



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 15, 2024**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Bruce Whitaker, Chair, Orange County Water District
Mike Gardner, Vice Chair, Western Municipal Water District
T. Milford Harrison, Secretary-Treasurer, San Bernardino Valley
Municipal Water District
Jasmin A. Hall, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT;
NON-VOTING**

David J. Slawson, Eastern Municipal Water District [via – zoom]
Gil Botello, Alternate, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Denis Bilodeau, Alternate, Orange County Water District

STAFF PRESENT

Jeff Mosher, Karen Williams, David Ruhl, Shavonne Turner, Rachel
Gray, Rick Whetsel, Marie Jauregui, Dean Unger, Sara Villa, Zyanya
Ramirez, Haley Gohari, Alison Lewis

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrew Turner, Lagerlof; Adekunle Ojo, San Bernardino Valley
Municipal Water District; Chris Olsen, Orange County Water District;
Mallory O’Conor, Western Municipal Water District

The Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Bruce Whitaker on behalf of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

An oral roll call was duly noted and recorded by the Clerk of the Board.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments; there were no public comments received via email.

4. ITEMS TO BE ADDED OR DELETED

There were no items to be added or deleted.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: OCTOBER 1, 2024

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

B. TREASURER’S REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2024

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote
Motion/Second:	Gardner/Harrison
Ayes:	Gardner, Hall, Harrison, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. SAWPA STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE (CM#2024.58)

Jeff Mosher provided a presentation on SAWPA's Strategic Planning update, contained in the agenda packet on pages 19-44. Mr. Mosher provided a brief background of SAWPA's Strategic Plan, SAWPA has a 2011 Strategic Plan, and it resides on SAWPA's website. In 2016, there was an update to the Strategic Plan, though it did not constitute a comprehensive review.

Currently, efforts are focused on gathering input from member agencies, with a proposal from the WSC that staff is utilizing. The strategic plan aims to improve decision-making, enhance performance, and ensure accountability. It serves as a roadmap for the future, encompassing the vision, mission, values, goals, and work plans. This document is intended to evolve, guiding consistent decision-making. The context includes new ideas and strategies regarding the Brine Line and its impact on the watershed, especially in light of drought and climate change. Additionally, state priorities are shifting, and oversight from OWOW on IRWM projects may be declining, which raises concerns about watershed funding. The ICARP grant positions the region for future financial support.

In 2016, the Strategic Plan review assessed various business lines and identified critical success factors, setting the stage for 2025 with a focus on collaboration with the Commission and member agencies. The revised WSC proposal in 2024 emphasizes engaging the Commission, General Managers, member agency staff, SAWPA staff, and WSC for facilitation. The process will include workshops and listening sessions with the Commission leading to a review and potential revision of the vision, mission statements, values, goals, strategies, and success factors.

Mr. Mosher provided a breakdown of the four (4) proposed tasks for the Strategic Plan:

Task 1 (Assessment): Review existing material, document the history of SAWPA, SAWPA staff discussion, and review with general managers, and member agency staff.

Task 2 (Vision, Mission, and Values): Commission listening sessions (one-on-one), general managers' workshop, and member agency staff workshop.

Task 3 (Goals, Strategies, and Metrics): SAWPA staff workshop, general managers workshop, member agency workshop, and Commission workshop.

Task 4 (Strategic Plan): Draft Plan, review with general managers and member agency staff, Revised Draft (2 rounds), and Commission workshop.

Mr. Mosher noted that the next step is to update WSC's proposal (scope and budget) in November 2024, in January 2025 review the scope with the General Managers and bring it to Commission as an informational item, then in February/March timeframe go to Commission for approval on the Strategic Plan Facilitation with WSC. It is anticipated that the Strategic Plan process would begin March 2025.

Commissioner Hall expressed concerns about the aggressive schedule to start the process in March 2025. Mr. Mosher noted that SAWPA staff already have the proposal, and it only needs to be refined. The one-on-ones with the Commissioners and workshops with member agency staff are anticipated from March-December 2025. Commissioner Gardner noted it is timely to do this since 2011 was a long time ago. Chair Whitaker emphasized that it will be a shame that he will not be a part of it due to him always enjoying being a part of a Strategic Planning process. Alternate Commissioner Botello requested that he be included in the one-on-ones between WSC and the Commissioners.

This item is to receive and file; no action was taken on agenda item no. 6.A.

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

Karen Williams reported that staff are working on SAWPA's Audit, and the results will be brought forward to Commission in December. Mr. Mosher noted that staff will also begin the 2-year budget process, and it will be Ms. Williams' last involvement due to her upcoming retirement.

- A. **CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – AUGUST 2024**
Presenter: Karen Williams
- B. **INTER-FUND BORROWING – AUGUST 2024 (CM#2024.59)**
Presenter: Karen Williams
- C. **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – AUGUST 2024 (CM#2024.60)**
Presenter: Karen Williams
- D. **PROJECT AGREEMENT 25 – OWOW FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, JULY 2024**
Presenter: Karen Williams
- E. **PROJECT AGREEMENT 26 – ROUNDTABLE FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, JULY 2024**
Presenter: Karen Williams
- F. **STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**
Presenter: Jeff Mosher
- G. **GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**
There was no report received from the General Manager.
- H. **CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT**
Chair Whitaker informed the Commission that he attended the OC Water Summit and expressed how good of a turnout it was and shared about his recent trip to Italy.
- I. **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**
There were no Commissioners' comments received.
- J. **COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
There were no requests for future agenda items.

Chair Whitaker recessed the meeting at 10:04 a.m. for Closed Session.

8. CLOSED SESSION

- A. **PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957 – PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**
Title: General Manager

Chair Whitaker resumed the Open Session at 10:25 a.m. and Legal Counsel, Andy Turner announced that the Commission is to begin the process of conducting a performance review of the General Manager; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 8.A.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Chair Bruce Whitaker adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

DocuSigned by:

Bruce Whitaker

851DD6FD555C4DC...

Bruce Whitaker, Chair

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

Sara Villa

722360038ACC422...

Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board