

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY (MWDOC)
WITH THE MWDOC MET DIRECTORS**

June 5, 2024

At 8:30 a.m., President McVicker called to order the Workshop Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County in Conference Room 101 at the District facilities located in Fountain Valley, as well as including attendance via the Zoom Webinar application. Director Nederhood led the Pledge of Allegiance and Secretary Goldsby called the roll.

MWDOC DIRECTORS

Al Nederhood
Larry Dick*
Karl W. Seckel*
Bob McVicker
Randall Crane
Jeffery M. Thomas
Megan Yoo Schneider

STAFF

Harvey De La Torre, General Manager
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel
Maribeth Goldsby, District Secretary
Melissa Baum-Haley, Assistant General Mgr.
Kevin Hostert, Sr. Water Resource Analyst
Heather Baez, Director of Governmental Affairs
Charles Busslinger, Dir. of Engineering/Dist. Eng.
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer
Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency
Alex Heidi, Sr. Water Resource Analyst

*Also MWDOC-MET Directors

OTHER MWDOC-MET DIRECTORS

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman

OTHERS PRESENT

Sara Tucker
Garrett Durst (absent)
Syrus Devers
Dick Ackerman
Peter Whittingham (absent)
Paul Jones
Adam Benson
Kitano Kasaine
Mohsen Mortada
Deven Upadhyay
Margie Wheeler
Philip Bogdanoff
Wajiha Noor
Dave Pedersen
Anatole Falagan
Augustine Han
Craig Miller
Doug Davert

NRR
NRR
Syrus Devers Advocacy
Ackerman Consulting
Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors
Dopudja & Wells Consulting
Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
City of Anaheim
Eastern Municipal Water District
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
City of Long Beach, Utilities
West Basin Municipal Water District
Western Municipal Water District
East Orange County Water District

Dave Youngblood	East Orange County Water District
Fred Adjarian	El Toro Water District
Kathryn Freshley	El Toro Water District
Mike Gaskins	El Toro Water District
Kay Havens	El Toro Water District
Mark Monin	El Toro Water District
Vu Chu	El Toro Water District
Mike Dunbar	Emerald Bay Service District
Toby Moore	Golden State Water Company
Steve LaMar	Irvine Ranch Water District
Doug Reinhart	Irvine Ranch Water District
Peer Swan	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Keith Van Der Maaten	Laguna Beach County Water District
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water
Jim Fisler	Mesa Water
Dick Fiore	Moulton Niguel Water District
Laura Rocha	Moulton Niguel Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Chris Olsen	Orange County Water District
Chuck Gibson	Santa Margarita Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Jerry Vilander	Serrano Water District
Rick Shintaku	South Coast Water District
Jennifer Lopez	South Coast Water District
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Brett Barbre	Yorba Linda Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Mark Toy	Yorba Linda Water District
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Jeff Kightlinger	Acequia Consulting
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

President McVicker inquired whether any members of the public wished to comment on agenda items.

No public comments were received.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED - Determine need and take action to agendize item(s), which arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (ROLL CALL VOTE: Adoption of this recommendation requires a two-thirds vote of the Board members present or, if less than two-thirds of the Board members are present, a unanimous vote.)

No items were presented.

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO MEETING

President McVicker inquired as to whether there were any items distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

No items were distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**CLIMATE ADAPTATION MASTER PLAN FOR WATER (CAMP4W) AND BUSINESS MODEL UPDATE**

General Manager De La Torre advised that this item would consist of a facilitated panel discussion regarding MET's CAMP4W and Business Model processes with panel members including Mr. De La Torre, Anatole Falagan (Assistant General Manager, City of Long Beach, Utilities), Craig Miller (General Manager, Western Municipal Water District), and Dave Petersen (General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District). It was noted that Mr. Paul Jones (Dopudja & Wells Consulting) would act as a facilitator.

Mr. Jones then held a discussion with the aforementioned panelists; the questions/topics included the following:

1. How the panelists would describe MET's current Business Model, and what they believed were its most significant limitations relative to current and future conditions;
2. Whether the panelists believed the current review of MET's Business Model necessitated a potential evaluation of MET's role in the region and whether MET's core function needed to evolve;
3. How the panelists believed the process for reviewing the Business Model addresses MET's role and the need for investment in local projects (including MET's Pure Water Project) in light of declining member agency water sales; and
4. Panelist's thoughts and recommendations for the Business Model process in addressing financial, water resource, governance, and other topics that have been raised by the member agencies and how these relate to the CAMP4W process.

