



MARIPOSA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Roads – Parks & Recreation – Facilities – Airport
Engineering – Surveying – Transportation – Utility Operations
Fleet Maintenance – Solid Waste - Cemeteries

TEAM, SERVICE, STEWARDSHIP

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WATER AGENCY ADVISORY BOARD ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES March 27, 2025

A. 3:07 PM Called to Order *(recording time marker 4:41)*

Attendee Name	Title	Present
Art Baggett	District I	N
Mike Guenther	District II	Y
Sonny Palmer	District III	N
Keasha Blew	District IV	Y
John McCamman	District V	Y
Dave Conway	At-Large	Y
Michael Martin	At-Large	Y
Susan Wages	MPUD	N
Walter Wall	County Counsel	N
Kevin Briggs	Assistant County Counsel	Y
Matiel Holloway	County Engineer - Interim	Y
Sam Cerveny	PW Deputy Director	Y
Bill Leonard	Southern Sierra Miwok	N
Tennille Holt	PW Exec. Assistant	Y
Danette Toso	BOS District 3	Y
Shannon Poe	BOS District 2	Y (By Phone)
Nick	Blackwater	Y
Chris		Y
Ben Goger	Planning	Y

B. Introductions *(recording time marker 6:23)*

Yes - Attendees and FFA Members for Presentation

C. Public Comment *(recording time marker 7:55)*

None

D. Approval of Minutes *(recording time marker 8:45)*

- 4-25-24 Minutes
 - John McCamman (M) Dave Conway (S)
 - No vote was taken
- 7-18-2024
 - Tabled for correct quorum
- 1-29-25 –

- Dave Conway (M) _____ (S)
- No Second
- No vote was taken

E. Action Items

None

F. Discussion Items *(recording time marker 11:00)*

Agenda Items 1 and 2 were switched so that the FFA may go first

1. FFA AG Issues Team – Presentation on Bay Area Delta Water Quality Control Plan *(recording time marker 11:00)*
 - Maggie Swanson FFA/Ag Advisor
 - Mariposa Chapter FFA - Ag Issues Team
 - Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan 2025 Listening Session – 15 min. max presentation
 - Answered questions, comments, and suggestions from the WAAB *(recording time marker 28:19)*
 - Discussion on Staffing, Process, and Procedure (Danielle Bondshu/Clerk of the Board) *(recording time marker 40:05)*
2. Danielle (COB) discussed the Staff Memo that considers moving committees, including the WAAB, under the purview of the Clerk of the Board's office. Wants to hear thoughts.
 - If the board moves committees to COB, the WAAB would no longer work with PW and would work with COB directly.
 - John McCamman is concerned that there is no expertise within the county for their committee. He states that Public Works does not possess the necessary expertise for the WAAB. Think Development Services may be a better fit.
 - Mike – Will we have the opportunity to make a recommendation for which department would be a better fit?
 - COB would be the outlet to get the WAAB items to the Board/ Water Agency
 - Keasha – What was the original role of Public Works and the WAAB?
 - Danielle – WAAB was placed under the Public Works umbrella because PW works division of special districts. PW would make sure the WAAB followed County policies and Brown Act, Roberts Rules of Order/Rosenberg and making sure they are focused on the items the committee was created for.
 - John McCamman – Would COB be in a position for complete the Annual Report *(recording time marker 49:01)*
 - Danielle – No, that is the job of the committee. If staffing allows, the COB office may be able to assist. Should be what the committee achieved and what the goals are for the following year.
 - Keasha – still not understanding what the issue is
 - Danielle – explained that there was a recent issue that bypassed PW and went to the Board that should not have.

- Walter Wall (County Council) – wanted to make sure to clarify what part Keasha was referring to. Why is it with Public Works, or why is it on the agenda for discussion?
 - Keasha – Clarification on both
 - Danielle – Does the WAAB want to stay under Public Works or are they open to moving under COB. The item is on the agenda for their recommendation today or it can be postponed to the next meeting.
 - Dave Conway – suggests that COB may be able to focus more on what the committees need
 - Danielle states that if the COB office takes over the committees, they would need to hire one position to oversee all committees, it would be more streamlined, and their sole duty would be committees. Would consult with needed departments or retain outside consultants if needed.
 - Mike – Is this time-sensitive
 - Danielle – It's on the agenda; hoping to have the answers to the Board in May *(recording time marker 59:45)*
 - Mike – is everyone comfortable making a decision today
 - John McCamman – still concerned about expertise
 - Danielle – WAAB could hire expertise
 - Walter Wall – Confirms John's concerns
 - Danielle – Can consider contracting
 - John – County Council office could oversee consultant
 - Walt – COB could contact CC if an outside expert is needed.
 - Mike - Wants to make sure the expert is lined up if needed.
 - Danielle – WAAB has funds that can be used to contract
 - Walt – Whichever department handles the committee will consult with CC, and if an expert is needed, it would be contracted.
 - Mike, Keasha, and Sonny all think it sounds good to move to COB
 - Danielle - No motion needed, just need direction/recommendation
 - Mike requests moving forward that they want updates on things happening within the County, that they be informed of those items and get quarterly financial reports at the meetings. *(recording time marker 1:07:25)*
 - Keasha – Still not clear on the role of PW
 - Danielle – PW is charged with updating you on any Water Board projects.
 - PW can send out a group email. However, questions should be directed to PW or the WAAB chair, not the entire group (never use "reply all").
 - Danielle – working on bringing a Brown Act training to all committees
 - No Public Comment – Closed
3. Updated Blackwater Engineering Mariposa County MID Settlement Water Allocation Scoping Study *(recording time marker 1:12:37)*
- Sam – Second draft of Scoping Study to include additional details on the Fish Hatcheries and Ground Water Infiltration as requested by the WAAB. The WAAB should review it and forward any questions or comments to

Tennille so that we can forward those to Blackwater for a response. Blackwater will be at the next meeting and can then respond to those questions directly.

