

COSUMNES AMERICAN BEAR YUBA JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Special Board Meeting

June 16, 2020

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Andy Fecko, Placer County Water Agency
Ken Payne, El Dorado County Water Agency
Brian Mueller, El Dorado Irrigation District
Greg Jones, Nevada Irrigation District

Attending: Danette Austin, Nevada Irrigation District
Aaron Sullivan, Placer County Water Agency
Heather Knutson, Placer County Water Agency
Tami Snowcraft, El Dorado County Water Agency
Neysa King, Nevada Irrigation District
Izzy Martin, The Sierra Fund
Ashley Overhouse, South Yuba River Citizens League
Marie Davis, Placer County Water Agency
Tracy Eden-Bishop, El Dorado Irrigation District
Jason Muir, NV5

Location: Remote Web Conference hosted by Nevada Irrigation District

Call to Order

Greg Jones, as Interim General Manager of Nevada Irrigation District, called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Public Comment

Greg Jones called for public comment. None was given.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on November 15, 2020. A **MOTION** to approve the meeting minutes was made by Andy Fecko seconded by Ken Payne. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Workshop held on November 15, 2020. A **MOTION** to approve the workshop minutes was made by Brian Mueller and seconded by Andy Fecko. Greg Jones pointed out an error in page 3 of the workshop minutes, which incorrectly recorded that PCWA recently completed a project at Combie. The project was completed at

French Meadows. A motion to approve the minutes, amended as described above, **CARRIED** unanimously. The amended workshop minutes are attached.

General Orders

The Board discussed the following general orders, and action was taken to approve the budget (Item 7):

3. Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Tami Snowcraft reported that the fiscal year closes June 30 and an audit is to be performed at that time. The current balance is \$131,699. Agency contributions were \$20,000 for the current fiscal year. Contributions for the 2020-2021 fiscal year are proposed to be \$2,000. Greg Jones called for public comment on the Treasurer's Report. None was given.

4. JPA Organization.

Andy Fecko discussed PCWA involvement with the Regional Water Authority (RWA) and the potential benefits of watershed management from top to bottom, rather than by the existing existing CABY boundaries. Organization of watershed management activities by individual watershed may be more efficient and may better connect people who benefit from the watershed to the watershed processes above them.

Brian Mueller referenced a parallel discussion held during the November 2019 JPA meeting, and observed that projects are generally watershed-based rather than spanning across watersheds. Brian Mueller observed that EID can perform projects under RWA's American River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) in addition to the CABY IRWMP.

Ken Payne stated that El Dorado County Water Agency is in a similar situation, acknowledged the effectiveness of working within an individual watershed, and observed that there is redundancy between the two IRWMPs.

Greg Jones stated that CABY JPA's goal of updating the IRWMP is nearly complete, and the CABY RWMG stakeholders are in place to execute projects under the IRWMP.

Andy Fecko stated that he had invited Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) to this meeting, but the YCWA representative was not able to attend. Andy Fecko expressed the importance of tying the watershed together top to bottom, and suggested that CABY JPA members sit down with YCWA and RWA and report back at the November meeting with an outline of a plan for reorganization. Andy Fecko expressed interest in public comment on this topic.

Greg Jones stated that the CABY IRWMP update should be wrapped up prior to the November meeting. Ken Payne expressed agreement with exploring options. Brian Mueller agreed that alternatives and action items should be discussed at the November meeting. Andy Fecko

proposed that Brian Mueller and Ken Payne (or staff) talk to RWA, and NID and PCWA discuss with YCWA. Greg Jones asked for public comment on this topic, and none was given.

5. Program Management Update.

Jason Muir reported on the consultant contract for CABY JPA program management held by Vanir and NV5, and stated that he is currently serving in the consultant role for JPA because Michelle Frey is no longer with Vanir. During the November 2019 special meeting, JPA Board Members had expressed a general consensus that JPA activities would focus primarily on updating the IRWMP. Consultant services since that time have been limited to assistance with IRWMP review and meeting facilitation.

