



Executive Board Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2015

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Executive Board Representatives: Laura Pagano (San Francisco Public Utilities Commission); Jim Ervin (San Jose); Mike Connor (East Bay Dischargers Authority); Ben Horenstein (East Bay Municipal Utility District); Roger Bailey (Central Contra Costa Sanitary District).

Other Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency/Company</u>
Amanda Roa	Delta Diablo
David Senn	SFEI
Denise Connors	LWA
Greg Baatrup	FSSD
Holly Kennedy	HDR
Karin North	Palo Alto
Lori Schectel	CCCSD
Melanie Tan	Kennedy Jenks
Robert Wilson	City of Petaluma
Tom Hall	EOA
Dave Richardson	RMC
Amy Chastain	SFPUC
Joe Neugebauer	West County Wastewater Dist.
Warner Chabot	SFEI
David Williams	BACWA
Lorien Fono	BACWA
Sherry Hull	BACWA

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSIDERATION TO TAKE AGENDA ITEMS OUT OF ORDER

A request to discuss Item # 9 RMP Fee Calculation out of order was accepted by the Chair.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. August 14, 2015 BACWA Executive Board Meeting Minutes
2. July, 2015 Treasurer's Report - the Executive Director noted that there was no Revenue Report this month since FY16 invoices were sent out in August. He also noted changes to the formats of the Fund Reports, the Assistant Executive Director provided copies of the new format for the Expense Reports.

3. Update on FY16 Invoicing – the Assistant Executive Director gave a short update on the total invoices for FY16. In late August a total of \$641,379 was invoiced for BACWA Dues; \$675,000 was invoiced for CBC Fees; \$600,508 was invoiced for Nutrient Surcharges; and \$9,800 was invoiced for Non-Member Committee Fees for a total of \$1,926,687. When combined with Special Program Fees of \$196,580 for AIR & WOT, a total of \$2,119,457 was invoiced for FY16. To date BACWA has received a total of \$551,582 in payment of invoices.

Consent Calendar items 1 and 2 were approved in a motion made by Mike Connor and seconded by Ben Horenstein. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVALS & AUTHORIZATIONS

Agenda Item 4 – Approval of the Annual Payment to SFEI as required by the Watershed Permit. A Board Authorization Request and supporting documents were included in the Handout on **Pages 15-17**. The oversight of the expenditure of the Funds was discussed. It was noted that the Water Board appreciated the effort.

Item 4 was approved in a motion made by Mike Connor and seconded by Jim Ervin. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 5 – Approval of the Agreement with Solano Community College to provide Water Operating Training Classes. This item was postponed to the November 20, 2015 BACWA Executive Board Meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS-POLICY/STRATEGIC

Agenda Item 6 - Discussion – Nutrients

a. Regulatory

- i. Draft Nutrient Watershed Permit Group Annual Report – A copy of the Draft Nutrient Watershed Permit Annual Report was included in the Handout on **Pages 18-23**. BACWA requested and received a six week delay for delivery of the Annual Report from the Regional Water Board due to the need to further explore and remedy data gaps. The RWB requested that BACWA provide a list of the participants on October 1, 2015 and the Annual Report on November 12, 2015. BACWA will contact the Points of Contact to inform them about the delay. It was noted that the only POTW not participating is the Crockett Community Services District. Most of the missing data for the Group Annual report has been located and HDR already sent the data to the POC's for confirmation. It was noted that 13267 Letter data collection requirements differed from CIWQS data. In the Group Annual Report, Annual Flows, Dry Season Flows and Concentration data will be compared for all Plants and Subembayments. The schedule on the Group Annual Report is as

- follows: Oct 1 – Letter of Participants to RWB; Oct 6 – Draft Group Annual Report to CMG; late October – Draft Annual Report to POC's; Nov 12 – Group Annual Report to RWB. A Summary of Issues will be included and note will be made that reporting data and CIWQS could be improved. Additional information can be included for individual plants if requested by individual agencies.
- ii. Update on Optimization/Upgrade Report – HDR reported that all site visits have been completed and reports should be finalized within a week.
- b. Technical Work
- i. New Studies for FY16 – SFEI presented an overview of the FY15 progress draft report on the Nutrient Science Program and requested feedback from BACWA. The report will be provided annually in September. Several BACWA Board members commented on the report favorably. They also noted some crossover between HDR and SFEI data collection efforts and suggested more coordination in future years.
 - ii. Debrief on State of the Estuary Conference – The Chair welcomed Warner Chabot, Executive Director of San Francisco Estuary Institute and the Aquatic Science Center. It was noted that a major outcome of the Estuary Conference was the attention being paid to the microplastics issue. California Senator Diane Feinstein's staff has contacted SFEI and report that the Senator is very interested in learning more about the issue. Mr. Chabot suggested that BACWA do a briefing for the Senator's staff and volunteered to set up a meeting. BACWA Board members noted that the opportunity is broader than just microbeads, and is a chance to discuss larger issues of water quality and funding for the SF Bay with Feinstein's staff. BAPPG has been considering microbeads as a pollutant of concern, but the issue of microplastics might be beyond the scope of pollution prevention.
BACWA needs to share the complexities of water quality, treatment and pollution prevention limitations issues with a broader audience, along with suggestions for solutions. There is a need for more science on microplastics, especially regarding recycled water and filtering. At a request for volunteers for a microplastics subcommittee to meet with the Senator's staff, all five Principal agencies volunteered. The BACWA Executive Director will set up a subcommittee conference call in early October.
 - iii. DO Objectives for Suisun Marsh – Information was provided beginning on Page 32 of the Handout regarding work the Water Board is conducting and how this interfaces with the Assessment Framework.
 - iv. Jim Ervin provided a presentation about the lack of correlation between nutrients and impairment in the Lower South Bay.
- c. Governance Structure – Debrief on SC Meeting #6. A copy of the Summary of Action Items from Steering Committee Meeting #6 was included in the Handout on **Pages 24-30**. – It includes an analysis of where the budget stands and projects the budget going forward, providing an update on how money is being spent. One item of note was investment in a sampling boat that should prove to be cost-effective. There have been reductions to the overall budget for the Science Plan because of decreasing RMP funds.

