

Friday, January 22, 2021 – 1:30 p.m.
Governing Board Regular Meeting
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
via WebEx and at the Mokelumne Watershed Office,
15083 Camanche Parkway South, Valley Springs, CA 95252

Summary Minutes

ROLL CALL

Directors John Coleman, Terry Woodrow, Richard Farrington, Donna Leatherman, and Jeff Davidson were present at the beginning of the meeting. Director Ed Gonzales joined the meeting at 2:00 and Director Jack Garamendi joined at 2:35. Absent: Brian Oneto, Amador County. Also present were Executive Officer Richard Sykes, Authority Counsel Greg Gillott, Authority Secretary Lisa Stuart, and 25 visitors and presenters. (Authority Secretary Lisa Stuart was the only one present in person at the Mokelumne Watershed Office.)

PUBLIC COMMENT – none.

AUTHORITY BUSINESS

1. Special Meeting Minutes of October 29, 2020

Motion 01-21 to approve the special meeting minutes of October 29, 2020 was made by Director Woodrow, seconded by Director Leatherman and carried by roll call vote: Yea 5 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

2. Treasurer’s Report – Fourth Quarter FY 2020

A copy of the Treasurer’s Report for the Fourth Quarter of fiscal year 2020, which ended September 30, 2020, was presented to the Board.

Motion 02-21 to accept the Treasurer’s Report for filing was made by Director Davidson, seconded by Director Farrington and carried by roll call vote: Yea 5 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

3. Blue Forest Conservation Presentation

UMRWA staff met with Blue Forest to discuss Forest Resilience Bond (FRB) for the Mokelumne. Blue Forest has indicated it has sufficient grant funding to prepare a Feasibility Study for a Mokelumne Watershed FRB and does not need funding from UMRWA. UMRWA expenses would only be for staff time to provide information, engage other potential partners such as PG&E, and assist with review and preparation of the Study. Given UMRWA’s recent initiation of an effort to prepare a Forest Projects Plan the timing is appropriate to begin consideration of future funding approaches to implement that Plan. Blue Forest made a presentation at this board meeting discussing its current work and how an FRB might work for the Mokelumne Watershed.

During the presentation, Directors Gonzalez (JVID), Garamendi (Calaveras County) and Blood (CPUD) joined the meeting. This increased the vote count by two (2) (Gonzalez and Garamendi) and Director Blood replaced his alternate, Director Leatherman, as the voting member for Calaveras Public Utility District.

Motion 03-21 directing staff to begin preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding with

Blue Forest Conservation for a Feasibility Study of a Forest Resilience Bond to finance forest health projects in the Mokelumne Watershed and to authorize UMRWA staff to begin working with Blue Forest on the Feasibility Study while the MOU is prepared for board consideration at the April 2021 UMRWA board meeting was made by Director Davidson, seconded by Director Farrington and carried by roll call vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

4. Forest Projects Report

The Board was provided with a report on the status of each of UMRWA's forest projects as of the end of 2020. With the onset of winter weather the forest work being performed this past season by UMRWA's contractors has been concluded.

The Board was also provided with a status update on two recent Authority forest project initiatives – to secure Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) grant funding to complete Phase 1 (NEPA/CEQA) of the Upper Mokelumne Watershed Stewardship Project, and an Operator Survey of UMRWA forest contractors. The Board was also informed of an upcoming potential grant opportunity with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) which could assist with funding UMRWA's Forest Project Plan (FPP).

Motion 04-21 to accept the report and authorize the Executive Officer to pursue grant funds as appropriate for the FPP was made by Director Woodrow, seconded by Director Leatherman and carried by roll call vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

5. Mother Lode Land Trust Agreement Extension

The Authority entered into an agreement with Mother Lode Land Trust (MLLT) in July 2020 to continue the Youth Watershed Stewardship Program (YWSP) in 2020. Under the agreement MLLT agreed to complete the program by December 31, 2020. While MLLT has made significant progress in completing the 2020 scope of work in spite of Covid-19 challenges, approximately \$2,100 remains unspent. The recommended amendment will authorize this work to be completed by June 30, 2021, overlapping the 2021 MLLT agreement.

Motion 05-21 to approve and authorize the Executive Officer to sign Amendment 1 to extend the end date for the 2020 Mother Lode Land Trust (MLLT) agreement for the Youth Watershed Stewardship Program was made by Director Davidson, seconded by Director Woodrow and carried by roll call vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 1 (Garamendi).

6. Legislative Issues Update

No legislative report was included in the initial agenda package. However, an EBMUD Federal Initiatives 2021 Excerpts document was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. The EO summarized relevant legislative information.

Board Member Comments: Director Coleman mentioned that meetings are still occurring virtually, though with the onset of vaccinations he is hoping that by October EBMUD might be able to conduct in Pardee BBQ and UMRWA will be able to meet in person.

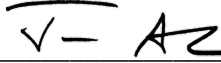
Executive Officer Comments: The EO officer discussed 1) progress on the DAC Needs Study, 2) holding off on a future update of the MAC IRWM Plan until the DAC study is done, 3) the DFW Prop 1 restoration grant program, 4) the newly released CA Wildfire and Forest Restoration Action Plan, 5) reminded Directors to file their Form 700 timely, and 6) introduced Lorna Baisch of EBMUD who is training as UMRWA's Board Secretary to support Lisa Stuart.

ADJOURNMENT: Director Coleman adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m. in honor and memory of Euradell “Dell” Patterson. The next regular meeting will be held on April 23, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. (video conference meeting at EBMUD Mokelumne Watershed Headquarters, Camanche Parkway South, Valley Springs.)

SUBMITTED BY:



Lisa Stuart, Authority Secretary



John Coleman, Chair of the Board

APPROVED: April 23, 2021