Jason Muir referenced a letter from the CABY RWMG to the CABY JPA (April 14, 2020) that is included in the agenda packet. The letter requests the following assistance from the JPA: (1) facilitate plan adoption by all stakeholders, (2) serve as a project clearinghouse, and (3) maintain the website. Jason Muir reported that the RWMG has been awarded a \$63,000 grant related to work with disadvantaged communities (DAC). Tasks associated with this work were set forth in a workplan outline that was submitted by the RWMG but is not included in the agenda packet.

Izzy Martin pointed out that the request for assistance had been initiated in 2019, prior to the April 2020 letter, and that some of the work has already been performed using other resources. Izzy Martin pointed out that this discussion should be continued as part of the RWMG/IRWMP Update, which follows as the next agenda item.

6. RWMG/IRWMP Update.

Izzy Martin reported that the RWMG has successfully pulled together the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) with near-unanimity except for one topic, and has incorporated DAC components in the plan. The draft IRWMP was advertised and circulated for public comment, and a public workshop was held (May 5, 2020) by remote web conference.

Izzy Martin stated that a public meeting is required to adopt the IRWMP by the end of August, and public notice of the meeting is required. After adoption, the IRWMP is to be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Based on IRWMP acceptance, DWR will make Proposition 1 funding available. Organizations are not allowed to submit projects for consideration under the IRWMP unless they have adopted the IRWMP.

Izzy Martin stated that The Sierra Fund is (TSF) working in Yuba County as well as the upper watersheds, and is happy to dialog about how TSF has ended up where they are.

Greg Jones asked whether the RWMG has a quantifiable request for assistance from the JPA.

Izzy Martin responded that the RWMG requires JPA assistance with (1) public notice and holding of a public meeting to adopt the IRWMP. Tracy Eden-Bishop stated that assistance is also requested with (2) facilitation of stakeholder IRWMP adoption and (3) management of a projects database. Tracy Eden-Bishop asked whether the JPA is interested in providing assistance.

Andy Fecko stated that agency staff assigned to the RWMG are available to assist. Ken Payne expressed agreement and observed that the JPA is not proposing any changes at this time to staff participation.

Izzy Martin asked whether the points of contact were the four agency representatives in the RWMG, and no objection to this was expressed by the Board. Andy Fecko observed that future reorganization (to be discussed during the November 2020 meeting) may affect future staff availability.

Ashley Overhouse introduced herself as the new SYRCL representative and requested a meeting with JPA counsel to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The JPA Board Members expressed unanimous consent to an additional meeting in the interest of moving the discussion forward. Greg Jones stated that the meeting with counsel will be scheduled in the near future.

7. Budget Discussion and Approval.

Treasurer Tami Snowcraft presented the budget, which is a one-page document included in the agenda packet. A **MOTION** to adopt the budget was made by Ken Payne and was seconded by Greg Jones. Discussion ensued. Brian Mueller asked whether agency contributions are advisable this year, given the current balance. Andy Fecko expressed consent for the \$2,000 per-agency contribution currently in the budget. The Board Members expressed general agreement. Greg Jones asked for public comment on the budget, and none was given. The motion to adopt the budget as presented **CARRIED** unanimously.

Board of Directors Items/Reports

Ken Payne reported on the funding and commencement of work on the Upper American River Basin Drought Contingency Plan. Ken Payne reported that, on July 1, El Dorado County Water Agency will be renamed as El Dorado Water Agency.

Brian Mueller reported that El Dorado Irrigation District is working with El Dorado County Water Agency on the Drought Contingency Plan, and reported on a permit for changing points of diversion higher up on the American River.

Andy Fecko reported on PCWA's successful completion of the FERC long-term operating license for the Middle Fork project that has been 15 years in the making. The plan will be implemented immediately, and the major construction will begin next year and continue for a 15-year

duration. In addition, year two of the French Meadows project is underway, and includes approximately 2,000 additional acres of ecological forest thinning. Crews are on the ground now performing the work.

Greg Jones reported that although the COVID19 crisis forced the closure of recreational facilities, it also provided an opportunity for more watershed maintenance and timber harvesting at Scotts Flat Reservoir and Rollins Reservoir. The reservoirs are now open to boating, and the campgrounds will reopen in late June or early July.

Adjournment

Greg Jones adjourned the meeting at 4:05 pm.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the CABY JPA Board of Directors is scheduled for November 4, 2020, at 1:00 pm.