

Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 1, 2022
7:00 P.M.

NOTE: This meeting is being agendized to allow Board Members, staff, and the public to participate in the meeting via teleconference, pursuant to [AB 361 \(Government Code section 54953\(e\)\)](#).

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YCFC&WCD Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, March 1, 2022 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (PDT)

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Based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the California Governor's Office, in order to minimize the spread of COVID-19, please consider the following:

1. You are strongly encouraged to observe the live stream of the Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Board of Directors' meeting (see details above).
2. If you are joining the meeting via GoToMeeting and wish to make a comment on an item, please provide your comment in the chat box to "YCFC&WCD Board of Directors". You will be called by name or phone number when it is your turn to comment.
3. If you choose not to observe the Board of Directors' meeting but wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment via email by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 28, 2022. Please submit your comment to Christina Cobey at ccobey@ycfcwcd.org to place your comment into the Board meeting record.
4. If you are watching/listening to the live stream of the Board meeting and wish to make either a general public comment or to comment on a specific agenda item as it is being heard, you may submit your comment to Kristin Sicke at ksicke@ycfcwcd.org. Comments received after an agenda item will be made part of the record if received prior to the end of the meeting.

Public documents relating to any open session item listed on this agenda that are distributed to all or a majority of the members of the Board of Directors less than 72 hours before the meeting are available for public inspection by scheduling an appointment with Christina Cobey at (530) 662-0265 or ccobey@ycfcwcd.org.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you have a disability and need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting please contact Christina Cobey. Requests should be made as early as possible, and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting.

AGENDA

- 7:00 1. Consideration: Re-authorize Teleconference Meetings as a Result of the COVID-19 Emergency
- 7:05 2. Consideration: Adoption of the February 1, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 7:07 3. Open forum (Limited to five minutes): Guest introductions, unscheduled appearances, opportunity for public comment on non-agenda items
- 7:12 4. Consideration: Adding Items to the Posted Agenda
In order to add an item to the agenda, it must fit one of the following categories:
a) A majority determination that an emergency (as defined by the Brown Act) exists; or
b) A 4/5ths determination that the need to take action that arose subsequent to the agenda being posted.
- 7:15 5. Presentation: Sustainable Conservation’s Groundwater Recharge Efforts
- 8:00 6. Director’s Report: Report on meetings and conferences attended during the prior month on behalf of the District
- 8:05 7. Attorney’s Report: Report on legal matters of concern to the District
- 8:10 8. General Manager’s Report: Report regarding current general activities and projects of the District
a) Operations, Maintenance, and Water Conditions
b) Financial Report
c) Capital Improvement Program
d) YSGA Update
e) General Activities
f) Upcoming Events
- 8:25 9. General Discussion: Opportunity for clarification or additional information request

8:30 10. Consideration: Consider the approval and the payment of bills

8:35 11. Adjourn

The public may address the Board concerning an agenda item either before or during the Board's consideration of that agenda item. Public comment on items within the Board's jurisdiction is welcome, subject to reasonable time limits for each speaker. Upon request, agenda items may be moved up to accommodate those in attendance wishing to address that item. Times listed for consideration of agenda items are approximate only. The Board may consider any agenda item at any time during the Board meeting.

I declare that the foregoing agenda was posted at the office of the Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, CA on February 25, 2022.

By: _____
Christina Cobey, Administrative Assistant

YOLO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 1, 2022

ITEM #: 1

SUBJECT: Consideration: Re-authorize Teleconference Meetings as a Result of the COVID-19 Emergency

INITIATED OR BOARD
REQUESTED BY: STAFF
 OTHER _____

COORDINATED OR
PREPARED BY: Kristin Sicke
APPROVED BY: Kristin Sicke

ATTACHMENT YES NO
 DIRECTION

INFORMATION
 ACTION: MOTION
 RESOLUTION

BACKGROUND:

Yolo County health officer has recommended that local government boards, commissions, and councils continue to meet remotely given the continued threat of COVID-19. Assembly Bill 361 passed in September 2021, which allows virtual board meetings to continue until January 1, 2024. In order to meet remotely, government agencies must make findings every 30 days that the existing state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet in person, or state officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that the Board 1) find that, as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and 2) hold meetings by teleconference as authorized by subdivision (e)(1)(C) of Section 54953 of the Government Code.

