



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 January 29, 2025

A. 3:02 PM Called to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Present
Mike Guenther	District II	Y
Sonny Palmer	District III	Y
John McCamman	District V	Y
Dave Conway	At-Large	Y
Susan Wages	MPUD	Y
Walter Wall	County Counsel	Y
Matiel Holloway	County Engineer - Interim	Y
Sam Cerveny	PW Deputy Director	Y
Bill Leonard	Southern Sierra Miwok	Y
Tim Rumfelt	OES	Y
Tennille Holt	PW Exec. Assistant	Y
Danette Toso	BOS District	Y
Leigh Westerlund	County Assistant CAO	Y
Shannon Poe	BOS District	Call-In
Wes Myer	Flying M Ranch	Call-In
Art Baggett		Call-In
Jenni Kiser	BOS	Left when Danette Toso arrived (3:02 PM – 3:13 PM)

B. Introductions

Yes

C. Public Comment

None

D. Approval of Minutes

Postponed for proper quorum

Committee's policy

11.6 If the committee membership changes enough to prevent a set of minutes from being approved by the original members in a number that equals or exceeds a quorum of the committee, and if no recording exists for new members to review to become qualified to vote on the minutes, then minutes may be deemed approved and marked as a "Technical Approval" under this policy.

E. Updates and Reports

None

F. Action Items

1. Appoint Mike Guenther as Board Chair
 - John (M) Sonny (S)
 - Motion carried
2. Appoint Sonny as Vice Chair
 - John (M) Mike (S)
 - Motion carried
3. Approve Revised By-Laws
 - Quorum confirmed Resolution 09-1, quorum = half plus 1, no By-Law change required
 - John (M) Sonny (S)
 - Motion Approved as Revised
4. Approve 2025 Meeting Schedule
 - Dave (M) John (S)
 - Approved as presented

G. Discussion Items

1. Review of Payments
 - Leigh Westerlund gave an update on all WAAB accounts
 - WAAB Fund/Account - \$209K, managed by public works
 - MID Settlement Fund/Account – \$397K
 - County Counsel - \$30K, remaining \$20K reserved
 - 2023 only year reached \$300K
 - Escrow Account - \$4,934,838.00 (Typically 1 – 1.5% Interest)
 - John - Discussion about the wattage produced and whether or not we were being paid correctly. County Counsel retained an expert, and it was determined that the wattage was being calculated correctly.
 - John – MID is operating at less than PG&E, Auditor states that they are operating at less than PG&E. Have done the forensics that can be done.
2. Discuss possible action on MOU to retain an expert.
 - John states this is highly technical, serious water politics, negotiations with MID contract, the County will need to be represented in some manner or the County will lose out.
 - Mike – to clarify, John is speaking about the MID contract and that it needs to be renegotiated if we follow through and take a team of lawyers. WAAB would need to put forward a recommendation.
 - John - the goal is to overturn years of previously negotiated agreements.
 - Supervisor Toso – Water is very precious, with the wildfire concerns, she appreciates everyone thinking out of the box.
 - John – there is an overriding state provision regarding the use of water for Wildfires.

Mike – Storage logistics and feasibility are a real problem.

- Wes – Recommends retaining the Hallmark Group as they have the expertise to do this, suggests a joint venture with Mariposa County, Flying M & Hallmark.

Public Comment

- Art Baggett – It is worth the money to review the proposal and move it forward
 - Wes – Can the list of options be provided to WAAB
 - Bill – Would like to see the actual site and what are the possibilities?
 - Wes - Everything at this point is preliminary. Must move forward to locate the route
 - John - There are any geological roadblocks and/or environmental impacts
 - Bill - States it is an option for the Southern Sierra Miwok Tribe to do the archeological portion, for a fee, of course.
 - John states that WAAB needs to submit an agenda item to the BOS.
 - Motion to send minute order as discussed in regard to Burns Dam MOU to BOS: John will write it up and give it to PW.
 - Sonny (M) Mike (S)
 - Motion approved
3. Blackwater Consultant Feasibility Study – Status
- 82K, reallocated \$60K to Blackwater, \$21,118 left
 - Task #2 give options
 - About 12 hours left of work should be done by the next meeting for the committee to review
 - Have completed by next mtg. and will present at June Mtg.
 - Task #3 move forward with choice from Task #2

H. Recess WAAB at 3:53 PM

I. Call to order Drought & Water Shortage Task Force - 3:53 PM

1. Drought Resilience Planning Assistance Program Funding Agreement

- \$125 Grant expires in June; Public Works will apply for an extension

2. Resiliency Plan Update, Blackwater Consulting Report Status, Recommendations and Review

- Not Blackwater, met with a consultant to see if they want to work on the project, with a possible due date of June 30, 2025
- The only expense so far is administration for Engineering staff to review Madera's plan
- Met with a consultant to take on the plan.
- requested the outline completed by the March meeting

- Confirmed Sierra Conservancy to be involved
- Public works applying for an extension
 - If the extension is not granted, then funds must be used by June 30, 2025
- Supervisor Toso – The Community and Ag Community would have a lot to say about metering wells
- Mike – We must protect the resources we have
- John States that Water Agency Funds have been used to assist special districts with updating equipment/facilities
- Mike wants to make sure that funds are spent on actual water projects
- Supervisor Poe – waiting on an update from the Auditor's office to provide information regarding the Water District in Coulterville & Don Pedro
 - Option of Town Hall Mtg for Coulterville & Don Pedro, do we have the information to open up talks with the public?
- Sam Cerveny – Bartle Wells must do a rate study to see what rates would need to be.
 - Supervisor Poe – would like to know the timeline for Bartle wells
 - Sam Cerveny – will find out

J. Adjourn Drought & Water Shortage Task Force – 4:06 PM

K. Reconvene Water Agency Advisory Board – 4:06 PM

- Dave - wondering why past meetings were canceled instead of rescheduled
- Mike - It was just a matter of logistics and getting a quorum. It's so important to make sure everyone makes the meetings a priority.

L. Next Meeting

Next meeting scheduled for March 27, 2025 at 3:00 PM

M. Adjournment - 4:11 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Tennille Holt

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