



**SAWPA COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 17, 2020**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

David J. Slawson, Chair, Eastern Municipal Water District  
Kati Parker, Vice Chair, Inland Empire Utilities Agency (remotely)  
Kelly E. Rowe, Secretary-Treasurer, Orange County Water District (remotely)  
Brenda Dennstedt, Western Municipal Water District  
T. Milford Harrison, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

None

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS  
PRESENT; NON-VOTING**

None

**STAFF PRESENT**

Rich Haller, Mark Norton, David Ruhl, Dean Unger, Carlos Quintero, Ian Achimore, Kelly Berry

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Phil Rosentrater, Salton Sea Authority;  
Patricia Lock-Dawson, PLD Consulting; Jeffery Szytel, Water Systems  
Consulting, Inc. (remotely)

The Regular Commission meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by Chair Slawson at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California. The record will reflect that an amended agenda adding Agenda Item No. 6.E. was posted March 12, 2020.

**1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order N-25-30 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 12, 2020, any Commissioner may call into the Commission meeting using a call-in number without otherwise complying with the Brown Act's teleconferencing requirements. This Commission meeting was open to the public at SAWPA's office and any member of the public wishing to make any comments to the Commission could do so in person or by using the provided call-in number. All votes taken during the Commission meeting were conducted by oral roll call vote.

**2. ROLL CALL**

An oral roll call was duly noted and recorded by the Clerk of the Board.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

Legal Counsel Turner noted an item for consideration arose after the posting of the agenda for this meeting; Agenda Item No. 6.E. should be amended to add consideration of adoption of Resolution No. 2020-05, which was distributed and posted to the website. Chair Slawson called for a motion to amend Agenda Item No. 6.E.

**MOVED**, amend Agenda Item No. 6.E. to consider adoption of Resolution No. 2020-05.

Result: **Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)**  
Motion/Second: Harrison/Dennstedt  
Ayes: Dennstedt, Harrison, Parker, Rowe, Slawson  
Nays: None  
Abstentions: None  
Absent: None

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 3, 2020**

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

**MOVED**, approve the March 3, 2020 meeting minutes.

Result: **Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)**

Motion/Second: Harrison/Dennstedt

Ayes: Dennstedt, Harrison, Parker, Rowe, Slawson

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

**5. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**A. SALTON SEA AUTHORITY | SALT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

Phil Rosentrater, Salton Sea Authority General Manager/Executive Director provided the PowerPoint presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 9 – 28. Commissioners voiced appreciation for the work of the Salton Sea Authority and applauded efforts in championing the importance of maintaining the Salton Sea.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 5.A.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. OVERVIEW OF THE SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL (CM#2020.18)**

Ian Achimore provided the PowerPoint presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 35 – 52. Patricia Lock-Dawson, PLD Consulting, was in the audience and available to answer questions. SAWPA owns a small parcel west of Prado Dam and next to the Green River Golf Course, which is used to access the brine line. SAWPA is working closely with the Riverside County Regional Park & Open-Space District (District), the lead for that portion of the trail, on trail planning to ensure the trail does not impact SAWPA's activities. The District is continuing the CEQA process; their construction project will not commence until 2022. Staff will present the District's construction plans to the Commission mid-summer 2020. Commissioner Harrison voiced his frustration with the slow pace of trail construction and asked why there was a two-year gap between approval of the District's environmental impact report (EIR) and construction. Achimore advised he would confirm the District's construction schedule and report back to the Commission in mid-summer. Patricia Lock-Dawson noted that each change along the trail in turn changes the EIRs and working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been particularly challenging in this area. Commissioner Harrison confirmed staff have sought the involvement of local elected officials throughout the process and will continue to do so.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 6.A.

**B. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) | SANTA ANA WATERSHED PROJECT AUTHORITY (SAWPA) AND WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT (WMWD) (CM#2020.20)**

Carlos Quintero provided the PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda packet on pages 55 – 61. Chair Slawson called for motion.

**MOVED**, authorize the General Manager to execute the revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) and Western Municipal Water District (WMWD) establishing the terms for the cost allocation of the SAWPA parking lot restoration.

