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MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE AND OUTREACH
COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 29, 2020, 9:00 A.M.
Board Room, UWCD NEW Headquarters
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

In addition to its public Committee meeting, people may choose to participate virtually using the Webex video conferencing application.

Directors:

Bruce E. Dandy, Chair
Lynn E. Maulhardt
Sheldon G. Berger

Staff:

Kris Sofley, Clerk of the Board

Public:

Robyn Black, Eclipse Public Affairs
Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner
Burt Handy

OPEN SESSION: 9:00a.m.

Chair Dandy called the committee meeting to order at 9:07am

Clerk took Committee Members' Roll call, all committee members were present

1. Public Comment

Chair Dandy asked if there were any public comments or questions for the Legislative and Outreach Committee. None were offered.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes from the May 4, 2020 Legislative Outreach Committee Meeting, Director Berger; Second, Director Dandy. Director Maulhardt recused himself stating he did not attend the May 4 committee meeting. Two aye votes (Dandy, Berger), none opposed, one recused. Motion carries unanimously 2/0/1.

3. Federal Legislative Update

The District's Federal Legislative Advocate Dennis Cardoza updated the Committee on recent, proposed and pending Federal legislation and related issues, including Congresswoman Brownley's bill to allow dams with small hydroelectric features to be eligible for FEMA's High Hazard Dams program, which appears to be heading to incorporation into the WRDA bill.

Director Maulhardt asked if the California Water Commission could have any impact on this proposed legislation. Director Berger also echoed those concerns.

Technical difficulties were experienced by Mr. Cardoza and his connection with the meeting was lost; Robyn Black stepped in to provide her update to the committee.

4. **State Legislative Update**

The District's State Legislative Advocate Robyn Black updated the Committee on proposed and pending State legislation and related issues, including the current state of the Budget and bonding issues. She said that it is likely that an economic stimulus packet, which would serve as a funding mechanism for natural resources projects and infrastructure could be happening this year. She mentioned that ballot issues seem to be focusing on affirmative action and housing issues. Ms. Black also reported that ACWA's letter to the Governor supporting the Resiliency Bond did not garner much support from voters. She added that in late September or October, if the Fed does not backfill anticipated revenue, it could trigger budget changes.

Mr. Cardoza reconnected and continued his update

Mr. Cardoza added that it is mainly federal regulatory staff that are impacting UWCD. He said the White House is working on the regulatory side but there are fewer opportunities due to the Environmental Protection Act, which is now considered the Holy Grail.

Ms. Black added that California's Constitution requires a balanced budget, and the State is trying to identify a funding mechanism, such as a California Bond, outside of the budget, which could be a real reach. She suggested contacting Jacqui Irwin and stressing the importance of the bond and regulatory reforms. Bills with major policy changes for small businesses, taxes, carryovers, et cetera are fueling a real, hard conversation regarding what we can California to look like. She said federal stimulus to California needs to be part of that and was successful in the last go round with regarding to funding.

Chair Dandy asked Ms. Black what actions the Committee could take. She said to just stay super engaged, continue the District's outreach to other members and remember that soon-to-be senators (Monique Límón) need to be educated as to the role, and needs, of the District.

Mr. Cardoza suggested a "virtual" fly-in, recognize that Brownley and Feinstein are both working hard on the District's behalf. He mentioned Kate in his office was very good at organizing these types of meetings and he would make recommendations regarding who the committee should meet with. He also said that a Plan B, should there be a change in administration, would be to participate in the electoral process.

Director Maulhardt asked where we were with developing a series of briefing items and vignettes for outreach, whether that is a new state senator like Límón or Bennett, if elected. Directors need talking points to educated new legislators.

6. **Future Topics for discussion**

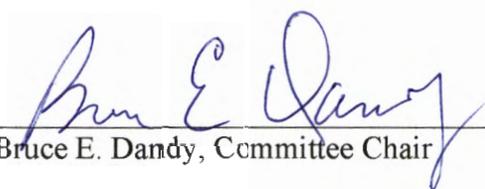
The Committee members suggested reports on State and Federal legislation; an alternative plan for positioning the District with a change in administration.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:43a.m.

Chair Dandy adjourned the meeting to the next Legislative and Outreach Committee meeting scheduled for August 31, 2020 (September meeting)

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the UWCD Legislative and Outreach Committee meeting of June 29, 2020.

Attest:


Bruce E. Dandy, Committee Chair