MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 1, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yuba County Water Agency was held on the above date, commencing at 9:00 A.M. This meeting was conducted by Zoom Video Conference and Audio Teleconference Only.

The Yuba County Water Agency supports the orders and directives from the California Department of Public Health and the California Governor’s Office in the effort to minimize the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 enables meetings of legislative bodies to be conducted by way of a teleconference.

ROLL CALL

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<tr>
<th>Directors</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Absent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Randy Fletcher (Chair)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brent Hastey (Vice Chair)</td>
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<td>Gary Bradford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Leahy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arrived at 9:02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doug Lofton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlie Mathews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andy Vasquez</td>
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Staff in Attendance
Willie Whittlesey, General Manager
Terri Daly, Administrative Manager
DeDe Cordell, Communications Manager
Jeff Mathews, Sr. Project Manager
Alex Boesch, Public Information Specialist
Creighton Avila, Project Manager
Curt Aikens, Sr. Executive Advisor
JoAnna Lessard, Project Manager
Nicole Hayden, Business Systems Analyst
David Yang, Staff Accountant
Bonnie Dickson, Sr. Public Information Officer
Kyle Morgado, Senior Hydro Engineer, Civil
Richard Shanahan, Agency Counsel

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Fletcher.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

A motion was made by Director Hastey, seconded by Director Vasquez, to approve the Consent item shown on the agenda and duplicated below for reference purposes.

Vote:
YES: Bradford, Fletcher, Hastey, Leahy, Lofton, Mathews, Vasquez

1. Approval of the Minutes the regular meeting of August 18, 2020
DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Receive an update on the Water Education Curriculum Development Project underway for Yuba County schools.

DeDe Cordell provided a brief overview of the progress to date and introduced Nicodemus Ford, educational consultant, who led a presentation of the curriculum development project.

Director Vasquez recommended the teachers consider viewing and widely sharing the existing video of the history of hydraulic mining and New Bullards Bar Reservoir. Nicodemus indicated he has viewed the video and several videos have been incorporated into the various lessons.

Director Lofton inquired about the targeted date for the wide distribution of the curriculum. Dede shared that the pilot program will be conducted over the 2020-21 academic year and anticipates wide implementation in the 2021-22 academic year.

The Board was appreciative of the progress and expressed their continued support of the effort.

*No formal action taken.*

3. Receive a presentation regarding the potential use of Hammon Grove as the site for the Watershed Experience Center and authorize staff to conduct a feasibility study for an estimated cost of up to $50,000 in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Yuba County Public Works.

Jeff Mathews provided background on activities to date including collaboration with Yuba County and BLM. Feasibility study includes a preliminary environmental analysis, surveys and geotechnical investigations. The agency would first seek a 30-year lease and begin the process to purchase the property if supported by the feasibility study.

Director Mathews suggested staff seek a 99-year lease given the requirement that purchases of BLM land requires congressional approval.

Director’s Hastey and Fletcher shared his support of a longer term lease and overall support of the effort.

Director Lofton iterated his concern in making a future commitment to construct a major facility on leased property. Staff share in this concern, citing many steps must be achieved prior to any construction effort.

*A motion was made by Director Hastey, seconded by Director Bradford, to approve this matter as presented.*

**Vote:**
*YES: Bradford, Fletcher, Hastey, Leahy, Lofton, Mathews, Vasquez*
4. Closed session conference with Jeff Mathews, Sr. Project Manager, as real property negotiator concerning (i) price and terms of payment relating to real property known as Yuba County Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 048-080-17 and 048-080-18, CWS Enterprises Inc. as the other negotiating party; and (ii) price and terms of payment relating to real property known as Yuba County Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 060-2800-14, 060-2800-12, 060-3000-10, 060-3000-09, and 060-2500-06, Madison Thomson for CHY Company as the other negotiating party.

No reportable action.
MANAGER’S REPORT

Project Operations: The project continues to operate within regulatory requirements.

Start Date: 00:00 08/31/2020
End Date: 00:00 09/01/2020

Storage data are instantaneous values at the end of the period; flow data are average values for the period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Bullards Bar Reservoir</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elevation (Ft): 1,886.26</td>
<td>Flood Space Req'd (AF): 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage (AF): 667,968</td>
<td>Flood Space Avail (AF): 298,135</td>
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<tr>
<td>% Total Capacity: 69</td>
<td>Flood Space Req'd (%): 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Usable Capacity: 59</td>
<td>Target Storage Line (AF): 0</td>
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| NERD / WECC: The agency continues to operate in compliance with NERC/WECC Electricity Reliability Standards. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Englebright Reservoir</th>
<th>Stream Flows</th>
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<tr>
<td>Englebright Outflow: 897</td>
<td>Marysville: 785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrows 1 Gen\Bypass Flow: 0</td>
<td>North Irrig. Diversion: 108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrows 2 Gen\Bypass Flow: 891</td>
<td>South Irrig. Total Flow: 117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spill: 0</td>
<td>Total Diversion: 225</td>
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<th>Maintenance Update:</th>
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<td>Recreation</td>
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<td>Routine maintenance ongoing at the water plant. Extra water was processed for spillway gate testing to support the wetting of the gate seals for full stroke testing. Recreation is tooling up to replace 24 log booms that isolate the front of the dam with new and improved ones that will have a higher breaking strength.</td>
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<td>Ojo security swap was completed at the Mini Hydro, Butterfly Valve and Cottage Creek Water Treatment Plant as part of the ongoing upgrade. Cabling to complete the back up control room was finished for communications. The Electrical department is continuing with Automatic Voltage Regulator (AVR) pre outage installation of wiring and equipment. Narrows 1 trip testing was completed and relay &amp; flow meter work with PG&amp;E was finished to provide visibility of necessary readings. Wiring was completed to install the new brake actuators on NBB Spillway gate hoists.</td>
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<td>The gauging site NY-19 (Camptonville Station) was successfully flushed and returned to full service. The Maintenance department completed the annual NBB Spillway Gate Hoist maintenance and full stroke gate testing this week on gates 2-3. Testing on Gate 1 will commence following additional evaluation. Narrows 1 Turbine Shut Off Valve was successfully tested in the dry and the penstock was watered up in preparation to use the bypass valve if</td>
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needed during the Narrows 2 outage which will start on September 1st. Start up of Narrows 1 is scheduled for September 9-11th.