There is \$2.8M/year in research needs but only \$1.17M in funding. It was noted that one of the action items from the Steering Committee meeting was to set up a workshop that focuses on the ammonia paradox with a goal of determining major agreements and disagreements and the best way to address them in the Science Plan.

- i. Debrief on Planning Subcommittee Activities – Minutes of the Planning Subcommittee Meeting #13 were included in the Handout on **Pages 31-37**.
- ii. Program Coordinator – A Draft of the Request for Proposals was included in the Handout on **Pages 38-51**. The Planning Subcommittee is still considering this and will be asking SFEI for a proposal before the decision to broadly distributing a Request for Proposals.

Agenda **Item 7** – Discussion: Pardee Technical Seminar. A Draft Final Agenda was included in the Handout on **Page 52**. The Executive Director gave an overview of the Agenda noting that HDR will most likely deliver a web presentation. It was noted that the Water Board suggested that an item be added to discuss incentives for POTW's to continue pilot programs for nutrient removal. Board members suggested additional possible attendees.

Agenda **Item 8** – Discussion: Annual Meeting Planning. An Agenda and 2014 and 2015 Surveys were included in the Handout on **Pages 53-76**. Board members made several suggestions for additional Agenda items including microplastics, and discussed how to recognize Committees. It was suggested a handout be provided with the top three committee accomplishments for the year.

Agenda **Item 9** – Discussion: RMP Fee Calculation. An explanation of the Annual Budget Study for the Technical Review Committee was distributed. Questions include whether to continue to use current metrics and issues include short-term revenue shortfalls and long-term sustainability since purchasing power decreases every year. It will be a challenge to fund all studies needed. Options include changing the basis for fee calculations, especially as agencies are reducing their pollutant loading to the Bay through water recycling. BACWA is working with the Water Board to develop a proposal for reduced monitoring, and the Water Board is developing a list of current monitoring frequencies. A committee will put together a proposal on reduced monitoring for presentation to the Water Board at the Pardee Technical Seminar.

OTHER BUSINESS-OPERATIONAL

Agenda **Item 10** – Discussion: Toxicity Update – CASA obtained a new draft of the State Toxicity Plan through the Freedom of Information Act, which is linked in the packet. The draft incorporates many of BACWA's comments but does not address a statistical threshold for test acceptance. LACSD has retained an expert to put together a proposal on statistical tests to ensure toxicity tests are valid. One idea that has been floated for reducing toxicity testing costs

is to drop the sensitive species screening. It does not result in cost savings for all agencies to use the same species, but it may be possible to drop the routine screening test and only perform it when there has been a change at the treatment facility or in the SIUs. RPM will develop a recommendation for decreased screening tests.

Agenda **Item 11** - Discussion: Drought Issues. [See link](#) Flow reductions are affecting outfalls and other uses of excess water. An issue that came up at the State of the Estuary is that there is insufficient freshwater entering the Bay.

Agenda **item 12** – Discussion: Update on Ebola Research – An email from CASA was included in the Handout on **Page 77**. CASA research concludes that viruses do survive in wastewater in the absence of disinfection. Both bleach and quaternary disinfectants effectively mitigate contamination.

Agenda **Item 13** – Citizen Suit Reform Legislation – A draft letter for agencies and a copy of the proposed legislation HR3353 was included in the Handout on **Pages 78-82**. CASA is engaged in this effort with Senator Feinstein’s staff.

Agenda **Item 14** – BACWA Sponsorship of the IRWMP Update – In the past BACWA has provided a portion of the funds for this update. A copy of the previous agreement was included in the Handout on **Pages 83-91**. There is a proposal from the Coordinating Committee to update the website and obtain a new website vendor. An RFP will be distributed and options will be evaluated based on the proposals received.

