Friday, July 24, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.
Governing Board Meeting
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
Pardee Center, Valley Springs, CA 95252

Summary Minutes

ROLL CALL

Directors Terry Woodrow, Chair, Jeff Davidson, Vice Chair, Richard Farrington, Marina Brand, Joey Smith, and Garrett Hesser were present at roll call. Autumn Andahl and Brian Oneto joined the meeting during discussion of Agenda Item 4. Also present were Executive Officer (EO) Richard Sykes, Authority Council Greg Gillott, Authority Treasurer David Glasser, Authority Secretary Lorna Barfield, MAC Project Manager Megan Layhee, and 8 other visitors in person and attending via Zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

AUTHORITY BUSINESS

1. **Regular Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2026**

   Motion 14-26 to approve the meeting minutes of April 24, 2026 was made by Director Davidson, seconded by Director Farrington, and carried by a voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

2. **Treasurer's Report – 2nd Quarter FY 2026**

   Motion 15-26 to accept the Treasurer's Report for filing was made by Director Davidson, seconded by Director Farrington, and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

3. **Approve FY 2026 Budget Amendment**

   Motion 16-26 to approve an amendment to the FY 2026 Budget to add $60,000 to the Authority Administration budget and authorize transfer of $60,000 from Reserves to fund the budget amendment was made by Director Smith, seconded by Director Hesser, and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

4. **Phase 1 - Forest Projects Plan Implementation Report**

   Executive Officer Richard Sykes presented the Phase 1 - Forest Projects Plan (FPP-1) Implementation Report, which included two general services agreements for the Dogwood West bid items 5 & 6 recommended for Board approval. The $630,433 GTS agreement will execute prescribed treatments in the 309.8-acre Dogwood West Project (bid item 5), and the $860,992 Krisman Enterprises agreement will accomplish fuels treatments in the 305.1-acre Dogwood West Project (bid item 6). Both projects are fully funded by Cal Fire grant agreement #3.

   The EO also gave an update on the Mokelumne Forest Resilience Bond (FRB) and shared that Blue Forest, UMRWA, and USFS staff will be hosting a tour for current and prospective participants in the FRB immediately following the Board Meeting. The report concluded with a report on the FPP-1 projects contracted to date and the project acres remaining to be treated.

Director Smith requested a list of the Indigenous groups supporting UMRWA Forest Project work. The EO will send Director Smith an email with information on UMRWA's work with the Washoe Tribe, Buena Vista Rancheria, and UMRWA's tribal liaison position.

Director Farrington noted his satisfaction with the success of the recent procurement policy change that helped UMRWA to secure Krisman Enterprises, a local contractor.

Copies of the recommended Agreements for GTS Forestry and Krisman Enterprises were included in the July 24, 2026 Agenda Supplemental Materials Packet.

*Director Oneto joined the meeting at 10:10, changing the voice vote to 7.

Motion 17-26 to 1) Approve and authorize the Executive Officer to sign a General Services Agreement in the amount of $630,433 with GTS Forestry to perform Dogwood West (bid item 5) fuels treatment project and 2) approve and authorize the Executive Officer to sign a General Services Agreement in the amount of $860,992 with Krisman Enterprises to perform Dogwood West (bid item 6) fuels treatment project was made by Director Davidson, seconded by Director Farrington, and carried by voice vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

*Director Andal joined the meeting at 10:14, changing the final voice vote to Yea 8 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

5. Phase 2 - MAC Forest Health and Resilience Project Report

UMRWA MAC Project Manager Megan Layhee provided the Board with a summary of the Mokelumne Amador Calaveras Forest Health and Resilience Project (MAC Project) status. Records of Decision were signed by the Stanislaus and Eldorado National Forests on April 16, 2026, and UMRWA is currently in the process of developing the MAC CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) and Implementation Work Plan, anticipated to be completed by the end of 2026. UMRWA expects to apply for grant funds to initiate MAC Project implementation late this year or early next year.