YOLO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 1, 2022

ITEM #: 2

SUBJECT: Consideration: Adoption of the February 1, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

INITIATED OR BOARD
REQUESTED BY: STAFF
 OTHER _____

COORDINATED OR
APPROVED BY: Kristin Sicke

ATTACHMENT YES NO
 DIRECTION

INFORMATION
 ACTION: MOTION
 RESOLUTION

BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to Section 54957.5 of the Brown Act, copies of the draft minutes are available to the public on the District's website and at the District office prior to their approval.

In advance of the Board meeting, staff request the Directors notify staff if a correction is needed in the draft minutes to clarify a substantial point or to correct content. Staff will make the appropriate change(s) and submit the revised draft for review to the Board and the public at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

District staff recommend the adoption of the attached minutes with any corrections.



Y O L O C O U N T Y
FLOOD CONTROL &
WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 7:00 PM

YCFC&WCD Offices
34274 State Highway 16
Woodland, CA 95695

Due to the threat of COVID-19 and pursuant to the [AB 361 \(Government Code section 54953\(e\)\)](#), the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (District) was agendized to allow Board members, staff, and the public to participate in the meeting via teleconference. The meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 remotely via GoToMeeting. Chair Vink convened the meeting. The following people were remotely in attendance:

District Board

Erik Vink, Chair
Tom Barth
Mary Kimball
Jim Mayer
Shane Tucker

District Staff

Kristin Sicke, General Manager
Andrew Ramos, Legal Counsel

Members of the Public

Jim Barrett
Dave Pratt
Kate Reza
Lee Smith

1. CONSIDERATION: Re-authorize Teleconference Meetings as a Result of COVID-19 Emergency

District staff recommended the Board find that, as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to health and safety of attendees and recommend the Board hold meetings by teleconference as authorized by Section 54953 (e)(1)(C) of Government Code.

M/S/C found that, as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to health and safety of attendees and as authorized by Government Code Section 54953 (e)(1)(C) meetings will be held by teleconference.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Mayer, Tucker, and Vink

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

2. CONSIDERATION: Approval of Minutes

M/S/C approved the minutes of the January 4, 2022 regular Board meeting.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Mayer, Tucker, and Vink

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

3. OPEN FORUM

There were no comments.

4. CONSIDERATION: Adding Items to the Posted Agenda

There were no changes made to the agenda.

5. REPORT: Appointment of District Representatives to Committees and Various Groups

Chair Vink reported that each year the Board's representation to various groups and committees are appointed by the District's Chair. The proposed 2022 appointments were reviewed, and Chair Vink approved the proposed appointments for 2022.

6. CONSIDERATION: Receive Update from Finance Committee and Authorize General Manager Sicke to Enter into a Services Agreement with Larsen Wurzel and Associates

General Manager Sicke provided a brief presentation on the Larsen Wurzel and Associates proposal for investigating alternative revenue mechanisms to augment the District's current funding structure. The proposal was reviewed by the Finance Committee at the January 19, 2022 meeting, and includes professional services from Principals Seth Wurzel and Scott Brown and their team to complete approximately 220 hours in a Phase I analysis, not to exceed \$45,000.

Director Barth reported on the Committee meeting where the Committee, Sicke, and Senior Advisor Tim O'Halloran had a focused discussion on the consultation needed to investigate augmenting the District's current rate structure. The District's existing revenues are not adequate in sustaining the District during dry years, and there is currently no reimbursement for surface water deliveries that recharge the groundwater. The District is seeking professional assistance to examine alternative revenue mechanisms that are allowed under the District's statutory boundaries and as documented in the District Act. Barth discussed the importance of engaging stakeholders on the front end to ensure a transparent process.