Agenda **Item 15** – Selection Committee for Arleen Navarret Award in 2016. A copy of the Schedule for the Award was included in the Handout on **Page 92**. It was noted that a Board member is needed to join the selection committee. SFPUC volunteered but may not be able to sit on the selection committee if a nomination is received from the SFPUC.

REPORTS

Committee Reports were included in the handout packet for agenda **Item16. Pages 93 to 105.**

AIR Committee: A report from the September 9, 2015 meeting was included in the Handout. The chart describing how legislation and regulations impact operations at POTW’s was noted. The Committee is still deciding if they want to go forward with a meeting between the EPA, PG&E and BACWA even though there do not appear to be any agencies considering pipeline injection at this time. It was also noted that the Committee had concerns about having sufficient budgetary support moving forward. This will be addressed as part of the annual budgeting process.

BAPPG: A supporting letter from BAPPG re AB 888 (Bloom) – BAPPG Support for Plastic Microbeads Ban that was sent to Bay Area State Senators was included in the Handout. Also

included was a list of links for more information on microbeads. Kelly Moran is working with BAPPG on cuprous iodide.

Biosolids Committee: No meeting.

Collections Committee: A report from the September 10, 2015 meeting was included in the Handout.

InfoShare Group: No meeting. There is a new Chair and quarterly meetings will begin soon. It was noted that there is an Asset Management Group currently meeting that has expressed interest in becoming associated with BACWA. It was suggested that they be incorporated into the InfoShare Group rather than become a separate Committee.

Lab Committee: A report from the September 16, 2015 meeting was included in the Handout.

Permits Committee: Reports from the September 8, 2015 meeting was include in the Handout.

Pretreatment Committee: A report from the September 10, 2015 meeting was included in the Handout.

Recycled Water Committee: A report from the September 2, 2015 meeting was included in the Handout.

Member Highlights: Executive Board Representatives (Board) were given an opportunity to provide updates from each of the Principal agencies under agenda **Item 17, Member Highlights**. Non-principal members were also given an opportunity to report out on behalf of their agencies. No actions were taken on the report-outs.

EBDA: EBDA is running several pilot programs on peracetic acid disinfection that are looking good. Will be going to a full scale pilot program at Oro Loma and would be interested in other agencies who would like to participate. Questions to be answered revolve around costs, benefits, and operational issues.

EBMUD: Would like to have more discussions on the Pardee agenda in advance of the Technical Seminar.

Central Contra Costa: No report.

San Francisco: Noted that repairs are nearing completion on a pipe that was leaking into Islais Creek. There is an SFEI/ASC research project being considered involving the North Coast Regional Board's work with marijuana growers. Concerns include improving the water quality, working with illegal entities, and safety of the inspectors.

San Jose: No report.

Palo Alto: No report.

Delta Diablo: No report.

Petaluma: No report.

The **Executive Director's Report** was included in the handout packet for agenda **item 18 (Pages 106-111)**. The report includes a link to an EPA document on low-cost modifications to reduce nutrients.

It was noted that 87 of the 90 action items from FY15 have been completed and 16 of the 18 action items from FY16 have been completed.

The **Regulatory Program Manager (RPM) Report under agenda item 19 (Page 112).**

Other BACWA Representative Reports were given an opportunity to provide updates under **agenda Item 20, Other BACWA Representative Reports.** No actions were taken based on the reports.

- a. RMP-TRC: Rod Miller; Laura Pagano – No report.
- b. RMP Steering Committee: Karin North; Jim Ervin – No report.
- c. Summit Partners: Dave Williams – The Agenda from the September 14, 2015 meeting was included in the Handout on **Pages 113-118.** Of special interest was Ken Rubin’s “Utility of the Future” presentation.
- d. ASC/SFEI: Laura Pagano; Dave Williams – No report.
- e. Nutrient Governance Steering Committee: Ben Horenstein; Jim Ervin – No report.
- f. SWRCB Nutrient SAG: Dave Williams – No report.
- g. SWRCB Focus Group – Bacterial Objectives: Lorie Fono; Amy Chastain – No report.
- h. SWRCB Focus Group – Mercury Amendments to the State Plan: Tim Potter – No report.
- i. Nutrient Technical Workgroup: Eric Dunlavey – No report.
- j. NACWA Taskforce on Dental Amalgam: Tim Potter – No report.
- k. BAIRWMP: Cheryl Munoz, Linda Hu, Dave Williams – A meeting summary of the August 24, 2015 meeting of the SF Bay Area IRWMP Coordinating Committee was included in the Handout on **Pages 119-121.**
- l. NACWA Emerging Contaminants: Karin North, Melody LaBella – No report.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center will hold an Open House on October 24, 2015 with taste testings.

The Pardee Technical Seminar is scheduled for **October 21-23, 2015** at the EBMUD Pardee Facility.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for **November 20, 2015 from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm** at the **SFPUC, Hetch Hetchy Room, 13th Floor, 525 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA.**

The meeting adjourned at 12.40 pm.