BAWSCA Minutes

BAY AREA WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 18, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.

DUE TO COVID-19, THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED AS A TELECONFERENCE
PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR’S EXECUTIVE ORDERS N-25-20
AND N-29-20, WHICH SUSPEND CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE RALPH M. BROWN
ACT. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, BAWSCA STAFF, AND OF THE PUBLIC COULD NOT
ATTEND THIS MEETING IN PERSON.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call – 6:36 pm following introductory
instructions for conducting the meeting virtually through Zoom.
BAWSCA Chair, Gustav Larsson, called the meeting to order. Nicole Sandkulla
called the roll. Twenty-four (24) members of the Board were present at roll call. A
list of Directors present (24), absent (2) is attached.

2. Comments by the Chair:
Chair Larsson welcomed the members of the Board. He noted that the Board’s
consideration of the workplan and results to be achieved in FY2021-22 is a reminder
of the extent, relevance and importance of BAWSCA’s efforts for the 1.8 million
residents, 40,000 businesses, and hundreds of communities BAWSCA member
agencies serve in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties.
After almost 20 years in operation, BAWSCA continues its work to achieve its goal of
providing a reliable supply of high-quality water at a fair price. Chair Larsson
encouraged the Board to continue its thoughtful and strategic judgement as it
considers a substantial work plan for FY 2021-22 and the resources to achieve
results.

3. Board Policy Committee Report:
Committee Chair Zigterman reported that the Committee met on February 10th and
voted unanimously to recommend the proposed FY 2021-22 bond surcharges and
the proposed amendment to Hanson Bridgett’s contract.
The Committee received presentations on possible options for refunding BAWSCA’s
bonds, and on BAWSCA’s options for paying its Unfunded Pension Liability sooner
than currently planned. The Committee’s discussions are reflected in the Board
Policy Summary report included in the agenda packet. Both items will be brought
back to the Committee for further discussion and possible direction for action by the
full Board.

4. SFPUC Report:
SFPUC Assistant General Manager Steve Ritchie reported on water supply
conditions and storage levels to date. Mr. Sandler, CFO and AGM of Business
Services, provided an update on SFPUC’s financials, specifically on its pension and
OPEB obligations.
Comments and questions were taken from members of the Board.

Public comments were received from Peter Drekmeier and Dave Warner.

5. **Public Comments:** Public comments were provided by Carol Steinfeld and Peter Drekmeier.

6. **Consent Calendar:**

   Director Quigg made a motion, seconded by Director Wood, to approve the Minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting; receive and file the Budget Status Report as of January 31, 2021, the Bond Surcharge Collection, Account Balance and Payment Report as of December 31, 2020, approve the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 Bond Surcharges, and approve the amendment to Hanson Bridgett Professional Services Contract.

   The motion carried by roll call vote.

   Directors Hamilton, Hardy, and Keighran abstained from approving item #6A.

7. **Report and Discussion:**

   A. **Preliminary Fiscal Year 2021-22 Work Plan, Results to be Achieved and Operating Budget:** Ms. Sandkulla presented the preliminary work plan and results to be achieved which includes eight (8) new, significantly re-scoped, and expanded activities critical to ensuring water supply reliability for the water customers served by the BAWSCA member agencies. Funding options were presented. The Board provided feedback and requested further analysis for the Board’s consideration.

   Carol Steinfeld provided public comment.

8. **Reports:**

   A. **Annual Review of the Balancing Account:** Finance Manager, Christina Tang presented an update on the Water Supply Agreement Balancing Account.

   B. **Water Supply and Demand:** Ms. Sandkulla reported that the BAWSCA service area’s total potable water use in December 2020 is 8% less than in pre-drought December 2013. She noted that increase in water use during the months of December and January, when it would otherwise be wet, is an indicator of dry conditions. BAWSCA will continue to monitor the trend with SFPUC as the water year continues.

   C. **Bay Delta Plan/FERC Relicensing Process:** Ms. Sandkulla presented a timeline of the developments on the Bay Delta Plan Phase 1 and voluntary agreements beginning in 2009 to the present. BAWSCA continues its efforts on having the Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement (TRVA) analyzed by the State Board as an alternative to the adopted Bay Delta Plan. The SFPUC will hold its 3rd public workshop on the Bay Delta Plan on March 26th.
BAWSCA and the SFPUC separately filed petitions to the SWRCB for reconsideration of its Water Quality Certification for the Don Pedro FERC relicensing. BAWSCA will remain engaged with the SFPUC and the Districts as FERC matters develop in 2021.

Public Comments were made by Steve Rosenblum, Virginia Chang Kiraly, Dave Warner, Peter Drekmeier, and Rose McEntee

9. **Closed Session:** The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 9:15pm

10. **Report After Closed Session:** Closed Session ended at 9:55pm. Legal Counsel, Allison Schutte, convened Open Session and reported that no action was taken during Closed Session.

11. **Directors’ Discussion: Comments, Questions and Agenda Requests:** There were no comments, questions, and agenda requests from the members of the Board.

12. **Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled on May 20, 2021 at 6:30pm. The meeting is expected to be in the same virtual format.

13. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 9:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole M. Sandkulla
Chief Executive Officer/General Manager

NMS/le
Attachments: 1) Attendance Roster
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