



Y O L O C O U N T Y

FLOOD CONTROL &
WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 7:00 PM

YCFC&WCD Offices
34274 State Highway 16
Woodland, CA 95695

Due to the threat of COVID-19 and pursuant to the [AB 361 \(Government Code section 54953\(e\)\)](#), the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (District) was agendaized to allow Board members, staff, and the public to participate in the meeting via teleconference. The meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 remotely via GoToMeeting. Chair Vink convened the meeting. The following people were remotely in attendance:

District Board

Erik Vink, Chair
Tom Barth
Mary Kimball
Jim Mayer
Shane Tucker

District Staff

Kristin Sicke, General Manager
Andrew Ramos, Legal Counsel

Members of the Public

Jim Barrett
Dave Pratt
Kate Reza
Lee Smith

1. CONSIDERATION: Re-authorize Teleconference Meetings as a Result of COVID-19 Emergency

District staff recommended the Board find that, as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to health and safety of attendees and recommend the Board hold meetings by teleconference as authorized by Section 54953 (e)(1)(C) of Government Code.

22.09 M/S/C found that, as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to health and safety of attendees and as authorized by Government Code Section 54953 (e)(1)(C) meetings will be held by teleconference.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Mayer, Tucker, and Vink

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

2. CONSIDERATION: Approval of Minutes

22.10 M/S/C approved the minutes of the January 4, 2022 regular Board meeting.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Mayer, Tucker, and Vink

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

3. OPEN FORUM

There were no comments.

4. CONSIDERATION: Adding Items to the Posted Agenda

There were no changes made to the agenda.

5. REPORT: Appointment of District Representatives to Committees and Various Groups

Chair Vink reported that each year the Board's representation to various groups and committees are appointed by the District's Chair. The proposed 2022 appointments were reviewed, and Chair Vink approved the proposed appointments for 2022.

6. CONSIDERATION: Receive Update from Finance Committee and Authorize General Manager Sicke to Enter into a Services Agreement with Larsen Wurzel and Associates

General Manager Sicke provided a brief presentation on the Larsen Wurzel and Associates proposal for investigating alternative revenue mechanisms to augment the District's current funding structure. The proposal was reviewed by the Finance Committee at the January 19, 2022 meeting, and includes professional services from Principals Seth Wurzel and Scott Brown and their team to complete approximately 220 hours in a Phase I analysis, not to exceed \$45,000.

Director Barth reported on the Committee meeting where the Committee, Sicke, and Senior Advisor Tim O'Halloran had a focused discussion on the consultation needed to investigate augmenting the District's current rate structure. The District's existing revenues are not adequate in sustaining the District during dry years, and there is currently no reimbursement for surface water deliveries that recharge the groundwater. The District is seeking professional assistance to examine alternative revenue mechanisms that are allowed under the District's statutory boundaries and as documented in the District Act. Barth discussed the importance of engaging stakeholders on the front end to ensure a transparent process.

Sicke reported that a meeting with Legal Counsel Andrew Ramos and Dick Shannon took place prior to the Committee meeting to ensure Larsen Wurzel and Associates' services would be appropriate for the District's investigation. Legal counsel reviewed the proposal provided by Larsen Wurzel and Associates and advised the District to advance with a services arrangement.

Chair Vink stressed the importance of developing a sustainable source of revenue for the District to continue providing services into the future. It is important for groundwater beneficiaries to contribute to the District's mission. Vink also mentioned the desire to embrace a public process with communication and engagement with the stakeholders, water rate payers, and other Board members.

Director Mayer asked whether Larsen Wurzel and Associates were directly responsible for the engagement aspect or if the District would manage that process. Sicke relayed that the District would be managing the engagement efforts. Mayer advised the District to enlist assistance from a Public Engagement Facilitator to facilitate the meetings with the growers and stakeholders. He also stated that timing and coordination with the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency will be important. He suggested the District appropriately define our needs for stabilizing the rate structure: we are planning for a sustainable future, fiscally and physically (we must maintain the health of the District's finances and infrastructure system to maintain and guarantee water deliveries into the future).

Director Tucker asked whether this cost was already considered in the District's current fiscal year budget. Sicke reported Tim O'Halloran had budgeted for professional services in the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget that had not currently been expended yet. Tucker advised the importance of surveying other water districts as part of this effort to know how other irrigation districts are financed and whether we're considering all options available to us. He stressed the importance of the in-lieu recharge aspect of the District's surface water deliveries. He theoretically questioned how many wells are not operating when surface water is available, and he noted the value that is currently had by well owners in the District's surface water supplies and the passive recharge that occurs.

