

Summary Minutes

ROLL CALL

Directors John Coleman, Chair, Terry Woodrow, Vice-chair, Jack Garamendi, Richard Farrington, Richard Blood, and Ed Gonzalez were present at the beginning of the meeting. Director Jeff Davidson joined after agenda item 2. Absent: Brian Oneto, Amador County. Also present were Executive Officer (EO) Richard Sykes, Authority Counsel Greg Gillott, Administrative Officer Rob Alcott, Authority Secretary Lisa (Stuart) Gualco, and 23 visitors and presenters.

PUBLIC COMMENT – none.

AUTHORITY BUSINESS

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2022

The summary minutes of the January 28, 2022 meeting were provided to the Board for review.

Motion 05-22 to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 28, 2022 was made by Director Woodrow, seconded by Director Farrington and carried by roll call vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

2. Treasurer's Report –First Quarter FY 2022

A copy of the Treasurer's Report for the First Quarter of fiscal year 2022, which ended December 31, 2021, was presented to the Board.

Motion 06-22 to accept the Treasurer's Report for filing was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Blood and carried by roll call vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

Director Davidson joined the meeting, changing the vote count to 7 for the remainder of the meeting.

3. Patrick Wright Presentation

Mr. Wright had a scheduling conflict and was unable to present at this meeting. This presentation will be rescheduled.

[Note: Due to scheduling issues, the presentations in agenda items 4 and 5 were changed in order. John Buckley provided his presentation as described in agenda item 5 first, followed by the Blue Forest Conservation presentation as described in agenda item 4.]

4. Blue Forest Finance Presentation

At the April 2021 meeting the Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Blue Forest Finance. The MOU anticipates the preparation of a Forest Resilience Bond (FRB) Feasibility Study that explores options for financing forest health projects in the Upper Mokelumne River watershed.

Blue Forest Conservation's team including Matt Sjolholm, Phil Saksa and Nick Wobbrock presented information regarding potential projects, partners and project benefits that have

been identified in conjunction with the preparation of the draft Feasibility Study and responded to Board member questions. As a next step Blue Forest will be contacting individual UMRWA member agencies to discuss the value of potential benefits.

5. John Buckley Presentation

Mr. Buckley, Executive Director of the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, was invited to share his insights regarding the recent process to complete the Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape (SERAL) project for the Stanislaus National Forest. The draft Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the project was released for public review and comment in February 2022. The goals and scope of the SERAL Project are viewed to be very similar to the Forest Projects Plan – Phase 2 that UMRWA will soon pursue in collaboration with the Eldorado and Stanislaus National Forests, the ACCG and others.

Mr. Buckley highlighted several points including 1) that as the size of the project area increases, so does the complexity and controversy of the planning process, 2) the cost of implementation on SERAL is immense and far higher than the \$55 million earmarked in the current infrastructure bill, and 3) the consensus-based approach used in the planning and environmental documentation was essential to success and future funding.

Finally, Mr. Buckley noted that a SERAL-like project in the Mokelumne Watershed would likely take two or more years to complete.

John Coleman requested that John Buckley be invited to EBMUD's Pardee BBQ.

6. Forest Projects Report

This Forest Projects Report included an update on the Authority's Forest Projects Plan initiative, Phases 1 and 2. In addition, a summary status of each of the Authority's three pending grant applications was provided to the Board. The report concluded with a summarization of awarded and executed grants, along with grants UMRWA has applied for and others of potential interest.

Motion 07-22 to 1) authorize staff to retain a qualified consultant or consulting firm to lead the FPP – Phase 2 planning effort and authorize the Executive Officer to execute an agreement for these services for an amount up to \$20,000 to initiate the planning process, 2) authorize the Executive Officer to execute the Wildlife Conservation Board's awarded Forest Conservation Program grant agreement in the amount of approximately \$650,000, 3) authorize the Executive Officer to execute the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program grant agreement in the amount of approximately \$355,000, 4) authorize the Executive Officer to execute the Cal Fire Forest Health Program grant, if awarded, in an amount up to \$5 million, 5) authorize staff to identify, evaluate, select, and retain a qualified consultant for archeological surveys and reporting as required for the FPP – Phase 1 effort, and authorize the Executive Officer to execute an agreement for these services for an amount up to \$110,000 was made by Director Davidson, seconded by Director Farrington and carried by roll call vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

7. Status of IRWM Grant Applications

On January 28, the Board authorized submittal of grants under two DWR programs: the IRWM Proposition 1 Round 2 Funding Program and the 2022 Multi-benefit Drought Funding Program. The Board received an update noting that the IRWM Round 2 solicitation notice has not yet been issued by DWR and the Drought Funding Program grant agreement is being developed by the primary grantee, Sierra Institute.

8. Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

The proposed FY 2023 budget was provided to the Board for review. The budget is organized into the Authority's two primary revenue sources: Member funding and non-Member funding (grant, USFS and other funding). The total member-supported portion of the proposed budget is \$302,725 (identical to the current fiscal year budget). Also provided were the member funding offsets and the Authority's work activities planned for FY 2023.

Motion 08-22 to endorse the proposed FY 2023 UMRWA budget for review purposes and authorize staff to transmit the proposed budget for Member Agency review and comment was made by Director Davidson, seconded by Director Gonzalez and carried by roll call vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

9. Ad Hoc Committee to Review Joint Powers Agreement

At the January 2022 meeting Board members expressed an interest in reviewing the JPA to determine if an update is needed. The agreement was last updated in 2008. Directors Coleman, Garamendi and Gonzalez volunteered to form an ad hoc committee to review and recommend updates to the JPA and requested an item be included on this meeting agenda to create such a committee. As was requested at the January meeting, the Board was provided with information that the maximum number of board members that can be on an ad hoc committee is four (4), as well as information on whether UMRWA may perform or fund work outside of the UMRWA boundary for UMRWA related work. Director Farrington volunteered for this committee.

Motion 09-22 to approve creation of an ad hoc committee to review the UMRWA joint powers agreement (JPA) and report the committee's findings and any recommended amendments at the October 2022 Board meeting, and to select and appoint these four Directors (noted here) to serve on the Ad Hoc JPA Review Committee was made by Director Davidson, seconded by Director Gonzalez and carried by roll call vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

10. Mattley Meadows Restoration Project – UMRWA Cost Share Agreement with Plumas Corporation

At its July 23, 2021 meeting, the UMRWA Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve a \$10,000 cost share contribution to the Mattley Meadows Restoration Project to support the Plumas Corporation's grant application to the Wildlife Conservation Board. The WCB awarded the grant to Plumas Corporation and the project is proceeding. The UMRWA contribution will allow planning to be completed and construction initiated. The proposed agreement includes provisions for UMRWA payments, contract term, and standard language for hold harmless, non-discrimination and assignment.

Motion 10-22 to authorize the Executive Officer to execute an agreement with Plumas Corporation to facilitate UMRWA's \$10,000 cost share contribution for the Mattley Meadows Restoration Project was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Davidson and carried by roll call vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

11. Legislative Issues Update

No legislative report was included in this agenda package and the EO had not received any additional information to present at this meeting.

Director Farrington would like the July agenda to include discussion of the H. R. 6903 (McClintock) bill currently in front of Congress and Calaveras County Water District

General Manager Michael Minkler asked that the Board review and discuss its position on AB 1717 at the July meeting, as well.

Board Member Comments:

Director Farrington mentioned the new strategic plan published by the CA Wildfire Resilience Task Force for Expanding the Use of Beneficial Fire which includes pilot projects and a key action item (7.1) to acquire funding.

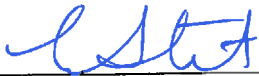
Director Blood requested information on hydraulic and water quality monitoring in the watershed, including amount of rainfall and water quality based on quantity of rainfall. East Bay Municipal Utility District's Michael Tognolini noted that EBMUD samples watershed water quality regularly. He will provide information at the July Board meeting regarding their agency's sampling above Pardee reservoir including sampling locations, frequency, trends, etc.

Executive Officer Comments:

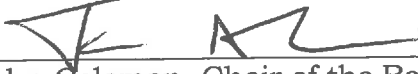
The Executive Officer stated that the Vets Hall in Valley Springs would be booked so that the next UMRWA Board meeting could be held in person there unless Pardee's McLean Hall opens back up for hosting meetings. He stated that he would provide a brief review of the DAC needs assessment report at the July meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Director Coleman adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on July 22, 2022, with the location to be determined.

SUBMITTED BY:



Lisa Stuart, Authority Secretary



John Coleman, Chair of the Board

APPROVED: July 22, 2022