- John – Where is Blackwater in their contract?
- Sam – Based on the recommendation from the WAAB, it would then go to Feasibility Study. WAAB needs to decide
- Mike – This marks the completion of the second phase, and we are now moving on to the third phase.
- Keasha and the Committee provided the most recent draft
- Dave Conway – Is the Scoping process over
- Sam Seems Prudent to have questions ready for items on potential projects and or non-projects so they can move forward.
- Mike, did we eliminate the projects that were not going to work?
- Dave – Still unclear whether the scoping process is complete.
- Mike – That's my understanding that the scoping process is over, and the next phase is to select a project and determine how it can be accomplished.
- John – MOU is not included in this
- Mike – Where we are with the MOU – MOU is under review and table discussion on that issue for now
- Walt – MID Contract – The item is on the upcoming BOS agenda to retain council. It will take some time, 60 Days at least (*recording time marker 1:18:25*)
- Walt – Back to Dave's comment, is the Scoping Study over, or does Blackwater expect questions on the Scoping Study so they can further revise and make it final or will Blackwater want to discuss the Feasibility Study and actual projects
- Sam – They are expecting that if the WAAB likes a particular project from the Scoping study, we can move forward. Instead of making minor changes that don't amount to anything in the Scoping Study, it just uses up more money that could be used toward the feasibility Study. If accepted, it can be moved from draft to complete, and we can proceed with the Feasibility Study.
- John – If outside counsel looks at the MOU, and we can act on the MOU, if in fact we go in that direction. If we can execute the MOU, we would like to put it into the Feasibility Study
- Walt – Fully understand that is what you would like, however is it a matter of trying to reconcile those two timelines
- Public Comment None - Closed

G. Recess WAAB at 4:23 PM (*recording time marker 1:22:11*)

H. Call to order Drought & Water Shortage Task Force – 4:23 PM

1. Drought Resilience Planning Assistance Program Funding Agreement

- Sam – Extension request submitted to extend the deadline to April 30, 2026.
- Mike - Last time it was mentioned that we had a consultant in mind.
- Sam – Yes, Mark Thomas will be the consultant (Mark Thomas is the Company name)
- John – Is it still the plan to work with Sierra Foothill Conservancy
- Sam – Mark Thomas is on-call and could contract with someone else
- Mike – Bartle Wells Rate Study (*recording time marker 1:25:20*)
- Sam - will have multiple public hearings
- Sam - extension was submitted early and looks like we will get it
- Keasha – Concerned about Community Outreach
- Sam – This is meeting #2,
- John – Yes, that was the intent of the Drought & Water Storage Task Force
- Sam – Given that the grant was awarded in February but not executed until September, we have had two meetings since the grant was executed. The delay in the execution is the reason for the extension request.

2. Resiliency Plan Update, Blackwater Consulting Report Status, Recommendations, and Review (*recording time marker 1:26:10*)

- Kelly NPS – Discusses resources that are in play in the Wawona area. Capacity has been an issue in the past, but they have implemented temporary systems to support firefighting efforts. Can access South Fork River for Aviation assets. However, there are some limitations to what aviation can access, limited to small to medium size, which is why they have also set up the portable Heli-well.
- Mike – In developing the plan, including water that needs to be set aside
- Kelly – Yes, we can bring in some utility branch chiefs who are more familiar with the water systems in Wawona and YW. They could consider water usage reduction and work with us on that.
- Mike – will have the same questions for Cal-Fire and the information will be added into the Drought Resilience & Water Usage Plan
- Kelly – have seen a reduction due to the temporary closure of the Wawona Hotel.
- Dave – Thought that one of the charges was to look at State Small and private wells.
- John – Yes, but YW & Wawona both have much larger systems than that.
- Mike – Was hoping the Bartle Wells report would be back. Wants to have well companies that worked during the drought for their feedback. Wondering where the Engineer left off with the private wells.
- Sam – Data still needs to be collected

- John – Also discussed was to use the resiliency plan as a way to facilitate a discussion on small water systems
- Mike – Wawona down to just the two water systems now
- Dave - Dry Well Committee formed around 2014. Environmental Health has a lot of this information and would be a good place for Public Works to start.
- Sam – Will check into the Dry Well Committee

I. Public Comment

None

J. Adjourn Drought & Water Shortage Task Force – 4:40 PM *(recording time marker 1:38:36)*

K. Reconvene Water Agency Advisory Board – 4:40 PM

L. Next Meeting

Next meeting scheduled for May 22, 2025 at 3:00 PM

M. Adjournment – 4:40 PM *(recording time marker 1:38:58)*

Respectfully submitted,



Tennille Holt

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