The MAC footprint will be analyzed for prioritization with the goal of selecting the first 20,000 acres and using that to create an Implementation Work Plan (IWP). The IWP will be used to raise funds and guide high-priority projects for the next 3 to 5 years. Staff will provide more information and maps supporting related to the IWP at the next Board meeting. Avian surveys for future MAC projects are currently contracted and scheduled for completion in 2027, allowing implementation to begin in surveyed areas in late 2027. These areas include Bear Valley, the Highway 4 corridor, and the Winton Road area. The group discussed that avian surveys are treated as a legal requirement on National Forest lands. Funding from state grants is expected to become more competitive, and UMRWA is pursuing additional funding sources, including the Forest Resilience Bond.

There were no recommended actions on this item.

6. Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

Motion 18-26 to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 UMRWA budget and authorize staff to transmit invoices to Member Agencies requesting payment of FY 2027 assessments by October 31, 2026 was made by Director Davidson, seconded by Director Hesser, and carried by voice vote: Yea 8 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

7. Consulting Services Agreements with UMRWA Support Personnel

Two-year agreements with Richard Sykes, Megan Layhee, and Rob Alcott providing for Executive Officer, Administrative Officer, and Planning Officer services coinciding with the Authority's next two fiscal years were recommended for Board approval. Also recommended was a consulting services agreement with Landmark Environmental Inc. (LEI) to continue professional and administrative support to UMRWA's forestry program for another two years.

Copies of the recommended Agreements for Richard Sykes, Megan Layhee, Rob Alcott, and Landmark Environmental Inc. were included in the July 24, 2026 Agenda Supplemental Materials Packet.

Motion 19-26 to (1) Approve an agreement with Richard Sykes to serve as the Authority's Executive Officer for the period October 1, 2026 through October 31, 2028, and authorize the Board Chair to sign the agreement (2) approve an agreement with Megan Layhee to serve as Authority Administrative Officer for the period October 1, 2026 through October 31, 2028, and authorize the Executive Officer to sign the agreement (3) approve an agreement with Rob Alcott to serve as Authority Planning Officer for the period October 1, 2026 through October 31, 2028, and authorize the Executive Officer to sign the agreement and (4) approve the consulting services agreement with Landmark Environmental Inc. to provide support services for the period October 1, 2026 through October 31, 2028, and authorize the Executive Officer to sign the agreement was made by Director Davidson, seconded by Director Oneto, and carried by voice vote: Yea 8 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

8. Biennial Review Conflict of Interest Code

The California Political Reform Act requires every multi-county agency to review its conflict-of-interest code biennially and submit a Biennial Notice to the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) by October 1. Review of UMRWA's adopted Conflict-of-Interest Code indicates one amendment is necessary: add the Planning Officer position to the Code's list of Designated Positions.

Motion 20-26 to authorize the Authority Secretary to file the Biennial Notice with the Fair Political Practices Commission indicating one amendment to the UMRWA Conflict-of-Interest Code is required was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Andahl, and carried by voice vote: Yea 8 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

Legislative Issues Update

The EO had no report for Legislative issues at this meeting.

Board Member Comments:

Director Farrington noted that the UMRWA JPA identifies watershed and water quality protection as key concerns for the Board. He shared post-fire water quality studies, including a Chico State presentation on Camp Fire runoff and chemical releases, and asked whether the Board would be interested in hearing the presentation at the next Board meeting. The Board agreed, and the EO and Director Farrington will work to send an invitation to the professor.

Executive Officer (EO) Comments:

The EO announced that the next meeting on October 23 may be held at the Mokelumne Watershed office near Camanche Reservoir due to construction at Pardee Center's McLean Hall. The Authority Secretary will advise if this is the case.

ADJOURNMENT: Director Woodrow adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on October 23, 2026, at McLean Hall, Pardee Center, Valley Springs.

SUBMITTED BY:

Lorna Barfield, Authority Secretary

Terry Woodrow, Chair of the Board
APPROVED: October 23, 2026