

**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Holiday Inn Express and Suites**  
**Deadwood, South Dakota**  
**September 14, 2021**

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**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT**

<b>ALASKA</b>	--
<b>ARIZONA</b>	Amanda Long Rodriguez
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	--
<b>COLORADO</b>	--
<b>IDAHO</b>	Jerry Rigby
<b>KANSAS</b>	Earl Lewis
<b>MONTANA</b>	--
<b>NEBRASKA</b>	--
<b>NEVADA</b>	Micheline Fairbank
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>	John D'Antonio (virtual)
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>	Andrea Travnicek Jen Verleger
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>	--
<b>OREGON</b>	--
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>	Nakaila Steen
<b>TEXAS</b>	Jon Niermann
<b>UTAH</b>	Erica Gaddis
<b>WASHINGTON</b>	--

**WYOMING**

Jeff Cowley

**STAFF**

Tony Willardson  
Michelle Bushman  
Adel Abdallah  
Cheryl Redding

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Jen Verleger, Chair of the Executive Committee, called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held virtually on June 3, 2021 (prior to the in-person meetings in Cody, Wyoming), were moved for approval by Earl Lewis. Micheline Fairbank seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**BUDGET**

Jen Verleger, Committee Chair turned the time to Tony Willardson to describe budgetary matters.

Tony remarked that the materials contained under Tab D in the briefing materials include a summary of the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget. There is a slight budget shortfall (with significant contract revenue yet to be received). With respect to the overall WSWC budget, it has been very lean. Funds continue to be set aside in a reserves account.

We are awaiting dues payments from a few states, including Alaska. Of the expected \$561,000 in dues assessments, thus far this year we have received \$478,500.00.

Tony commented that the subscription fee to the newsletter (WSW) has been discontinued. Going forward, those paying will be notified that the newsletter will no longer be a fee-based service. The receipts to the budget from subscribers only amounted to about \$2,000 in recent years, which doesn't justify the administrative costs.

The WSWC has had substantial philanthropic support for the WaDE program. The WaDE budget has been separated from core Council functions, and expenses through September were about \$1,400 in the black, until accounting for funds paid to states as "states assistance." We ended up about \$1,800 in the red. Our agreement with the Moore Foundation for the WaDE program is in

the process of being extended. For upcoming and future grant applications, we will increase our overhead to 10% from 7.5%. There are no current contracts in hand for additional WaDE funds, though a number are pending with philanthropic groups and we hope to be able to begin charging under those agreements as of October 1, 2021.

Of note, Jessica Reimer our former policy analyst resigned as of June 30, 2021 in order to enter a doctoral program. We hope to be able to replace the position, perhaps through hiring an intern.

The biennial symposium cosponsored with the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) was held virtually in August. A registration fee of \$60 - \$100 was charged. We received \$25,000 in sponsorships for the event. The division of funds received will be discussed and divided between the WSWC and NARF.

Our entire budget, including WaDE is \$727,000. We are proposing less than that for the coming year until we know how much we receive by way of grant funds.

Of note, Tony made the announcement that Jon Niermann, Council Vice-Chair, recently received another six-year appointment by the governor to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

## **PROPOSED AND SUNSETTING POLICIES**

### **Proposed Policy – Hardrock Abandoned Mines**

#### **Sunsetting Policies**

- WQ [Position #426](#) – supporting State Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Authority
- WQ [Position #427](#) – regarding Clean Water Act Jurisdiction
- WR [Position #428](#) – regarding Federal Water and Climate Data Collection and Analysis Programs
- WR [Position #429](#) – regarding Drought Preparedness, Prediction and Early Warning Programs
- WR [Position #430](#) – regarding Bureau of Reclamation Drought Response Programs
- L [Position #431](#) – regarding States’ Water Rights and Natural Flows

Please note that the aforementioned resolutions will be taken up by each of the WSWC’s working committees during their individual meetings.

## **WESTERN GOVERNORS’ ASSOCIATION 2021 POLICY RESOLUTIONS**

The Western Governors’ Association met for their annual meeting June 30 – July 1, adopted resolutions on water resources (21-10) and water quality (21-0). Tony remarked that the resolutions

were in the briefing materials under Tab E. A number of our members talked with their Governors' staff regarding the resolutions which were revised and readopted.

Governor Little is the WGA Chair this fiscal year. Jerry Rigby is promoting a stronger, more cohesive working relationship between the WGA and the WSWC. The WSWC continues to work to support the governors. When created in 1965, Nevada Governor Sawyer mentioned that the WSWC was meant to be a long-term organization, whereas the Governors are not.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT/WSWC ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

Tony Willardson mentioned there is a summary of WSWC activities for the past few months under Tab F. We continue to reach out on sub-seasonal to seasonal precipitation forecasting concerns with NOAA and the Congress.

The WSWC and WGA staff schedule calls on a fairly regular basis, and we work to ensure WSWC policies are consistent with those of the governors.

In highlighting some of the WSWC's recent activities, Tony mentioned activities and events related to Indian reserved rights claims, outreach with the Administration on the Waters of the United States rule, meetings of the National Integrated Drought Information System Executive Council, which Tony co-chairs, work with the U.S. Geological Survey on WaDE, and WestFAST webinars.

Tony also mentioned coordination with other organizations, such as the Interstate Council on Water Policy, National Water Supply Alliance, and Western States Water Partnership. The WSWC participates and attends meetings and webinars of several other organizations and task forces.

### **FUTURE WSWC MEETINGS**

The next meetings will be held in the Washington, DC vicinity in April 2022. The meetings will be held in coordination and in conjunction with the Interstate Council on Water Policy and the National Water Supply Alliance.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

The WSWC Rules of Organization require that we receive a letter from the member state governors appointing their representatives. Tony will be contacting those states that do not currently have representatives appointed.

**SUNSETTING POSITIONS FOR 2022 SPRING MEETINGS**

The positions that follow will be reviewed at the 2022 Spring Meetings to determine if the resolutions should be revised or updated to avoid cessation or sunseting of the policies.

Position #432 – supporting Rural Water Infrastructure Needs and Projects  
Position #433 – supporting Renewable Hydropower Development

**OTHER MATTERS**

There being no other matters, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.