

WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 2, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Mike Gardner called the regular meeting of the Western Municipal Water District (Western Water) Board of Directors to order at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, in the Western Board Room, 14205 Meridian Parkway, Riverside, California.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call of the Board of Directors was taken by Board Secretary Tammi Ford. The following board members were in attendance:

Directors Present

Mike Gardner, President
Laura Roughton, Vice President
Fauzia Rizvi, Secretary-Treasurer
Gracie Torres
Brenda Dennstedt

Director Rizvi left the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Cody Woitena, Safety Compliance Coordinator, Human Resources Department, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

It was noted that any member of the public who wished to comment on any item within the jurisdiction of the District, or any item on the agenda, and written comments received by October 1, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. would become part of the Board Meeting record, or any member of the public may provide comment telephonically by calling the number listed on the agenda.

Written Public Comments were received from:

Malissa McKeith
Carl Pong

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Demographic Data and Trends: A Regional Perspective

Chris Gray, Deputy Executive Director, Western Riverside Council of Governments, presented an overview of demographic data and trends in Western Riverside County, as well as the greater Southern California Area with emphasis on Western Water's service area. He discussed population growth in Riverside County and the state, as well as migration trends in and out of the county, as well as the state. As part of his presentation, he reviewed birth rate, aging in place and housing trends.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Consent calendar items are expected to be routine and non-controversial and are to be acted upon by the Board at one time, without discussion. If any Board member, staff member, or interested person requests that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar, it will be moved to the first item on the Action Agenda.

Motion: Dennstedt
Second: Torres

- A. Approve the Minutes of the September 18, 2024, Regular Board Meeting
- B. Receive and File the Governmental Affairs and Legislative Update – September 2024
- C. Award a Professional Service Contract to the National Theatre for Children for Western Water's Regional Assembly Program

The Motion passed 5-0
Voting No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

7. ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA

(If any) In accordance with Section 54954.2 of the Government Code, upon determination by a two-thirds vote of the legislative body, or, if less than two thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present that there is a need to take action, and the need to take action arose after the agenda was posted.

None.

8. ACTION AGENDA

The following items on the Action Agenda call for discussion and action by the Board. All items are placed on the Agenda so that the Board may discuss and take action on the item, if the Board is so inclined.

A. Authorize a Professional Services Contract with E Source Companies for Regional Water Loss Technical Support Services

This item was presented by: Michelle Adams, Customer Experience Manager

Motion: Dennstedt

Second: Torres

As to the following:

1. Authorize the General Manager to execute a sole-sourced, professional services contract with E Source Companies for regional water loss technical support services for Western Water and its retail agencies for an amount not to exceed \$492,190.

The Motion Passed 4-0

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Rizvi

B. Approve an Increase in Funding for Retail Customer Rebate Programs

This item was presented by: Michelle Adams, Customer Experience Manager

Motion: Dennstedt

Second: Torres

As to the following:

1. Approve an increase in the Board-adopted biennial operating budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$338,000 from \$716,220 to \$1,054,220 for the Customer Efficiency Program.

The Motion Passed 4-0

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Rizvi

9. REPORTS

A. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

A. Report of General Counsel

Jeff Ballinger, General Counsel, provided a brief update on Assembly Bill 1243, which was signed by the Governor and will become effective on January 1, 2025. He reported that this new law amends the campaign contribution allowance for elected officials from \$250 to \$500, and also allows certain exemptions. He stated he will provide more details in a written update.

B. GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

1. General Manager's Report

Craig Miller, General Manager, reported that Senate Bill 366 (SB 366) was vetoed by the Governor – he said the team is evaluating the next steps but that he was very proud of them and the hard work they did. He also highlighted that this bill was instrumental in changing the way California looks at water. He also announced that Western Water had a small recognition for District staff recently to acknowledge their culture of safety and always approaching each day with a safe mindset. He also reported that he attended the recent Residents Association of Greater Lake Mathews (RAGLM) meeting and was able to provide an update about Western Water and answer residents' questions. He noted that Western Water has been awarded two 2024 STAR Awards from the National Association of Telecommunications and Advisors and has also been nominated for two ACWA awards to be announced in December at the Fall Conference. Lastly, he reported that Staff and some board members attended a roundtable discussion at Eastern Municipal Water District regarding the Delta Conveyance, which featured a discussion with Karla Nemeth, Director of the Department of Water Resources for the State of California.

C. DIRECTORS REPORTS AND REQUESTS

1. Report of SAWPA Commissioner

Director Gardner reported that the Commission received a briefing on the first year of the weather modification pilot program effort, which was not certain but does show that the program most likely caused more precipitation to fall. They also had a discussion concerning the recent fire activity in the area and decided to postpone the second year of the pilot program, so it does not cause additional flooding and landslide activity as a result of recovery from the fires. He also reported that the PA 24 Committee met and was informed that there is an imbalance in the total dissolved solids that flow through the brine line and the

Committee approved authority for the General Manager to hire a consultant to evaluate the current formula.

Director Dennstedt reported that the OWOW Committee also discussed the weather modification program and has specifically requested that an overlying map of the watershed be developed that shows the burn scars and targeted area for the weather modification program.

2. Report of MWD Representative

Director Dennstedt reported that she will be attending the WEFTEC Conference on behalf of MWD to accept an award, and she will be taking the MWD meeting via Zoom from the conference.

3. Report of CBWM Representative

Director Gardner stated there were some routine items on the consent calendar and the Board received an update on work the Watermaster is doing on emerging contaminants monitoring.

4. Report of CDA Representative

Director Roughton stated the meeting was canceled.

5. Report of WRCRWA Representative

Director Rizvi stated there was nothing to report.

6. Report of WRCOG Representative

Director Dennstedt stated there was nothing to report.

7. Report of SRRRA Representative

Director Rizvi stated there was nothing to report.

8. Report of ACWA Representatives

Director Dennstedt reminded the Board about the upcoming Fall Conference.

9. Directors' Comments

Comments were made by:

Director Torres
Director Roughton
Director Dennstedt
Director Gardner

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

None.

10. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board of Directors, President Mike Gardner adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

MIKE GARDNER
President

FAUZIA RIZVI
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes were prepared by Board Secretary, Tammi Ford.