Sicke reported that a meeting with Legal Counsel Andrew Ramos and Dick Shannon took place prior to the Committee meeting to ensure Larsen Wurzel and Associates' services would be appropriate for the District's investigation. Legal counsel reviewed the proposal provided by Larsen Wurzel and Associates and advised the District to advance with a services arrangement.

Chair Vink stressed the importance of developing a sustainable source of revenue for the District to continue providing services into the future. It is important for groundwater beneficiaries to contribute to the District's mission. Vink also mentioned the desire to embrace a public process with communication and engagement with the stakeholders, water rate payers, and other Board members.

Director Mayer asked whether Larsen Wurzel and Associates were directly responsible for the engagement aspect or if the District would manage that process. Sicke relayed that the District would be managing the engagement efforts. Mayer advised the District to enlist assistance from a Public Engagement Facilitator to facilitate the meetings with the growers and stakeholders. He also stated that timing and coordination with the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency will be important. He suggested the District appropriately define our needs for stabilizing the rate structure: we are planning for a sustainable future, fiscally and physically (we must maintain the health of the District's finances and infrastructure system to maintain and guarantee water deliveries into the future).

Director Tucker asked whether this cost was already considered in the District's current fiscal year budget. Sicke reported Tim O'Halloran had budgeted for professional services in the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget that had not currently been expended yet. Tucker advised the importance of surveying other water districts as part of this effort to know how other irrigation districts are financed and whether we're considering all options available to us. He stressed the importance of the in-lieu recharge aspect of the District's surface water deliveries. He theoretically questioned how many wells are not operating when surface water is available, and he noted the value that is currently had by well owners in the District's surface water supplies and the passive recharge that occurs.

Director Kimball agreed with Tucker's advice to gather information from other districts since there can be value gained from that process. Kimball also asked about the schedule of Phase 1 work by Larsen Wurzel and Associates. Sicke promised an update at the March Board meeting that provides a schedule for Phase 1 activities.

Lee Smith commended the District's desire to take a novel approach, but he suggested that generating revenue in the short run would be challenging. He noted the District's current water rates are considerably lower than other areas in California.

District staff recommended the Board authorize Sicke to enter into a Services Agreement with Larsen Wurzel and Associates on behalf of the District.

M/S/C authorized General Manager Sicke to enter into a Services Agreement with Larsen Wurzel and Associates.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Mayer, Tucker, and Vink

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

7. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Director Barth reported on the YSGA's January 10 and 24, 2022 Board of Directors meetings. He commended the YSGA Directors and staff for adopting and submitting the *2022 Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan* to the California Department of Water Resources in time for the January 31, 2022 deadline.

Director Mayer reported on NCWA's bi-monthly coordination task force meetings with state, federal, and water district managers, which allow for interagency coordination in preparing and planning changes in flow standards and processing of water transfers. Mayer discussed the work of EDF and others to investigate the appropriate mitigation/implementation of *SGMA's Undesirable Result #6* – the interconnection of groundwater and surface water and the impact to groundwater dependent ecosystems. Mayer also reported that DWR would be releasing updated InSAR data in February as part of their subsidence surveillance and reporting program. Lastly, he reported on his participation in the Yolo Habitat Conservancy's Implementation Advisement Committee process to evaluate multi-benefit projects with multi-benefit stakeholders as a unique landowner in Yolo County.

Directors Kimball and Tucker had nothing to report.

Chair Vink reported on his participation on the Countywide Successor Agency Oversight Board of Yolo County, which is primarily responsible for approval of schedules of enforceable obligations and disposal of any remaining redevelopment assets and properties.

8. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS

There was no report from Legal Counsel Ramos.

9. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Sicke provided reports on the following:

- a) Operations, Maintenance, and Water Conditions
- b) Financial Report Summary – Highlights from the January 31, 2022 Financial Statements Report were quickly reviewed, and the actual FY 2021/2022 Budget was compared to the projected FY 2021/2022 Budget.
- c) Capital Improvement Program – An update on the planning activities related to capital projects was provided.
- d) YSGA Update – An update on Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency's *2022 Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan* implementation activities was provided.
- e) General Activities – A list of outreach activities and projects both in-house and coordinated with other agencies was reviewed.
- f) The following upcoming events were announced:
 1. WRA Technical Committee Ad Hoc Drought Task Force Meeting (February 2)
 2. WRA Technical Committee Meeting (February 3)
 3. YSGA: Meeting with the Capay Valley Regeneration Committee (February 4)
 4. Lions Club Woodland Cabinet Annual Meeting (February 5)
 5. Meeting with CLOCWD to Discuss Long-Term Agreement (February 7)
 6. NCWA Bay-Delta Task Force Meeting (February 7)
 7. NCWA's DWR Update on Subsidence, West-side of Sacramento Valley (Feb. 7)
 8. NCWA's North State Drinking Water Solutions Network (February 9)
 9. Financial Oversight Committee (February 10)
 10. YSGA: Hungry Hollow Area Community Mtg.: Good Humus Farm Tour (Feb. 10)
 11. Floodplains Reimagined Advisory Committee (February 11)
 12. YCFC&WCD Winter Water Right Committee (February 11)
 13. WRA/YSGA Executive Committee Meetings (February 15)
 14. ACWA Groundwater Committee Meeting (February 16)
 15. California Water Data Consortium Meeting (February 17)
 16. Yolo County Board of Supervisors Meeting – Drought Update (February 22)
 17. ACWA Region 4 Board of Directors Meeting (February 23)
 18. California Irrigation Institute Conference (February 28-March 1)
 19. NCWA Annual Meeting (March 4 & 11)

10. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Director Mayer mentioned the importance water transfers will play this year with limited surface water supplies and he suggested the county's process provide a thorough review on in-lieu out-of-county requests. General Manager Sicke relayed the YSGA's involvement as part of the approval process through DWR.

11. CONSIDERATION: Payment of Bills

M/S/C approved the following claims for payment – Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Checks # 60831-60843.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Mayer, Tucker, and Vink

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Erik Vink, Chair

ATTEST:

Kristin Sicke, Secretary

YOLO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 1, 2022

ITEM #: 5

SUBJECT: Presentation: Sustainable Conservation's Groundwater Recharge Efforts

INITIATED OR BOARD
REQUESTED BY: STAFF
 OTHER _____

COORDINATED OR
PREPARED BY: Kristin Sicke
APPROVED BY: Kristin Sicke

ATTACHMENT YES NO
 DIRECTION

INFORMATION
 ACTION: MOTION
 RESOLUTION

BACKGROUND:

Sustainable Conservation is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to helping California thrive by uniting people to solve the toughest challenges facing land, air, and water resources. Every day they bring together business, landowners, scientists, government, water agencies, nonprofits, and others to steward the resources that we all depend on in ways that are just and make economic sense. They offer numerous [technical resources on their website](#).

Sustainable Conservation has partnered with various organizations and agencies, including State, GSAs, irrigation districts, and local farmers to accelerate groundwater recharge initiatives. They have been working with DWR since 2017 to help convene and lead over 200 academic, agency, policy, and NGO specialists to identify what we don't know about recharge, and where we need more research and guidance so projects can be successful.

Additionally, they have developed a decision support tool to easily create and assess recharge scenarios, which is known as the [Groundwater Recharge Assessment Tool \(GRAT\)](#). This year, they are offering an on-farm pilot program for growers to participate in on-farm recharge and to ultimately expand implementation and evaluation of recharge projects for illustrating multiple benefits and advancing DWR's concept of Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge (FloodMAR).

Sustainable Conservation's Policy Director Charles Delgado and Project Manager Taylor Broadhead will provide a presentation on Sustainable Conservation's groundwater recharge efforts.

RECOMMENDATION:

This agenda item is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.