The panelists each provided opinions/solutions on how to improve the processes and MET's approach to the issues, as well as the need for and importance of developing a Business Model that is well-aligned with MET's goals and mission. A dialogue between the Board members and panelists ensued with specific emphasis on ways MET could focus on aligning its priorities, water reliability, the need to identify challenges (prior to developing solutions), the overall process and next steps, the importance of focusing on MET's mission statement, and the need for the concurrent processes to be bifurcated (one process on the Business Model and one process on the CAMP4W process).

Following discussion, the Board thanked the panelists and facilitator and received and filed the information.

(Director Thomas departed the meeting at 10:23 a.m.).

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES**a. Federal Legislative Report**

Ms. Sara Tucker of NRR reviewed NRR's written report in the packet, highlighting the Salinity Control Forum testimony, the Energy and Water appropriations schedule, and the Tax Parity for Water Rebates bill, which will be introduced by Congressman Huffman.

Director Nederhood asked that the report be revised to correctly list Adel Hagekhalil as MET's General Manager.

b. State Legislative Report

Mr. Syrus Devers, of SDA, reviewed his report, highlighting the bond/budget negotiations, as well as various pieces of legislation including SB 1255 (low-income rate assistance), SB 366, and AB 2079.

The Board received and filed the report.

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Mr. Dick Ackerman referenced his report, highlighting the San Francisco PFAS ban.

The Board received and filed the report.

d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)

Director of Governmental Affairs Heather Baez advised that although Mr. Whittingham was on vacation, she was available to answer any questions.

The Board received and filed the report.

e. MWDOC Legislative Matrix

The Board received and filed the report.

f. Metropolitan Legislative Matrix

The Board received and filed the report.

QUESTIONS OR INPUT ON MET ISSUES FROM MEMBER AGENCIES/MET DIRECTOR REPORTS REGARDING MET COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Director Erdman highlighted MET's Engineering, Operations & Technology Committee's activities and a number of projects under consideration by the MET Board for approval.

Director Ackerman reported on two historic MOUs, namely the Friant Water Authority & Westlands Water District MOU and the San Joaquin Water Blueprint MOU. She also provided

an overview of her recent Colorado River Board trip to Arizona, wherein they met with tribal leaders.

Director Seckel referenced the recently released cost estimates for the Delta Conveyance Project, as well as noting that the MET Board will consider participation in the Sites Reservoir Project within the next year.

Director Dick advised that MET was proposing to combine the real estate committee with the Finance Committee.

ACTION ITEMS

H.R. 7922 (CRAWFORD, R-AR) – WATER RISK AND RESILIENCE ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT

Heather Baez provided an overview H.R. 7922, advising that the bill would establish an independent organization (the Water Risk and Resilience Organization) that will set minimum cyber standards with oversight from the EPA; in addition, it would support capacity development programs to expand outreach for training programs.

Discussion was held regarding various points of the legislation as well as whether there was an urgency in adopting a position right away or whether deferring action would be appropriate (to allow time for staff to gather additional information). Directors Nederhood and Dick supported deferring the item.

Upon MOTION by Director Yoo Schneider, seconded by Director Crane, and carried (4-0), the Board adopted a support position on H.R. 7922 (Crawford, R-AR), by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors McVicker, Seckel, Crane & Yoo Schneider
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Director Thomas
ABSTAIN:	Directors Nederhood and Dick

H.R. 7872 (CURTIS, R-UT) – COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL ACT

Upon MOTION by Director Yoo Schneider, seconded by Director Dick, and carried (6-0), the Board adopted a support position on H.R. 7872 (Curtis, R-UT), by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors Nederhood, Dick, McVicker, Seckel, Crane & Yoo Schneider
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Director Thomas
ABSTAIN:	None

ELECTION INFORMATION (CANDIDATE’S STATEMENTS)

Following discussion, and upon MOTION by Director Dick, seconded, by Director Nederhood, and carried (6-0), the Board authorized staff to submit the Transmittal of Election Information/Special District to the Orange County Registrar of Voters indicating that the Candidate’s Statement of Qualifications will be limited to 200 words and that the District will not pay for the statements. Said action was taken by the following roll call vote:

- AYES: Directors Nederhood, Dick, McVicker, Seckel, Crane & Yoo Schneider
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: Director Thomas
- ABSTAIN: None

INFORMATION ITEMS

MWD ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY

- a. MET Finance and Rate Issues
- b. MET Water Supply Conditions Update
- c. Water Quality Update
- d. Colorado River Issues
- e. Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

The Board received and filed the report as presented.

METROPOLITAN (MET) BOARD AND COMMITTEE AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Summary reports regarding the May MET Board Meeting
- b. Review items of significance for the upcoming MET Board and Committee Agendas

The report was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Maribeth Goldsby
District Secretary