

**MINUTES  
of the  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
of the  
WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL  
Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
April 16, 2015**

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**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT**

<b>ALASKA</b>	--
<b>ARIZONA</b>	Tom Buschatzke
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	Jeanine Jones
<b>COLORADO</b>	James Eklund
<b>IDAHO</b>	Jerry Rigby
<b>KANSAS</b>	Tracy Streeter
<b>MONTANA</b>	Tim Davis
<b>NEBRASKA</b>	Jim Schneider
<b>NEVADA</b>	Roland Westergard
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>	Tom Blaine
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>	Jennifer Verleger
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>	J.D. Strong
<b>OREGON</b>	Tom Byler
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>	Kent Woodmansey
<b>TEXAS</b>	Robert Mace
<b>UTAH</b>	Walt Baker

**WASHINGTON**

--

**WYOMING**

Pat Tyrrell

**STAFF**

Tony Willardson  
Nathan Bracken  
Sara Larsen  
Cheryl Redding

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

WSWC Chair Pat Tyrrell welcomed the Executive Committee members and introductions were made around the room. Pat then expressed gratitude on behalf of the Council to Nathan Bracken for the service that he has provided to the Council over the last several years. Nathan said it has been his pleasure, and he believes he could never have a better client than the members of the Council he has worked with. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work with each of the Council members.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held October 9, 2014 in Scottsdale, Arizona were moved for approval. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

**REPORT ON BUDGET AND FINANCES**

Pat noted that the budget items have some personnel aspects to be dealt with, and thus, the budget report will be handled during an executive session. Jerry Rigby will report on the four budget items during the executive session.

**PROPOSED AND SUNSETTING POSITIONS**

Tony Willardson noted, for the Executive Committee's reference, that the Water Resources Committee just handled three policies that would sunset without further action. Position #338 which commended the introduction of S. 1343, the Energy and Water Integration Act of 2011 will be recommended to allow to sunset, as will Position #341 which addressed

proposed changes to Reclamation's policy manual, as both are now outdated. Position #339 supports federal applied research and hydroclimate data collection programs. This position was reviewed and discussed by the Executive Committee and was subsequently revised during the pre-meeting conference call. This position will be forwarded to the full Council tomorrow.

Tony remarked that the Legal Committee will discuss Position #340 on state primacy over groundwater this afternoon. We will have more discussion with the Forest Service tomorrow.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### A. WGA/WSWC Activities and Meetings

Pat Tyrrell reported that the WSWC held a session Wednesday afternoon prior to the field trip, which allowed for discussion and a review of a summary report to the WGA on the work the Council has performed under the contract on the Interconnection Transmission Planning and Analysis project. This will close out the work under the contract.

If anyone has comments on the structure, organization, or anything else, please get them to Tony by next week.

Tony Willardson remarked that he continues to be invited to the WGA Staff Council meetings. Our collaboration together seems good. I would describe our relationship with the WGA as sort of a "one-two punch." Sometimes the WSWC throws the first punch, and then the WGA follows. The WSWC may send a letter and then WGA will send a follow up letter, such as we did with the WOTUS rule. At other times, WGA leads, and the WSWC follows.

#### B. Congressional and Agency Visits in Washington, D.C.

The WSWC staff, together with some Council members, visited Washington, D.C. on March 24-27, 2015. We met with both congressional staff and administrative staff. We appreciate the participation of those Council members who were able to assist us with these visits. The meetings held were very productive.

Jerry Rigby commented that he believed the meetings were well worthwhile and very well coordinated. It is important to meet with our congressional offices and keep them apprised and educated on the items where we need their support.

C. 2014-2015 Summary of WSWC Activities and Meetings

Tony Willardson reviewed a number of the ongoing activities and referred the committee to the summary included in Tab F in the briefing books. This summary is prepared to communicate and demonstrate the coordination we've had with our WestFAST partners and with WGA, as well as to indicate the activities and letters that have been undertaken since our last meetings.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING WSWC SUMMER MEETING / 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

A. Pat Tyrrell reported that the WSWC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be held this summer in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. The Council was created and birthed in Nevada 50 years ago. It is seemingly appropriate to hold our Summer meetings there as well.

Sara's husband, an artist, has crafted some alternative new logos for consideration, if the Council is willing to entertain and update of our logo. The Executive Committee was provided an opportunity to weigh in on their preference with respect to a new logo.

The Management prefers the simplest logo as that it looks better when it is reduced in size. Embroidery work makes a difference in terms of the logo, as well. The style of font used also makes a difference, as well as where the words are placed.

Jerry Rigby raised the question of whether or not the WSWC wants to consider a trademark. Do we care if others would use our logo? Just pop it at the bottom of the logo -- and we don't have to register it.

James Eklund moved that we adopt the simpler water droplet iteration of the logo and seek a trademark. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

B. Commemorative Give-Aways

We are planning to have some commemorative hats and pins to give away at the meeting.

Tony stated that the staff has sent out invitations to former WSWC members, and to a number of our federal partners to attend the meeting.

There will be an extended field trip, and more information on this will be presented to us tomorrow by Jason King.

### C. Sponsorship

The staff could use your help on any potential sponsors. Please let us know if you have suggestions.

## **WSWC NOMINATING SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pat Tyrrell noted that in the interim since our last meeting in Scottsdale, Scott Verhines resigned from his position as the New Mexico State Engineer, and is no longer a member of the Council. He had been the WSWC's Secretary/Treasurer. Thus, this put us in a position of needing a replacement.

Having consulted with the Nominating Subcommittee and spoken with both Hal Simpson and Roland Westergard, Pat has asked Jeanine Jones to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer. While that nomination has not been formally voted upon, she is serving in somewhat of an acting role. We will be placing her name and nomination for a vote before the Full Council tomorrow. Pat tentatively welcomed Jeanine to the Management Subcommittee.

## **DRAFT COMMITTEE WORKPLAN**

Pat Tyrrell reviewed the Committee's workplan. He noted that the Executive Committee oversees the newsletter. We hope you find it useful.

Tony Willardson passed around a handout for a Western Water Conference and said that they are seeking the WSWC's support. This is a proposal, and does not include financial commitment. They are looking at holding the conference near the end of October in Salt Lake City, Utah. If the Council agrees to sponsor this event, we would be a sponsor in name only, without financial commitment.

Jeanine Jones mentioned that USDA is finally moving in this direction and being involved.

Pat commented that folks should be aware of the fact that the effort is being driven by academia. It is fairly heavily weighted toward climate effects. They are looking for panelists and this group has important water managers across the West.

There were no objections, so the WSWC will go ahead.

J.D. Strong suggested that if the WSWC is branded as a collaborator, he believes the WSWC should have input on the agenda. It needs to be well-rounded.

### **FUTURE WSWC MEETINGS**

The Summer 2015 meetings, as already discussed, will be held in Lake Tahoe. The Fall meetings will be held in Manhattan, Kansas on October 7-9, 2015.

### **FALL 2015 MEETING SUNSETTING POSITIONS**

The positions as indicated on the agenda are listed for the purpose of making you aware they will sunset at the Fall 2015 meetings, unless there is a motion to continue the positions or absent any revisions. Those scheduled to sunset are included in Tab XYZ for your reference.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

The Executive Committee continued with the budget matters in Executive Session. Thereafter, the meeting was adjourned.