

Minutes

Sacramento Suburban Water District
Government Affairs Committee
Thursday, February 5, 2015

Call to Order

Chair Wichert called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Directors Present: Craig Locke and Robert Wichert.

Directors Absent: None.

Staff Present: General Manager Robert Roscoe, Dan York, and Heather Hernandez-Fort.

Public Present: William Eubanks.

Public Comment

None.

Items for Discussion and Action

1. Committee Statement of Purpose

Chair Wichert read the committee's statement of purpose.

Chair Wichert remarked the statement of purpose was good overall but he would like to see it prioritized on both an objectives and monetary basis. General Manager Roscoe stated potential risks and losses are often hard to calculate. Chair Wichert agreed there may be such instances where a risk cannot be quantified but would like to see it when possible.

Chair Wichert requested public comment. There was no further discussion regarding the statement of purpose. No changes were made to the statement.

2. Regional Water Authority Legislation Goals

A written report was provided. GM Roscoe presented the item and provided a verbal summary.

Chair Wichert requested information on highest priority goals with regard to the District. GM Roscoe responded that clean up legislation for Sustainable Groundwater Management and Hexavalent Chromium 6 were high priorities. Chair Wichert requested a report regarding Hexavalent Chromium 6 be brought before the full Board.

Discussion ensued regarding the lobbyist employed by Regional Water Authority (RWA) which included the professional background of the lobbyist firm, how the lobbyist is paid and by which agencies.

There was also discussion regarding the role of the RWA Executive Director; RWA is not a joint powers agency and the District's current cost of membership to RWA is \$37,000.

Mr. Eubanks stated the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and other local agencies are dominated by southern California influence. GM Roscoe stated he is on the Board of Directors for ACWA for Region 4 which provides the District a vote within that organization. GM Roscoe was also appointed to the Groundwater Management Committee which helped to frame legislation on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act which also allowed for District input.

Chair Wichert requested more information regarding the various legislative organizations the District and staff are involved in be brought back at the next Committee meeting.

3. Hexavalent Chromium 6

A written report was provided. GM Roscoe provided a summary of the report. Assistant General Manager York provided a briefing on the Groundwater Contamination Meeting held at RWA and commented on the effects to Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District (RLECWD).

Director Locke questioned if the District is in a position to help RLECWD. GM Roscoe provided a background on the history between RLECWD and the District's predecessor district Northridge Water District. The District does offer mutual aid to RLECWD.

Chair Wichert states this issue is a high priority and requested a full briefing be brought to the full Board. GM Roscoe suggested requesting Rob Swartz of RWA or Larry Ernst of Wood Rodgers provide a presentation to the Board.

There was a non-substantive discussion regarding McClellan's efforts at cleanup of the Hexavalent Chromium 6. It was noted that California is the only state with a standard for Hexavalent Chromium 6 and the Environmental Protection Agency doesn't believe that 10 parts per billion is a health threat; only California believes it is a risk sufficient to warrant a separate drinking water standard.

Mr. Eubanks commented that he understood Hexavalent Chromium 6 is treatable and the cost is approximately \$1 million per well which then becomes a budget issue. Mr. Eubanks states this is a significant issue.

4. Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Discharge Permit

A written report was provided. GM Roscoe provided a summary.

The State Water Resources Control Board adopted the NPDES in November 2014 as a result of a grass roots effort that began over four years ago by District staff and SJWD staff. This effort was subsequently joined by other local area water purveyors. The District will be hosting a workshop on this topic for local water purveyors on February 19, 2015 at the Antelope Facility.

Chair Wichert requested a full Board briefing on this important topic.

Mr. Eubanks commented that GM Roscoe is an extremely effective spokesperson for the issues affecting the District and northern California in general.

5. Development of Regulations to Implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) and Potential 2015 Groundwater Legislation

A written report was provided. GM Roscoe provided an update.

Chair Wichert requested staff's recommendation on the SGMA. GM Roscoe replied a change in basin boundary lines will be key to the District. Currently, the North American Groundwater Basin, of which the District is located, is in three different counties. One of those counties is south Sutter County. Coordinating with south Sutter could be more difficult with regard to how to divide the yield of water between the counties and with different land uses.

Chair Wichert requested the Committee be updated on the progress of this effort.

Adjournment

Chair Wichert adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Robert S. Roscoe
General Manager/Secretary
Sacramento Suburban Water District