

Friday, July 23, 2021 – 1:30 p.m.
Governing Board Regular Meeting
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
McLean Hall, Pardee Center, Valley Springs, CA 95252

Summary Minutes

ROLL CALL

Directors Terry Woodrow, Brian Oneto, Jack Garamendi, Richard Farrington, Richard Blood, Ed Gonzalez, and Scott Ratterman were present at the meeting. Director Bill Patterson, East Bay Municipal Utility District arrived after agenda item #2. Absent: None. Also present were Executive Officer Richard Sykes, Authority Counsel Greg Gillott, Authority Secretary Lisa (Stuart) Gualco, and 11 visitors and presenters.

PUBLIC COMMENT – none.

AUTHORITY BUSINESS

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2021

Motion 11-21 to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 23, 2021, was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Garamendi and carried by voice vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

2. Treasurer’s Report –Second Quarter FY 2021

A copy of the Treasurer’s Report for the Second Quarter of fiscal year 2021, which ended March 31, 2021, was presented to the Board.

Motion 12-21 to accept the Treasurer’s Report for filing was made by Director Garamendi, seconded by Director Blood and carried by voice vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

Director Patterson East Bay Municipal Utility District arrived, changing the vote count to eight (8) for the remainder of the meeting.

3. MAC Region IRWM Update

Katie Cole (Woodard & Curran) presented an update to the Board on two planned and ongoing MAC Region initiatives: (1) the stakeholder Regional Participants Committee (RPC) will be convened later this year to update the MAC Plan list of eligible implementation projects. Planned update task activities include conducting a call for projects, scoring and ranking projects received, preparing an updated project list incorporating the new projects, and appending the MAC Plan with the updated project list; and (2) The status of West Point Water Supply Reliability Project. The Department of Water Resources in July 2020 awarded UMRWA a \$556,447 Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant. Funding from this grant is passed through to Calaveras County Water District for the West Point Water Supply Reliability Project. CCWD project design is in progress.

Work is also progressing on the MAC/TSTAN Regions Disadvantaged Community (DAC) needs assessment. Key water and wastewater issues faced by area DAC’s will be identified through assessment surveys. The results will identify potential MAC Plan implementation projects and be used to guide future potential grant procurement efforts.

4. Forest Projects Report

The Forest Projects Report included a presentation on the Forest Projects Plan and an associated demonstration of the recently completed Mapping Tool. Other topics addressed included the status of recent forest health related grant applications, a request by Plumas Corporation for cost-share dollars to support Mattley Meadow Restoration Project implementation, and the UMRWA Forest Projects status table.

The Forest Projects Plan initiative is a critical next step to addressing the Upper Mokelumne's wildfire risk. The number of remaining NEPA/CEQA certified projects currently eligible for fuels treatment implementation on USFS land in the Mokelumne Watershed is severely limited. Following consultations with Calaveras Ranger District and Amador Ranger District staff and members of the ACCG Strategic Landscape Assessment Work Group, UMRWA is taking the lead in developing a Forest Projects Plan (FPP) for a large area of the Upper Mokelumne watershed.

The fundamental goal of the FPP will be to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires in the Upper Mokelumne River watershed as quickly as possible. This goal will be achieved by seeking grants and other funding to implement projects identified in the FPP that reduce forest fuel loads and forest ladder fuels in strategically selected Calaveras NF and Eldorado NF locations in the shortest timeframe possible.

Motion 13-21 to ratify the Executive Officer's signature and approve the Grant Agreement with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for \$200,000 to fund initial the initial phase of the Forest Projects Plan was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Blood and carried by voice vote: Yea 8 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

Motion 14-21 to approve a \$10,000 contribution to the Mattley Meadow Restoration Project, as funding is available in the current FY 2021 budget using projected end-of-year unspent funds was made by Director Oneto, seconded by Director Garamendi and carried by voice vote: Yea 8 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

5. Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

The Board reviewed the proposed FY 2022 Budget on April 23 and directed staff to transmit the proposed budget to Member Agencies for review and comment. A memorandum presenting the proposed FY 2022 budget and agency assessments were sent on May 24 to Member Agency General Managers and County Administrative Officers with copies to each Member Agency's UMRWA Board director. EBMUD replied with no comments. In its comments JVID requested a waiver of their FY 2022 assessment (\$4,604).

The proposed FY 2022 budget was presented to the Board. The total member-supported portion of the proposed budget is \$302,725 (\$8,000 less than the current fiscal year). Also provided was information regarding member funding offsets which include in-kind contributions by Amador County and EBMUD along with indirect revenues associated with USFS payments and SNC grant reimbursements.

Motion 15-21 to (1) approve the FY 2022 UMRWA budget and authorize staff to transmit invoices to Member Agencies requesting payment of FY 2022 assessments by October 31, 2021 and (2) grant JVID a temporary deferral (to be revisited April 2022) of its FY 2022 assessment payment (\$4,604) and offset that deferral by approving the transfer of \$4,604

from Reserves to FY 2022 budget was made by Director Ratterman, seconded by Director Oneto and carried by voice vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 1 (Gonzalez).

6. Legislative Issues Update

Per the Board's April 23 direction, staff submitted letters of support on behalf of UMRWA to the authors of AB 697, AB 1570 and SB 804.

An additional budget bill of interest has been identified: SB 129, which provides \$1.95 million for operations and \$400,000 for repairs at the Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp. UMRWA previously requested that the administration keep the Camp open. This funding would ensure the camp's continued operation.

At the federal level, on May 26, 2021, (SB 1855) Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla (Calif.), Senator Ron Wyden (Ore.) and Congressman Jimmy Panetta introduced the Wildfire Emergency Act, a bill with the goal of reducing catastrophic wildfires in the West. A summary of the three primary provisions of the bill was presented to the Board.

Board Member Comments: Director Patterson expressed his appreciation of the continued work of the UMRWA Board Members. Director Woodrow provided some details on the status of the Tamarack fire.

Executive Officer Comments: The EO confirmed the October 1 meeting date and that there would be an UMRWA workshop at that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Director Woodrow adjourned the meeting at 3:34 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on October 01, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at Pardee Lodge, Pardee Center, Valley Springs.

SUBMITTED BY:



Lisa Stuart, Authority Secretary



John Coleman, Chair of the Board

APPROVED: October 01, 2021