Army Corps of Engineers – Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Project: The Yuba Water Board of Directors last year approved staff continuing to work with the Corps and Congress to “…clarify and limit…” our financial exposure as the potential non-federal sponsor of this proposed $100 M project – designed to improve salmon and steelhead habitat in the lower river. The November 2019 staff report noted that the Agency invested more than $5 M in the project as the non-federal sponsor of the underlying feasibility study. Since we became involved in the project, the Agency sought relief from Corps policy (and potentially law) requiring non-federal sponsors to be responsible for 100% of future costs, including replacing the entire project, if it were to be damaged due to high flows or a flood event. The Corps and Congress, however, were unwilling to resolve the issue due to concerns over a new national precedent. While Congress has preliminarily approved legislation authorizing the project, they did not include language we requested to limit the Agency’s future cost-share due to Corps policy (OMRR&R - Operations, Maintenance, Repair, Rehabilitation and Replacement). The financial risk is significant. Yuba’s initial costs would be $35-$40 M for design/construction. But the long-term risk may include an additional cost of up to $60 M. This liability is unacceptable given our present activities. We have notified Army Corps Staff that we plan to discontinue our involvement in the project. Other projects on the lower river could provide greater fisheries benefits at a lower cost. And, ending our involvement in the project would provide Yuba Water more than $40 M to invest in other areas.

HR Update:
Phone Interviews: Phone Screenings are being scheduled for the Health & Safety Officer and Supervising Communication Technician.

Screening Applicants: Applications are being screened for Hydrologist, Heavy Equipment Mechanic and Utility Worker positions.

Interviews: Sr. Operator Trainer / Operator Trainer: Working with the hiring manager on scheduled interview dates for internal applicants.

Hires:
Please join me in congratulating Joel Ferrera on his promotion from Working Forman to Maintenance Manager. Joel joined the Agency in 2017 as a Plant Mechanic. He was promoted to a Working Forman and now to a Maintenance Manager position. Joel has 24 years of experience working in the Hydroelectric Power Plants including Edward Hyatt and Thermalito in Oroville. Joel has been the Acting Maintenance Manager since April of 2020 and we congratulate him in his assuming the Maintenance Manager position formally.

Weather Forecast Update: As of September 1, 2020
Current: Labor Day Weekend Heatwave on tap as warm weather continues following a few days of seasonally “moderate” temperatures last week. Highs start to climb from mid-90s in the valley to around 105 each day Saturday, Sunday and Monday with heat lasting through Tuesday.
Yuba County remains between D1/D2 (moderate/severe) drought conditions per the U.S. Drought Monitor.

**Short-term Forecast:** High pressure from Desert Southwest re-amplifies this week and into next leading to another prolonged late-season Heatwave potential into mid-September. Valley high temperatures between 100-105 degrees (very warm for less daylight hours in September) each day for the next 10 days. **Fire weather risk remains elevated and is now forecast to remain elevated until first significant rains of the wet season. Additionally, PSPS season is now here and monitoring of the [PG&E PSPS site](https://www.pge.com) is recommended.**

**Medium Range Forecast:** 1-3-month climate outlooks continue to show an above average temps and below average precipitation in fall especially in October/early November. Significant fire weather risk is forecast during this timeframe.

**Long Range Forecast:** No change to forecast of moderate La Nina conditions peaking in early Winter 20/21. Some climate models starting to indicate possibly very dry Dec-Jan-Feb.

**Operations:**
PG&E is scheduled to complete their work at the Smartsville substation on September 2nd which will allow Yuba Water to actually start up the Narrows 1 unit for the first time since taking possession. The opportunities for startup on the unit are limited with the Narrows 2 outage starting on September 1. Tentatively we are looking at trip testing and rolling N1 on September 9th and 10th.

As of September 1st, flows at Marysville will be at a minimum of 500 cfs plus a buffer.
Communications:
The communications team jumped on the opportunity to spread the word about hydropower benefits and flexibility as a result of the power crisis and our stepping up generation to prevent rolling blackouts. That effort led to positive coverage on KCRA, in the Appeal Democrat, Energy Central, the ACWA newsletter, the NCWA blog, the Family Farm Alliance newsletter, as well as articles and letters put out by the National Hydropower Association and California Municipal Utilities Association. Additionally, the $2.2 million in grants provided by your board at our last meeting had good coverage in the Appeal Democrat and Territorial Dispatch.

Upcoming Meetings:
Regular Board meetings – September 15 and October 6 at 9:00 AM.
DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Director Hastey reported on the following:
  • ACWA releasing an opinion piece from their President and Vice-President that will mention Yuba Water.

Director Leahy reported on the following:
  • Thanks to staff for their continued dedication during COVID-19.

Director Lofton reported on the following:
  • Expressed his appreciation of staff.

Director Mathews reported on the following:
  • Encouraged staff to provide their presentations in advance.
  • Suggested an announcement highlighting the agency’s actions to increase energy production during power grid shortages earlier this month.

No other reports were provided.

ADJOURNED AT: 10:17 A.M

Minutes Approved: Randy Fletcher, Chair
Date signed: ______________

ATTEST: James Mitrisin
Clerk of the Board of Directors