. The floodSAFE Yolo mission statement, program elements, organizational structure and its relationship to the IRWMP are outlined in the presentation handout included at the end of the minutes.

Fran Borcalli emphasized that the Pilot Program emerged from the IRWMP, which is an important linkage to the California Department of Water Resources and flood management strategies in the California Water Plan. Fran highlighted the collaborative working relationship of the MOU partners in the floodSAFE Yolo Program Advisory Committee that has developed program elements and a mission statement. There are six categories of activities that comprise the program elements: public outreach, flood emergency preparedness, watershed assessment, flood hazard mitigation projects planning, projects implementation and maintenance, and program administration and funding. Additionally, the Program is sensitive to legislative mandates that became law in October 2007. The new package of bills became effective in January 2008 and is a significant factor in where money is being allocated within the State. The success of the floodSAFE Yolo Pilot Program is linked to identifying projects and solutions that integrate with funding opportunities. Fran illustrated the relationship of floodSAFE Yolo with floodSAFE California and the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan. The Pilot Program is mindful of ongoing activities at the State and Federal level in order to capitalize on benefits for Yolo County. Fran outlined the Program's accomplishments to-date and next steps planned for the work plan over the next 4-6 months (see attached presentation handout). Overall the Pilot Program's goal is to provide a comprehensive approach to identifying solutions for flood management within the Program's geographic area. A funding mechanism for the Pilot Program needs to be established so that the geographic area can be broadened to include more of Yolo County. Tim and Fran answered questions from the Board and public. The question most often asked is: *When will solutions be recommended?* Solutions have been identified and recommended by a group of local professionals comprising the Technical Advisory Committee of the original IRWMP Cache Creek Flood Management Subcommittee effort. This is the first year public update of the floodSAFE Yolo Pilot Program. The July update to each of the MOU partners is intended to provide more general information about the Pilot Program and to validate continued partner support for the second year. Additionally, new topographic mapping and further hydrologic studies are being completed that will factor into the recommended solutions. The important decisions are how or whether to manage problem areas and how will those decisions be made. More detailed discussions of solutions are planned in the next 4-6 month phase.

9. PROPOSED YOLO COUNTY WATER ORDINANCES

a) Rick Landon, Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner, discussed the status of Yolo County's water ordinances proposed at the April 22, 2008 Yolo County Board of Supervisors' (Supervisors) meeting and outlined the next steps for development. The Supervisors have received numerous concerns voiced by the public, agricultural community and local public agencies regarding the draft ordinances and the process for drafting the language as presented in April. A couple of weeks ago, the County held a staff meeting with Dirk Brazil, Asst. CAO, Robyn Drivon, County Counsel, Warren Westrup, Dtr. Parks & Resources, Rick Landon and a potential facilitator. Rick was selected to report on the positive developments that came from that meeting. The County recognizes that the proposed groundwater and water transfer ordinances and the creation of a countywide water agency are issues that can not be dealt with in haste and has backed off the original timeline. The Supervisors have therefore decided to proceed anew by seeking the services of a water knowledgeable facilitator to conduct the discussions. The facilitated discussions will seek input from citizens, agriculture, business, civic leaders and organizations that are affected by water. Recommendations from that facilitated

process will be forwarded to the Supervisors. A facilitator has not yet been selected, so the process will mostly likely begin sometime in September with no deadline imposed at this time. The WRA has requested that this information also be forwarded to the WRA. The dates for the public process will be shared with the media, interested parties and posted online when selected.

Rick also attended the WRA Technical Committee meeting in June to give an update on this topic. The input he received was very direct. Rick restated some of that input from the public and technical committee members. The attendees stated that the County had lost credibility, that the WRA needs official notice of developments (reference the County letter to WRA on page 25), and also requested that the chair of the WRA should be contacted by the County. Chair Bill Marble has been contacted by Dirk Brazil and Supervisor Helen Thomson since the June Technical Committee meeting. (Rick noted that Supervisor McGowan came to today's WRA meeting, but left when he realized that both Supervisors Chamberlain and Thomson were in attendance to not violate the Brown Act) The WRA also expressed concern that there wasn't any outreach or communication with the WRA prior to the draft ordinances being presented in April. The WRA also reminded the County that the member agencies spent 3 years collaborating on the development of the IRWMP and regional priorities.

Rick then asked for additional input from the WRA Board:

- Farmers are concerned about additional well monitoring and possible fees or restrictions on pumping. There is a wealth of information already being collected by local agencies. Cautioned against duplicative efforts.
- Is there really a need for a County water agency? What is the purpose for its creation?
- What problems does the County feel need to be addressed? What is broken and needs to be fixed? Encourage the County to come to a solution collaboratively. Encourage the County to include appropriate issues into future IRWMP amendments and utilize the IRWMP process established,
- This process can benefit tremendously by involving the WRA, local farmers and others
- Yolo County needs to work on collaboration, coordination and trust building as an agency.
- Establishing an innovative water policy in Yolo County can be a large asset in our interactions with the State of California. Encourage utilizing all the great people resources in our county to create this policy.
- We need to speak with one voice in Yolo County on water issues, because other areas around the state are more coordinated and therefore successful in securing funding. The 3 biggest issues facing the Yolo County are protecting the groundwater, an out-of-county water transfer policy and speaking with one voice (purpose of the countywide water agency?). Look to the future and learn from the past.

b) Bill Marble, WRA Chair, opened discussions about the WRA's future role regarding re-drafting of the ordinances and the creation of a countywide water agency. The Supervisors assured the WRA Board that WRA resources will be consulted and involved in this process. Chair Marble asked the Board if the WRA should submit written comments to Yolo County and decided that this would be premature. The WRA should wait for the facilitated process and trust that Yolo County will draw on the collective resources as recommended.

Sid England reminded the Board that after the IRWMP was completed the WRA agreed to revisit the question of how the association was organized. A Board member commented that the WRA has a good technical committee to accomplish work for the association, but elected officials need to be more involved in the association and water issues. Bill Marble commented that the WRA has undergone some good changes in recent years and it would be a mistake for the WRA (or a like organization) to not be involved in governance on water issues. One of Bill's goals as WRA chair is to encourage participation from Board member elected officials.

The suggestion was made that Yolo County provide key items related to this issue to the WRA for distribution with the agenda packet, so we can all stay in sync.

10. MEMBERS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Member reports and information were presented before Agenda Item #8 to allow for resolution of computer equipment technical issues. The Cities of Winters, Woodland, Davis, Yolo County, UC Davis, YCFCWCD and RD 108 gave updates on recent activities.

No future agenda items were requested.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE:

Monday, October 6, 2008, 3-5 pm, Yolo County Flood Control & WCD Board Room, Woodland

12. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL – Pursuant to Government Code 54957

The Board reconvened after the Closed Executive Session and reported that the proposed 3% annual salary increase for Donna Gentile was approved effective 7/1/08. The employer's matching contribution is mandated to be 3% of the annual gross salary with a matching 3% employee contribution under the SIMPLE IRA Plan. Vacation leave was increased to 140 hours annually.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Gentile

Donna L. Gentile

WRA Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator