MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
WITH THE MWDOC MET DIRECTORS
June 4, 2025

At 8:30 a.m., President McVicker called to order the Workshop Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County in Conference Room 101 at the District facilities located in Fountain Valley, as well as including attendance via the Zoom Webinar application. Director Seckel led the Pledge of Allegiance and District Secretary Crespi called the roll.

MWDOC Directors
Al Nederhood
Larry Dick*
Karl W. Seckel*
Bob McVicker
Randall Crane
Jeffrey F. Thomas
Megan Yoo Schneider

*Also MWDOC MET Directors

Other MWDOC MET Directors
Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman

Staff
Harvey De La Torre, General Manager
Melissa Baum-Haley, Assistant General Manager
Angela Crespi, District Secretary
Heather Baez, Director of Governmental Affairs
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency
Jennifer Wicks, Public Affairs Communications Manager
Tiffany Baca, Public Affairs Education Manager
Kathy Pham, Assistant Board Secretary
Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer
Alex Heide, Senior MET Issues & Policy Analyst
Kevin Hostert, Senior Water Resources Analyst/ Data Management
Rachel Davis, Water Loss Control Programs Supervisor
Rachel Waite-Harvey, Water Use Efficiency Program Supervisor
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel

Also Present

Dick Ackerman	Ackerman Consulting
Doug Davert	East Orange County Water District
Dennis Cafferty	El Toro Water District
Vu Chu	El Toro Water District
Kathryn Freshley	El Toro Water District
Mike Gaskins	El Toro Water District
Kay Havens	El Toro Water District
Mark Monin	El Toro Water District
Mike Dunbar	Emerald Bay Services District
Doug Reinhart	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water District
James Fisler	Mesa Water District
Dick Fiore	Moulton Niguel Water District
Donald Froelich	Moulton Niguel Water District
Marina Lindsay	Moulton Niguel Water District
Diane Rifkin	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District

Brandon Goshi	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Albert Napoli	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Sara Tucker	National Resources Results
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Alicia Dunkin	Orange County Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Chris Olsen	Orange County Water District
Emily Novak	Orange County Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Jerry Vilander	Serrano Water District
Robbie Pitts	Serrano Water District
Syrus Devers	Syrus Devers Advocacy
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
John Horst	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Peter Whittingham	Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors
Brett R. Barbre	Yorba Linda Water District
Gene Hernandez	Yorba Linda Water District
Mark Toy	Yorba Linda Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Kim Manago	E Source
Chuck Gibson	

TELECONFERENCE SITES

Directors McVicker and Yoo Schneider participated via teleconference locations (all agenda requirements pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act requirements were complied with).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President McVicker inquired whether any members of the public wished to comment on agenda items.

There were no public comments.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

No items were received.

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO MEETING

President McVicker inquired as to whether there were any items distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

District Secretary Crespi reported there were no items distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior to meeting.

NEXT RESOLUTION NO. 2158

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

a. Federal Legislative Report (NRR)

In addition to the report provided in the agenda packet, National Resource Results Partner Sara Tucker provided an overview of the Federal Legislative Report, highlighting the Trump Administration Fiscal Year 2026 budget.

Director Seckel offered to provide letters of support, if needed, to support funding to continue activities by the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum.

Director Nederhood inquired about WaterSMART. Ms. Tucker stated that the Trump Administration is focused on water delivery and infrastructure. Although WaterSMART was cut from the budget, Congress is likely to continue funding programs with bipartisan support, albeit with some cuts.

b. State Legislative Report (SDA)

Mr. Syrus Devers of Syrus Devers Advocacy provided an overview of the State Legislative Report, highlighting the Delta Conveyance Project budget trailer bill. He also provided status updates on SB 601 (Allen), AB 514 (Petrie-Norris), SB 496 (Hurtado), and SB 72 (Caballero).

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Mr. Dick Ackerman of Ackerman Consulting provided an overview of the Legal and Regulatory Report highlighting the Supreme Court's recent ruling on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)

Mr. Peter Whittingham of Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors provided an overview of the County Legislative Report included in the agenda packet.

e. MWDOC Legislative Matrix
f. MET Legislative Matrix

The Board received and filed the reports.

2. WHITTINGHAM PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISORS CONTRACT – HIGHLIGHTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 AND OUTLOOK FOR 2025-26

General Manager Harvey De La Torre provided a brief overview of the item and introduced Peter Whittingham. Mr. Whittingham provided a presentation highlighting MWDOC's achievements (LAFCO MSR process, Enhanced Local Government Relationships, Greater Agency Awareness and South County Coalition Support) and 2026 Local and Regional Issues Forecast (Orange County CEO, Current/Upcoming Management Changes, South Orange County Wastewater Authority, Potential Consolidations & Annexations and Regional LAFCO Collaboration).

Director Crane inquired about the recent activities of the Grand Jury. Mr. Whittingham responded that the Grand Jury is expected to release its activity reports soon. Director Crane also expressed interest in having Mr. Whittingham help raise awareness of MWDOC among City Council members.

Director Nederhood voiced his support and noted that he looks forward to a cost benefit relationship moving forward and seeing how Mr. Whittingham will contribute to these outreach efforts.

Director Seckel expressed interest in working with our member agencies on water rates issues, affordability, and the overall value proposition that water service provides to the region.

Director Dick inquired about the South County agencies involved in the Southern California LAFCO coalition and asked which seats on the Orange County Board of Supervisors are up for election.

Director Thomas asked Mr. Whittingham where he believes MWDOC can strengthen its relationships. Mr. Whittingham highlighted MWDOC's continued opportunities to build connections to support the member agencies.

Following the discussion, the Board thanked Mr. Whittingham and received and filed the information.

3. ACKERMAN CONSULTING CONTRACT - HIGHLIGHTS FOR FISCAL 2024-25 AND OUTLOOK FOR 2025-26

Mr. Ackerman provided a brief overview of his professional background and presented a summary highlighting key aspects of his work on behalf of the District in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25, as well as his proposed Scope of Services for FY 2025-26.

The Board expressed their appreciation for Mr. Ackerman's ongoing efforts and acknowledged the value of his work. They thanked him for his dedication, expertise, and continued support on behalf of the District. Following the discussion, the Board received and filed the information.

4. METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY UPDATE AND POTENTIAL SALE OF WATER OUTSIDE THE SERVICE AREA

Senior Water Resources Analyst Alex Heide provided a brief overview of the topic and introduced Water Resource Management Group Manager Brandon Goshi who provided a presentation that highlighted the following: Background, Water Transactions and New Revenues Below Budget, Safeguarding State Water Project (SWP) Dependent Area Reliability, Addressing Board Feedback – Legal and Financial, SWP Water Sales Outside of Service Area – Conditions of Board Approval, Status of Identified Transactions and Draft Terms in Proposed Westside Agreement Highlight Price vs SWP Allocation Dynamics.

Director Nederhood inquired about the water projections and how they are determined. Mr. Goshi explained that the variance in conditions affecting actual water sales and unmet demands is greater than often assumed when focusing solely on projected sales versus actual outcomes. He noted that Metropolitan's annual demands, which serve as the comparison baseline, are influenced by both retail-level demands and locally supplied water from member and local agencies. Retail demands fluctuate significantly due to factors such as weather, outdoor water use, and the state of the economy during any given period.

Following presentation and discussion, the Board thanked Mr. Goshi and received and filed the information.

5. QUESTIONS OR INPUT ON MET ISSUES FROM THE MEMBER AGENCIES/MET DIRECTOR REPORTS REGARDING MET COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Director Ackerman provided an update of the MET General Manager recruitment and Delta Conveyance Project. She also informed the Board that she now serves as Vice Chair of MET's Subcommittee on Imported Water.

Director Erdmann reported on MET's Engineering, Operations & Technology Committee agenda items.

Director Seckel noted that the Metropolitan General Manager recruitment is currently a top priority for the Board and will remain so for the next six months.

Director Dick reported on the Ad Hoc Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnership, Pure Water Southern California Environmental Impact Report meeting and the MET General Manager recruitment.

ACTION ITEM

6. APPOINTMENT OF MWDOC DISTRICT SECRETARY

Upon motion by Director Yoo Schneider, seconded by Director Dick, and carried (7-0), the Board adopted a resolution appointing Angela Crespi as the District Secretary, effective June 4, 2025, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors Nederhood, Dick, Seckel, McVicker, Crane, Thomas, Yoo Schneider
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

7. H.R. 2766 (FALLON, R-TX) – THE SPECIAL DISTRICT GRANT AND ACESSIBILITY ACT

Director of Governmental Affairs Baez provided a brief overview of the topic.

Upon motion by Director Yoo Schneider, seconded by Crane, and carried (7-0), the Board adopted a support position on H.R. 2766 (Fallon, R-TX), by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors Nederhood, Dick, Seckel, McVicker, Crane, Thomas, Yoo Schneider
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

INFORMATION ITEMS

8. MET ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY

a. MET's Finance and Rate Issue
b. MET's Water Supply Condition Update

c. MET's Water Quality Update
d. Colorado River Issues
e. Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

The Board received and filed the report as presented.

9. METROPOLITAN (MET) BOARD AND COMMITTEE AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Summary regarding May MET Board Meeting
b. Review items of significance for MET Board and Committee Agendas

Director Nederhood inquired about Item No. 9b action item 8-1 authorizing a new agricultural lease agreement with Bouldin Farming Company for rice farming and related uses on portions to MET-owned real property.

Following the discussion, the Board received and filed the information.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, President McVicker adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Angela Crespi
District Secretary