



**PROJECTS & FACILITY OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Water Resources Center
500 Clearwater Lane, Watsonville, California 95076

Wednesday April 25, 2017, 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members	
Present	Absent
Rosemarie Imazio, Director	Vacant Seat
Amy Newell, Director	
Warren Koenig	
Sam Cooley, Vice Chair	
Dave Cavanaugh, Director, Chair	
Frank Capurro	
Staff & Other Attendees	
Brian Lockwood, General Manager (GM)	Shinehah Bigham, Water System Operator (WSO)
Casey Meusel, Associate Hydrologist (AH)	Chuy Martinez, Water System Operations Supervisor (WSOS)
Jonathan Pilch, Watsonville Wetlands Watch, Executive Director	Paul Friedlander, Carollo Engineers (via phone)
Belinda Platts, Consulting Agronomist (via phone)	

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** Chair Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.
- 2. Public and Member comments.** None.
- 3. Consider Approval of prior Projects and Facility Operations Committee Meeting Minutes.** Director Newell noted a spelling typo in item 6b of the February 28, 2018 meeting minutes to correct. Director Newell moved approval of the February 28, 2018 meeting minutes with the noted correction; Mr. Cooley seconded. The Committee approved the minutes of the February 28, 2018 meeting.
- 4. Receive Soil Salinity and Water Quality Update for 2017.** GM Lockwood introduced Belinda Platts, consulting agronomist, who provided a presentation on soil and water quality conditions in

the Delivered Water Zone in 2017. AH Meusel briefly summarized the updated quarterly delivered water quality table and plots.

5. Receive Projects and Programs Update.

a. Basin Management Plan Implementation.

i. Proposed College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project. GM Lockwood reported to the Committee that the Basin Management Plan (BMP) Implementation Team received notification from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Division of Safety of Dams that the proposed College Lake Weir structure is “non-jurisdictional” with respect to dam safety. GM Lockwood and Mr. Friedlander co-presented on the conceptual designs of the proposed project’s weir and water treatment plant. The BMP Implementation Team recently finished the first round of environmental surveys including an aquatic resources delineation and cultural resources assessment.

ii. Proposed Slough Projects. GM Lockwood summarized the strategy for Phase II of the Recharge Basin Site Investigation Plan. The plan incorporates drilling two borings utilizing a sonic drill rig capable of continual coring at each of the three proposed basins and in the existing recharge basin (8 continuous cores in total). GM Lockwood also noted that Carollo Engineers is currently receiving bids for the Phase II work.

b. Recycled Water Facility Improvement Projects. GM Lockwood reminded the Committee that in February, the Board of Directors approved the Recycled Water Facility Disk Filter Upgrade professional services contract to develop design plans and biddable documents. A kick off meeting for the disk filter project will take place on May 3, and will be followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new 1.5 million gallon storage tank later in the day; all are welcome. The third phase of the Recycled Water Facility Improvement Project includes construction of a new 0.5 million-gallon recycled water storage tank utilizing grant funding. Staff are in communication with the DWR to determine how long the grant funds will be available and pending the response, the Committee may need to make a decision on when the project should move forward.

6. Receive Facility Operations Report. WSOS Martinez provided an update on recent system operations. Daily demand has been around 14-16 acre-feet per day with demand expected to increase as the growing season ramps up. Year to date, 607 acre-feet of supplemental water consisting of 89% (542 acre-feet) recycled water has been provided to delivered water service customers. WSOS Martinez does not expect that the Agency will be able to divert slough water for recharge this year due to the persistence of elevated salinity levels caused by a brackish backflow event. WSOS Martinez also noted that a comprehensive software update of the distribution system communication took place in March. A roundtable discussion about the occurrence of brackish backflow events in the sloughs ensued.

7. Receive Report on Annual Irrigators Meeting, held March 22, 2018. GM Lockwood reported that the Annual Irrigators Meeting was well attended and a success.

8. Receive Update on City of Watsonville’s Corralitos Creek Treatment Plant Improvement Project. GM Lockwood reported that the DWR approved another time extension for the deadline to utilize the project grant funds. Agency staff are pursuing grant opportunities to cover the remaining construction costs and are continuing project discussions with the City of Watsonville.

- 9. Discuss Vacant Committee Seat: Inside Delivered Water Zone Grower.** The Committee deferred this item to the following meeting due to time constraints.
- 10. Discuss Future Agenda Items.** The Committee requested a report on the progress of the BMP Conservation Program and an update on water quality in the sloughs at the next meeting.
- 11. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 30, 2018, at 3:00 p.m.
- 12. Meeting Adjourned at 4:26 p.m.**