

MINUTES
of the
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Lied Lodge and Conference Center
Nebraska City, Nebraska
April 13, 2017

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MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT

ALASKA	—
ARIZONA	Einav Henenson
CALIFORNIA	—
COLORADO	John Stulp
IDAHO	Jerry Rigby
KANSAS	David Barfield
MONTANA	Tim Davis
NEBRASKA	Jeff Fassett
NEVADA	—
NEW MEXICO	—
NORTH DAKOTA	Jen Verleger
OKLAHOMA	Julie Cunningham
OREGON	—
SOUTH DAKOTA	Kent Woodmansey
TEXAS	Jon Niermann
UTAH	Walt Baker
WASHINGTON	—
WYOMING	Pat Tyrrell

STAFF

Tony Willardson
Michelle Bushman
Sara Larsen
Cheryl Redding

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jerry Rigby, Chair of the Executive Committee, called the meeting to order, and requested introductions be made around the room.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held in St. George, Utah on September 29, 2016 were unanimously approved.

REPORT ON BUDGET AND FINANCES

Tim Davis, Secretary/Treasurer, reported that Alaska is trying to get funding to pay their dues.

Walt Baker talked about budget issues given the new Administration. He suggested this could affect the ability of states to pay their dues.

Tim reviewed the proposed budget for FY2018 budget, which is found under Tab D in the briefing materials. Tim noted that the Council purchased their office space in December 2016, which is within FY2016-2017 budget cycle. It made sense to purchase the office space in comparison to paying rent, and in light of the fact there were sufficient funds in the reserves account to cover the expense without needing a loan. However, property taxes and other fees must now be paid, but the costs are far less than paying rent.

The current fiscal year budget is projected to end with a positive cash flow of about \$73,000, mainly due to funds received from grants. However, it is not anticipated funds will be received from the first EPA Exchange Network (EN) grant in 2018, which is to be completed in September 2017.

We are looking at an overall 5% increase in expenses for FY2018. This is primarily tied to salaries, payroll taxes, contracts, and the biennial audit. It is predicted our FY2018 budget income will be a \$40,000 decrease over the current fiscal year. The audit will be due in FY2018, and that expense is about \$9,000.

It was noted that staff had not budgeted for funds received in this fiscal year from the California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) for work on the seasonal to subseasonal (S2S) and irrigation management systems report. Therefore, there is a substantial increase in contract income for the current fiscal year, with completion of those contracts.

The Management Subcommittee recognizes that it is likely inevitable there will be an increase in dues. The dues have been held at \$30,000 per year per state and have not been raised in over ten years.

Julie Cunningham inquired whether the WSWC seeks additional sponsorships or other means of funding support? Tony replied that we will most likely seek some additional contracts. He intends to aggressively pursue some contract work with NOAA for work on the Water Data Exchange (WaDE) project. Sponsorships are sought to help offset the costs of receptions at our regular Council meetings, as well as for any symposia or workshops.

Walt Baker moved adoption of the proposed FY2017-2018 budget as drafted, with the understanding changes could be made prior to adoption at the Summer meetings in June 2017. The motion was seconded by Kent Woodmansey. All were in favor of adopting the FY2018 proposed budget.

SUNSETTING POSITIONS

The Chair turned the time to Tony Willardson for a review of the positions scheduled to sunset. Tony remarked that Positions #360 - #363 had been discussed during the Water Resources Committee earlier, and all in attendance here were also present during that meeting. Tony briefly reviewed Position #364 on Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, and noted it would be taken up for consideration during the Water Quality Committee meeting. In addition, he talked about the new position discussed during the Water Resources Committee supporting weather research, forecasting, and innovation.

Walt Baker mentioned that in Utah, their Governor has directed that no budget matters should be voted upon or dollar amounts included in positions. Tony noted WSWC positions similarly avoid including specific dollar amounts.

Tony talked about S. 518, cited as the "Small and Rural Community Clean Water Technical Assistance Act," just recently introduced to provide on-site technical assistance and education regarding operation of wastewater treatment systems via "circuit riders" similar to that offered under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

WSWC STRATEGIC PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Jeanine Jones joined by phone and reported that at this meeting we've revised the usual schedule or format of the meetings somewhat. We have requested written state reports prepared in advance of the meetings, although we will continue to allow oral comments during the Full Council meeting.

She reported that the Strategic Planning Subcommittee is dealing with the notion of dues and explaining the structure and getting some additional ideas. This is in the exploratory stage. Walt Baker commented on the method used by the Association of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA) of taking a state's population into consideration, and using benchmarking. There was some concern raised about a "heavy vote" for states that pay more. Walt said he would send a copy of ACWA's arrangement to Tim Davis. Jerry Rigby suggested that the Strategic Planning Subcommittee could rendezvous electronically to discuss these ideas further.

Jerry related that strategic planning is his theme during his role as WSWC Chair. He also remarked that it was his opinion that holding the host state presentation first on Thursday morning worked out really well. Six states provided their reports in advance for this meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT/WSWC ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Tony Willardson stated that under Tab K, there is a summary of the activities and events the WSWC participated in since the last meeting. He noted in particular two letters that have been written; one to EPA, and the other to the Indian Water Rights Office. Tony quickly mentioned several of the meetings staff attended. Sara also covered some of the activities she has been involved with as WaDE manager, and which are included in the summary.

Jerry Rigby commented that the demand for Tony and staff to attend and participate in various meetings has become nearly overwhelming at times. He then commended staff for doing such a great job.

FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION TRANSITION AND WSWC PRIORITIES

Typically the Management Subcommittee and other interested Council members make visits to Administration and Congressional offices in the spring and advise them on major national water issues from the perspective of western states. Given the transition to the new Administration is still underway, Jerry Rigby asked Executive Committee members their opinion about making such a trip. As very few people are in place this year and Department Secretaries have not been put in place, it was determined that this year is likely not a good year to go to Washington, D.C. Should an opportunity arise later in the year, then a trip will be considered at that time.

Tony passed out copies of the WSWC Administration Transition Priorities document for members to use as appropriate.

The committee talked about the recently announced federal budget cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency.

FUTURE WSWC MEETINGS

Tony Willardson reviewed the upcoming meetings as listed on the agenda. The Sub-Seasonal to Seasonal (S2S) Precipitation Forecasting workshop scheduled for May 17 – 19, 2017 in San Diego, California will build on the work being done by a coalition of entities such as the Association of California Water Agencies. A S2S bill is on the President's desk for signature. At the workshop, there will be updates from the research community.

The Summer meetings will be held in Rohnert Park, Sonoma County, California on June 27-29, 2017. Jeanine has a tour planned to hear about salmon habitat restoration, groundwater and it will include a visit to an atmospheric river observatory.

FY2016-2017 COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

Jerry Rigby noted that there will be some updates to the work plan, but there was not any substantive discussion.

SUMMER 2017 MEETING SUNSETTING POSITIONS

The Executive Committee agenda included a listing of the positions that will sunset at the Summer 2017 Council meetings, if no action is taken. This list is provided for reference and planning purposes.

OTHER MATTERS

There being no other matters, the meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.