Director Kimball agreed with Tucker's advice to gather information from other districts since there can be value gained from that process. Kimball also asked about the schedule of Phase 1 work by Larsen Wurzel and Associates. Sicke promised an update at the March Board meeting that provides a schedule for Phase 1 activities.

Lee Smith commended the District's desire to take a novel approach, but he suggested that generating revenue in the short run would be challenging. He noted the District's current water rates are considerably lower than other areas in California.

District staff recommended the Board authorize Sicke to enter into a Services Agreement with Larsen Wurzel and Associates on behalf of the District.

22.11 M/S/C authorized General Manager Sicke to enter into a Services Agreement with Larsen Wurzel and Associates.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Mayer, Tucker, and Vink

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

7. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Director Barth reported on the YSGA's January 10 and 24, 2022 Board of Directors meetings. He commended the YSGA Directors and staff for adopting and submitting the *2022 Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan* to the California Department of Water Resources in time for the January 31, 2022 deadline.

Director Mayer reported on NCWA's bi-monthly coordination task force meetings with state, federal, and water district managers, which allow for interagency coordination in preparing and planning changes in flow standards and processing of water transfers. Mayer discussed the work of EDF and others to investigate the appropriate mitigation/implementation of *SGMA's Undesirable Result #6* – the interconnection of groundwater and surface water and the impact to groundwater dependent ecosystems. Mayer also reported that DWR would be releasing updated InSAR data in February as part of their subsidence surveillance and reporting program. Lastly, he reported on his participation in the Yolo Habitat Conservancy's Implementation Advisory Committee process to evaluate multi-benefit projects with multi-benefit stakeholders as a unique landowner in Yolo County.

Directors Kimball and Tucker had nothing to report.

Chair Vink reported on his participation on the Countywide Successor Agency Oversight Board of Yolo County, which is primarily responsible for approval of schedules of enforceable obligations and disposal of any remaining redevelopment assets and properties.

8. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS

There was no report from Legal Counsel Ramos.

9. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Sicke provided reports on the following:

- a) Operations, Maintenance, and Water Conditions
- b) Financial Report Summary – Highlights from the January 31, 2022 Financial Statements Report were quickly reviewed, and the actual FY 2021/2022 Budget was compared to the projected FY 2021/2022 Budget.
- c) Capital Improvement Program – An update on the planning activities related to capital projects was provided.
- d) YSGA Update – An update on Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency's *2022 Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan* implementation activities was provided.
- e) General Activities – A list of outreach activities and projects both in-house and coordinated with other agencies was reviewed.
- f) The following upcoming events were announced:
 1. WRA Technical Committee Ad Hoc Drought Task Force Meeting (February 2)
 2. WRA Technical Committee Meeting (February 3)
 3. YSGA: Meeting with the Capay Valley Regeneration Committee (February 4)
 4. Lions Club Woodland Cabinet Annual Meeting (February 5)
 5. Meeting with CLOCWD to Discuss Long-Term Agreement (February 7)
 6. NCWA Bay-Delta Task Force Meeting (February 7)
 7. NCWA's DWR Update on Subsidence, West-side of Sacramento Valley (Feb. 7)
 8. NCWA's North State Drinking Water Solutions Network (February 9)
 9. Financial Oversight Committee (February 10)
 10. YSGA: Hungry Hollow Area Community Mtg.: Good Humus Farm Tour (Feb. 10)
 11. Floodplains Reimagined Advisory Committee (February 11)
 12. YCFC&WCD Winter Water Right Committee (February 11)
 13. WRA/YSGA Executive Committee Meetings (February 15)
 14. ACWA Groundwater Committee Meeting (February 16)
 15. California Water Data Consortium Meeting (February 17)
 16. Yolo County Board of Supervisors Meeting – Drought Update (February 22)
 17. ACWA Region 4 Board of Directors Meeting (February 23)
 18. California Irrigation Institute Conference (February 28-March 1)
 19. NCWA Annual Meeting (March 4 & 11)

10. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Director Mayer mentioned the importance water transfers will play this year with limited surface water supplies and he suggested the county's process provide a thorough review on in-lieu out-of-county requests. General Manager Sicke relayed the YSGA's involvement as part of the approval process through DWR.

11. CONSIDERATION: Payment of Bills

22.12 M/S/C approved the following claims for payment – Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Checks # 60831-60843.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Mayer, Tucker, and Vink

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.



Erik Vink, Chair

ATTEST:



Kristin Sicke, Secretary