

**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Best Western Agate Beach Inn**  
**Newport, Oregon**  
**August 2, 2018**

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**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT**

<b>ALASKA</b>	David W. Schade
<b>ARIZONA</b>	Einav Henenson
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	Jeanine Jones
<b>COLORADO</b>	Rebecca Mitchell
<b>IDAHO</b>	Jerry Rigby
<b>KANSAS</b>	David Barfield
<b>MONTANA</b>	Jan Langel
<b>NEBRASKA</b>	Jeff Fassett (via phone)
<b>NEVADA</b>	--
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>	Tom Blaine
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>	Garland Erbele
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>	--
<b>OREGON</b>	Tom Byler
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>	--
<b>TEXAS</b>	Jon Niermann
<b>UTAH</b>	Eric Millis
<b>WASHINGTON</b>	Mary Verner
<b>WYOMING</b>	Pat Tyrrell

## **STAFF**

Tony Willardson  
Michelle Bushman  
Sara Larsen  
Cheryl Redding

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Jerry Rigby, Chair of the Executive Committee, called the meeting to order, and requested folks introduce themselves.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on October 19, 2017 were moved for approval. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

## **REPORT ON BUDGET AND FINANCES**

The Executive Committee met in executive session to discuss the budget and salaries. Raises for staff were considered and approved.

## **SUNSETTING POSITIONS**

Chairman Rigby outlined the sunseting positions. Jerry asked why the Vision Statement is in two separate documents with different dates and numbers. Tony explained that Position #384 adopted in October 2015 was a refinement of the prior position (#383) and was written to cover everything the WSWC does. It reflects our rules of organization, but given that it is a "Vision," Tony does not think it is the same sort of position as our other external positions/resolutions that are re-evaluated every three years. We can leave the document as a position and revisit it, or perhaps discuss another approach.

There was a motion to allow Position #383 to sunset and to review Position #384 at the 2018 Fall meetings in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

## **WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION (WGA) ANNUAL MEETING REPORT**

Tony Willardson said he would not cover WGA's water policy resolutions since Ward Scott covered that during the Water Resources Committee meeting. The WSWC originally wrote two of the WGA's water policy resolutions in close cooperation with WGA staff. Tony remarked that WGA has taken a little different direction in that they are very careful that WGA staff is not directing their actions, but the governors' staff are. Thus, input has been through the governors' staff council representatives. The WSWC did not see a revised version of these documents before they were approved by the governors. We did let you know they were being considered, and sent the old ones, with the recommendation that you approach your governor's office if you had any changes to suggest. If you do not know who your staff council member is, we can help you find out. WSWC is pretty much in lock-step with WGA. They value our assistance on these issues. Tony and Ward coordinate frequently.

Under Tab K is a map of gubernatorial elections for November 2018. Seven governors have termed out. There are eight incumbent governors running for re-election. Governor Ige of Hawaii is WGA's new Chair and Governor Burgum of North Dakota the Vice Chair. We would expect there will be some turnover in WSWC membership due to the elections. Only four of the western states do not have governors running.

## **NOMINATING SUBCOMMITTEE / ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Pat Tyrrell reported on behalf of Roland Westergard. A new slate of officers will be offered at tomorrow's Full Council meeting. Typically what happens is the vice-chair moves to chair, secretary/treasurer moves to vice-chair, and the election is for a new secretary/treasurer. After much discussion, thought, and evaluation, the Nominating Subcommittee spoke to Tracy Streeter of Kansas and he has accepted the nomination as secretary/treasurer. His term will be at least until December 2018! As we know, we all have a shelf-life. Tomorrow during the Council meeting, the Nominating Subcommittee will offer the following slate of officers: Jeanine Jones as Chair, Tim Davis as Vice-Chair, and Tracy Streeter as Secretary/Treasurer.

