

**CalDesal Executive Committee Meeting Notes**

**Monday, March 15, 2021**

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

**Zoom**

**Executive Committee Members present:**

Mark Donovan, GHD (Chair)

Marice DePasquale, Mesa Water District (Vice-Chair)

Gilad Cohen, IDE Americas

Ian Crooks, CalAm

Jeremy Crutchfield, San Diego County Water Authority (Treasurer)

Bill Green, South Coast Water District

Jessica Jones, Poseidon Water

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

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order by **Chair Mark Donovan**, GHD at 11:04 a.m.
2. Wendy Ridderbusch, ED reports:

**Events**

* **Virtual Annual Conference Survey** deadline today COB. Wendy indicated that she will send the results to Chair of the Annual Conference Planning Meeting Joe Monaco so that he may share them with his committee as they meet this spring to begin planning for the 2022 conference.
* **Invitation to Innovate webinar –** Wendy reminded the Executive Committee to register to attend this free webinar if they were interested. It is a Zoom webinar scheduled for Friday, March 26 from 3:00-4:30 p.m.

**Sponsorship improvement program –** A draft contract between CalDesal and PC Evets was attached so that the Executive Committee could see the deliverables listed for maximum transparency. Committee members Bill Green, Jeff Quimby, and Gilad Cohen suggested additions including a maximum “not to exceed” amount as well as a clause requesting raw materials like surveys be delivered back to CalDesal.

**Membership –** Wendy briefed the Committee on movement in the membership arena including:

* Energy Recovery Inc. pitch meeting last week
* Suez pitch meeting next week
* SaltWorks has asked to meet about membership
* Mark Donovan helping claw back Acciona

Gilad mentioned that he felt we should be pursuing membrane companies as all of the agencies are buying products from these vendors. Warren asked if SCE is a member, or had been a member, of CalDesal? Wendy responded that they have never been part of the organization. Marice suggested that Wendy contact James Campbell who is the head of their government relations program and was formerly staff for Senator Diane Feinstein and worked on water. Marice attended school with James and is willing to facilitate or follow-up with him regarding possible CalDesal membership.

**Communications –** An attachment with login and password information was provided so that access to the members’ only section would be navigable for the Committee members.

**Collaboration –** There have been many collaborative efforts involving CalDesal and other water organizations:

* National WateReuse conference CUWA program: Facing Challenges to Maximizing Water Reuse recorded on February 25, 2021
* Western States Water Council: California Desal power point presentation March 25

**Governance –** Wendy referred to CalDesal’s one-page budget and briefly summarized the main pieces of the current 2020-21 budget to increase transparency and understanding of the state of the organization’s financial picture. She indicated that CalDesal has a fiscal year budget beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30 each year. Gilad expressed his support for the Virtual Townhall Meeting that CalDesal held in October as a template for future programming. He felt that the Friday afternoon time slot is a sweet spot for our membership. Wendy talked about the possibility of holding a virtual mixer in May attached to the ACWA Spring Conference and CalDesal Board Meeting that week.

Wendy also mentioned that CAMS has approached the organization for a fee increase. CAMS charges $45,000 annually for their administration assistance and have not raised their fee since the inception of the contract in 2014. They have not yet announced the fee increase figure. Wendy is doing due diligence and talking to other companies that perform similar services to present a recommendation on CAMS contract renewal or new administrative company change on this subject at a future Executive Committee meeting.

Treasurer Jeremy Crutchfield will work with Wendy and present the proposed 2021-22 Budget for approval in early summer.

Wendy also noted that there will be a change to the Executive Committee meeting schedule for the May meeting:

* Executive Committee Meeting in Maywill be moved from existing Monday, May 17 up to Wednesday, May 12 from 7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m. to align with ACWA Virtual Spring Conference. New Zoom invite to be e-mailed this week, calendar cancellation will also be e-mailed via Outlook.

Wendy noted that Women In Desal will be rescheduled for an in-person meeting in October 2021. She is also working on the state and federal government levels on the climate resiliency and infrastructure bonds.

Mark Donovan, Chair, sent a letter supporting the Huntington Beach project for the upcoming public hearing in April on behalf of CalDesal.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: is **Monday, April 19, 2021 via Zoom**

**Chair Donovan adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.**