



**Board of Public Utilities  
Regular Meeting Minutes - Final**

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Thursday, August 17, 2023

1:30 PM

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**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Galvin called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

**Present** 5 - Chair Daniel Galvin III, Vice Chair William Arnone Jr., Board Member Lisa Badenfort, Board Member Robin Bartholow, and Board Member Mark Walsh

**Absent** 1 - Board Member Glen Wright

**2. STATEMENTS OF ABSTENTION BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Board Member Bartholow recused herself from Item 5.4 to prevent any actual or perceived conflict of interest due to her employment with the Farm Bureau.

**3. STUDY SESSION**

**3.1 STUDY RESULTS FOR THE WATER SUPPLY ALTERNATIVES PLAN**

Santa Rosa Water wishes to diversify and increase its potable urban water supply portfolio to enhance its resiliency during Sonoma Water supply shortages (particularly during droughts) or service interruptions that could occur in catastrophic events. With expertise and assistance from Woodard & Curran, the project team has completed a study of 18 water supply sources to assess their feasibility as new supply options. The team also developed four portfolio alternatives (mixes of the most feasible water supply options). In separate meetings, the study results and the draft portfolio alternatives were presented to the Water Team, the external Stakeholder Group, and the community to seek their input. The feasibility study Technical Memorandum and a narrative description of the Draft Portfolios were revised to integrate the comments received. Staff and the consulting team will present the study findings and draft portfolios to the Board of Public Utilities to seek input before developing a Draft Water Supply Alternatives Plan.

Colin Close, Senior Water Resources Planner, and Katie Cole, Project Manger consultant from Woodard Curran, presented the study results for the Water Supply Alternatives Plan.

Staff answered Board Member questions and received comments.

#### **4. MINUTES APPROVAL**

**4.1** July 20, 2023 - Special Meeting Minutes - DRAFT.

The July 20, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.

**4.2** July 20, 2023 - Regular Meeting Minutes - DRAFT.

The July 20, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.

**4.3** August 3, 2023 - Regular Meeting Minutes - DRAFT.

The August 3, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.

#### **5. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

**5.1** CREEK WEEK 2023

The Storm Water & Creeks section of Santa Rosa Water participates in the regional recognition of "Creek Week and Pollution Prevention Week" as a way to celebrate and clean up our local waterways and educate the public on ways to prevent creek pollution.

A proclamation will be presented at City Council on September 12, 2023, proclaiming September 16 - 23, 2023, as "Creek Week and Pollution Prevention Week". To celebrate Creek Week, staff is coordinating a beginner's nature journaling class, a guided nature walk, four underground culvert tours, a Tour de Creek bike ride, and local creek cleanups along Prince Memorial Greenway. The Board may discuss this item and give direction to staff.

Claire Myers, Storm Water and Creeks Manager, presented.

Staff responded to Board Member comments and questions.

**5.2** DISINFECTION SYSTEM UPGRADE PROJECT UPDATE

Staff will brief the Board on the Disinfection System Upgrade Project

currently underway at the Laguna Treatment Plant. The Board may discuss this item and give direction to staff.

Mike Prinz, Deputy Director of Regional Water Reuse Operations, presented.

Board Member Walsh left the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

### 5.3 WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

Staff will update the Board on water supply issues. The Board may discuss this item and give direction to staff.

Peter Martin, Deputy Director of Water Resources, presented.

### 5.4 UPDATE ON RUSSIAN RIVER WATER FORUM AND POTTER VALLEY PROJECT

Staff will provide an update on the Russian River Water Forum, which is a grant funded collaborative effort to identify water supply resiliency solutions in response to the planned license surrender and decommissioning of Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E's) Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project, as well as the recent proposal to PG&E from the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission, the Round Valley Indian Tribes, and the Sonoma County Water Agency, to create a regional entity that would advance a regional solution for preserving flows in the Russian River and improving Eel River fisheries. The Board may discuss this item and give direction to staff.

Due to loss of quorum, this item was continued to the next regularly scheduled Board of Public Utilities meeting.

## 6. CONSENT ITEMS

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Arnone, Jr., seconded by Board Member Badenfort, to approve Consent Item 6.1.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Chair Galvin III, Vice Chair Arnone Jr., Board Member Badenfort and Board Member Bartholow

**Absent:** 2 - Board Member Walsh and Board Member Wright

### 6.1 MOTION - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY, SANTA ROSA WATER, NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT, VALLEY OF THE MOON WATER DISTRICT AND THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF DENMARK IN SILICON VALLEY TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING RELATED TO CLIMATE RESILIENCE, WATER MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by Santa Rosa Water that the Board of Public Utilities (Board), by motion, approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between Sonoma County Water Agency, Santa Rosa Water, North Marin Water District, Valley of the Moon Water District, and the Consulate General of Denmark in Silicon Valley to Strengthen Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing Related to Climate Resilience, Water Management and Environmental Policy (MOU) and authorize the Board Chair to sign the MOU.

This Consent - Motion was approved.

## **7. REPORT ITEMS**

None.

## **8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS**

None.

## **9. REFERRALS**

None.

## **10. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION (AND POSSIBLE BOARD DISCUSSION)**

None.

## **11. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

## **12. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Board Member Bartholow thanked Director Burke and staff for the tour of the Geysers.

## **13. DIRECTORS REPORTS**

Director Burke reported: The City is in the process of finalizing our

pathogen special study. This study analyzed any potential pathogens that may exist in our recycled water ponds. Santa Rosa Water staff gathered samples weekly for five months, which enabled staff to analyze the bacteria in the ponds. The study showed that the recycled water ponds are not a source of pathogenic bacteria running into local water bodies. This study will be finalized and submitted to the Regional Water Board before the due date of July 2024. Santa Rosa Junior College Dormitory Building opened for students last Friday, August 11, and is being served by City water and sewer. The 5-story, 352-bed dormitory building consists of traditional single- and double-bed dorm rooms, along with semi-suites (with in-suite bathrooms) and apartment type units (with bathrooms and a kitchen). Following last month's meeting, when the BPU approved the Water Service Agreement with Wright Elementary School District, our Local crews set up a hydrant meter to provide City water to Wright Elementary School, while the process of completing the permanent connection continues. The School District will be making the temporary connection from the hydrant meter to the school water distribution system in the near future.

#### 14. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Chair Galvin adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m. The next Board of Public Utilities Meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2023.

**Approved on: September 21, 2023**

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**Easter Ledesma**

**Recording Secretary**