There were no concerns or discussion raised by the Executive Committee. Pat will make a motion to approve the new slate of officers during the Full Council meeting tomorrow.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT / WSWC ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

Tony Willardson shared information about recent WSWC activities and events, which is contained in a document behind Tab L. Tony testified before the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources related to the Reclamation Fund and the use of those revenues. He also participated in a General Accounting Office workgroup that was looking at reducing demands primarily related to agriculture.

A number of WSWC members met at EPA headquarters last March and talked about the new Water of the United States (WOTUS) rule. We have held ongoing conference calls among our members to discuss different draft principles. A new rule will be coming out. The WSWC is trying to be constructive during the discussions with EPA. It is clear the states have many different opinions, but we need to keep moving forward.

Sara is working on WaDE development and she spoke about recent efforts during the Water Resources Committee meeting. Tony serves on the Executive Council for the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS). They hold meetings twice a year. Tony's term as co-chair is nearing completion.

The WSWC continues to coordinate with other organizations. WGA has taken the lead on the State and Local Governmental Associations Summit. Michelle keeps in touch with the ABA Water Law Conference. We heard from Christopher Estes this morning about the Instream Flow Council meeting which Tony attended in April. Most recently Tony was invited to Santa Fe, New Mexico to talk to the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA). He learned a lot including how the "e coli" goes up in Santa Fe when it rains because of the dogs and people who don't pick up after their dogs.

A number of committees, task forces and work groups are listed in which the WSWC regularly participates. Tony sits on the National Geospatial Advisory Council's Landsat Advisory Group (LAG) and helps advise on the Landsat mission. A subgroup of the Landsat advisory group has again been asked by Interior to look at financing the Landsat program and the possibility of charging a fee for data. It has been looked at before, and it was recommended that was not a good idea given the explosion of the use of Landsat thermal infrared imagery, as long as it is free. Many of our States are using it now to measure consumptive water use.

We still coordinate with the Interstate Council on Water Policy, with whom we met in Washington, D.C. this past March. Tony also generally attends the Council of State Governments West meetings.

Chairman Rigby mentioned there is no lack of work or issues for Tony and the staff to deal with.

### **WESTFAST POSITION**

Jerry Rigby commented that as had been announced earlier this morning, John D'Antonio has been interviewed and hired as the incoming WestFAST Liaison. John will serve in this capacity for a period of two years. We have a resolution of appreciation that we can read into the record on behalf of Roger Pierce for his service for the past two years.

### **FUTURE WSWC MEETINGS**

Jerry Rigby affirmed that Idaho is hosting the Fall meetings in Coeur d'Alene on October 24-26, 2018 at the Coeur d'Alene Resort.

The WSWC will host a Water Information Management Systems (WIMS) Workshop next year and the USGS has committed that they want to co-host. This may be held in the spring.

A water management symposium on infrastructure is contemplated for next spring. We will be working with our new WSWC Chair to schedule this symposium.

Additional meetings on the schedule include a Sub-Seasonal to Seasonal Precipitation Forecasting Workshop in late Spring in San Diego and our symposium on Indian water right settlements, likely to be held in August when Congress is in recess.

The Spring and Summer Council meetings will be held in Arizona and Washington, respectively.

For planning purposes, we have projected meetings through 2021, and the list is included in your briefing materials under Tab M.

### **FALL 2018 SUNSETTING POSITIONS**

The positions due to sunset at our next meetings are all under the purview of the Water Resources Committee and will be handled at the October meetings in Idaho. The positions can be found on the WSWC website.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

Tony Willardson remarked that everyone should have seen a memo from Michelle Bushman with respect to sexual harassment policies.

The WSWC is considered a state agency by most of the Council member states. We received a copy of an Executive Order from Governor Colyer of Kansas regarding his sexual harassment policy and our need to comply. The staff is looking at our procedures and internal policies, and we will be ensuring we have a formal policy.

There being no other matters, Chairman Rigby declared the meeting adjourned.