Result: **Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)**  
Motion/Second: Dennstedt/Harrison  
Ayes: Dennstedt, Harrison, Parker, Rowe, Slawson  
Nays: None  
Abstentions: None  
Absent: None

**C. SAWPA BUILDING RENOVATIONS | PHASE 2 (CM#2020.19)**

Carlos Quintero provided the PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda packet on pages 76 – 80. Chair Slawson called for a motion.

**MOVED**, approve the use of \$120,000 from the Building Reserve Fund to continue Phase 2 of the SAWPA Building Renovation effort.

Result: **Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)**  
Motion/Second: Dennstedt/Harrison  
Ayes: Dennstedt, Harrison, Parker, Rowe, Slawson  
Nays: None  
Abstentions: None  
Absent: None

**D. STRATEGIC PLAN FACILITATOR CONSULTANT SERVICES AWARD OF CONTRACT (CM#2020.21)**

Rich Haller provided the PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda packet on pages 83 – 90. Haller advised this facilitation process could take place primarily virtually to accommodate the current COVID-19 restrictions, should the Commission so desire. Jeffery Szytel, Water Systems Consulting, Inc., briefly reviewed the strategic plan process and which portions would be conducted virtually.

Regarding the top four firms interviewed, a discussion ensued regarding process of the initial evaluation, subsequent interview process, cost consideration including range of proposals received, and location of submitting firms. Commissioners Dennstedt and Harrison voiced their desire that the facilitation process primarily take place via in-person meetings.

It was the consensus of the Commission this is not a critical task in light of current events and requested this be brought back to the Commission in thirty days for consideration. Future consideration should include a summary of all submitted proposals, an outline of the criteria-based scoring, including costs, how individual companies were scored based on that criteria, and final scoring in comparison with other companies.

**MOVED**, direct staff to bring execution of an agreement for services with Water Systems Consulting, Inc. for Strategic Plan Facilitator Consultant Services back to the Commission for consideration during the second meeting in April 2020.

Result: **Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)**  
Motion/Second: Dennstedt/Harrison  
Ayes: Dennstedt, Harrison, Parker, Rowe, Slawson  
Nays: None  
Abstentions: None  
Absent: None

**E. COVID-19 | DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

Rich Haller briefly outlined Resolution No. 2020-05 which would declare emergency conditions exist and authorize the General Manager to take actions necessary in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioner Harrison moved approval of Resolution No. 2020-05. Commissioner Dennstedt stated SAWPA should take care of its employees during this time which would be inclusive of staff experiencing symptoms, staff who have come in contact with someone experiencing symptoms, staff who are at home caring for children due to closed schools and daycare, and staff who are at home caring for family members who are at-risk or have compromised immune systems. Haller responded SAWPA would take care of its employees in all the instances set forth by Commissioner Dennstedt. With that assurance, Commissioner Dennstedt seconded the item.

**MOVED**, adopt Resolution No. 2020-05.

Result: **Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)**  
Motion/Second: Harrison/Dennstedt  
Ayes: Dennstedt, Harrison, Parker, Rowe, Slawson  
Nays: None  
Abstentions: None  
Absent: None

**7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

The following oral/written reports/updates were received and filed.

**A. CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – JANUARY 2020**

**B. INTER-FUND BORROWING – JANUARY 2020 (CM#2020.16)**

**C. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – JANUARY 2020 (CM#2020.17)**

**D. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

**E. STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

**F. SAWPA GENERAL MANAGERS MEETING NOTES**

- March 10, 2020

**G. CHAIR’S COMMENTS/REPORT**

There were no comments/reports from the Chair.

**H. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS**

There were no Commissioner comments.

**I. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Dennstedt requested future agendas include an item to consider added or deleted items.

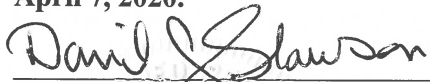
**8. CLOSED SESSION**

There was no Closed Session.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

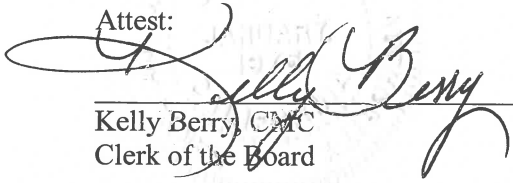
There being no further business for review, Chair Slawson adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday,  
April 7, 2020.**



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David J. Slawson, Chair

Attest:

  
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Kelly Berry, CMC  
Clerk of the Board