

**CalDesal Executive Committee Meeting Notes**

**Monday, January 25, 2021**

**11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.**

**Zoom**

**Executive Committee Members present:**

Gilad Cohen, IDE Americas

Ian Crooks, California American Water

Jeremy Crutchfield, San Diego County Water Authority (Treasurer)

Marice DePasquale, Mesa Water District (Vice-Chair)

Mark Donovan, GHD (Chair)

Bill Green, South Coast Water District

Jessica Jones, Poseidon Water (Secretary)

Jeff Quimby, Contra Costa Water District

Makrom Shatila, Michael Baker International

Bob Shaver, Alameda County Water District (Immediate Past Chair)

Warren Teitz, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

**Executive Committee Members absent:**

Phil Paule, Eastern Municipal Water District

Patrick Sheilds, West Basin Municipal Water District

**Guests:**

Wendy Ridderbusch, CalDesal Executive Director

Nathan Carlson, CAMS

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order by **Chair Mark Donovan**, GHD at 11:02 a.m.
2. Wendy Ridderbusch, ED reports:

**Virtual Annual Conference**

Wendy ran through the agenda for the upcoming virtual annual conference. She reviewed the programs, moderators, and panelists with the Executive Committee. She also discussed the registration and sponsorship targets that are included in the current 2020-21 CalDesal budget. Wendy shared that the conference was marketed and advertised with ACWA, AMTA, and Tom Pankratz’ Water Desalination Report. She also talked about the new conference platform Accel Events and the backup Zoom Webinar.

**Membership**

New Executive Committee member Bill Green, South Coast Water District joined the Membership Committee which meets quarterly to assist the Executive Director with recruitment strategy and implementation.

Wendy also reminded the Executive Committee that part of a retention strategy is to e-mail out the Annual Member and Associate Survey which will happen in early March. It is a tool to get feedback and to see if our value proposition is working or if it needs to be fine-tuned.

**Communications**

The 2021 Calendar was shared from Wendy’s screen. This will be placed on the members’ only portion of the CalDesal website. She also discussed the new and improved website. She walked the committee through some screen shots from the website.

**Collaboration**

Wendy reminded the committee that CalDesal was engaging with the California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) and some other stakeholders on an Issue Brief Update entitled*, “The Challenges of Maximizing Water Reuse”* in order to collaborate with other water organizations in part to be able to leverage those relationships when CalDesal needed assistance. The second benefit to this involvement with CUWA was to keep an eye out and weigh in on the treatment of reverse osmosis in the issue brief. Wendy noted that CUWA is pitching national WateReuse conference panel with CUWA stakeholders including CalDesal. Wendy reminded the committee that in most states, WateReuse is the umbrella over both recycled water and desalination. California is one of only a few states that have separate organizations for water recycling and desal. It is a benefit to CalDesal to engage with the national WateReuse organization to try and pull in additional members or associates and raise the profile of CalDesal. Wendy is also pursuing ACWA for CalDesal program for Spring or Fall 2021 conferences Regions 8, 9, or 10.

Bill Green noted that he often wondered why the Executive Committee meeting was not published in the program with the day and time noted? Wendy said that she would investigate that possibility with ACWA conference staff and then circle back with an answer and/or an explanation as to why it has not been previously included.

**Governance**

The Executive Committee discussed appointing Makron Shatila, with Michael Baker International, who recently served on the 2019-20 Executive Committee to the currently open Executive Committee seat. Wendy shared her screen which featured the Bylaws referencing this action.

Jeremy Crutchfield made a motion to have the Executive Committee appoint Makron Shatilla to the open spot on the Executive Committee for the current 2021-22 two-year term. Bill Green seconded the motion.

Wendy asked for a voice vote to approve the appointment of Makron Shatilla as an Executive Committee member. The voice vote was unanimous to approve the motion and he will be placed into that spot.

She also talked about the attached 2021-22 Strategic Plan. There will be a more in-depth discussion at the February meeting. While a Special Bylaws Committee was formed back in December 2020, with the pandemic dragging on, the committee agreed that an effort to overhaul the Bylaws in 2021 would not be fruitful. The Executive Committee plans to revisit this issue in late fall after vaccinations for the Covid-19 virus are common and in-person meetings resume.

Ian Crooks asked about the reference to increasing the Annual Conference registration fees in the Bylaws and wondered if this was meant to be post-Covid 19 and not for the upcoming February 2021 conference? Wendy clarified that yes, the registration increase would be slated for 2022. It will remain at $250 for 2021 with no price reduction scheduled.

Wendy talked with the committee about deregistering as a state Lobbyist. The threshold rule requires individuals that are engaging in lobbying over 1/3 of their time to register. Wendy clarified that she did not come anywhere near that 1/3 threshold, but she still had to file quarterly reports and pay the annual registration fee and professional photograph requirements. The committee agreed and Wendy will deregister with the Secretary of State. She mentioned that she can always re-register if, for instance, the Ocean Plan Amendment were to resurface and require re-engagement on that issue or another issue of importance to the organization.

Finally, Wendy asked Chair Mark Donovan if he could talk about the upcoming one-day program created by the Technology Committee entitled, “Invitation to Innovate” and he did explain the concept. Mark also welcomed all the new members to the Executive Committee for the new term.

**ED activity:**

* ACWA Region 10, ACWA Virtual Fall Conference, December 2 & 3, 2020
* ACWA Water Management Committee Meeting, December 17, 2020
* Maryann Warmerdam, Deputy Controller, Environmental Policy, Office of State Controller Betty Yee meeting regarding desal project status, January 5
* Governor Newsom Administration Interagency State Budget Briefing Call, January 8
* State Director of Finance Presentation at CalChamber virtual presentation, January 12

Next Executive Committee Meeting: is **Monday, February 22, 2021 via Zoom**

**Chair Donovan adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m.**