



FERC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

2 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, 2025
Utica Headquarters | 1168 Booster Way, Angels Camp, CA 95222

View the meeting agenda packet: www.cticawater.com/board-of-directors/board-meeting-agendas-and-minutes

UTICA FERC COMMITTEE

Caroline Schirato, Chair
Gary Conrado, Director

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

- The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m.

2. Roll Call

- **Directors Present**
 - Director Schirato
 - Director Conrado
- **Staff Present**
 - Joel Metzger, General Manager
 - Stacie Walker, Administrative Specialist / Board Clerk
- **Others Present**
 - None

3. Public Comment

- None

4. New Business

Discussion and possible recommendations

A. Approval of minutes from the February 13, 2025, FERC Committee Meeting.

- Director Conrado moved to approve minutes from the February 13, 2025, FERC Committee meeting and Caroline seconded. The minutes were approved as presented.

B. Discussion / direction regarding the plan and schedule for Utica's Final FERC Conduit Exemption Application and Surrender Application.

(Joel Metzger, General Manager)

- Mr. Metzger and Director Schirato shared news of their recent trip to Washington D.C., specifically, their meeting with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) staff. They explained that the meeting gave staff valuable insight into the next steps in FERC's Small Conduit Exemption (Exemption) process. Mr. Metzger said it was great to explain to FERC staff Utica's motivation for the study plans presented and various studies completed. One important takeaway was the confirmation that a water quality study must be submitted to the State Water Board before the final Exemption application package is submitted to FERC. Mr. Metzger said the water quality study should be complete by the end of May 2025. Additionally, FERC suggested that Utica be completely responsive to the requests of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and negotiate with SHPO about the scope of the studies Utica will perform. The committee reviewed two proposals for consultants to complete SHPO's Section 106 process. They discussed potential strategies for negotiating with SHPO. Director Schirato recommended working to refine the SWCA proposal and start Section 106 as soon as possible. She emphasized the Board's desire to save time and preserve a good working relationship with SHPO. Director Conrado agreed with Director Schirato's assessment. The committee discussed the previous approvals given by the full Board of Directors.
 - Director Schirato made a motion directing the general manager to move forward with an agreement with SWCA for cultural resources consulting, not to exceed \$100,000. Director Conrado seconded. There was no public comment.
- Mr. Metzger estimated the final Exemption application package will be submitted on July 1, 2025. He explained that consultants are writing comment responses and updating the applications as studies are completed. Once FERC sends out the acknowledgment of receipt of the Exemption and Surrender Packages, the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process has one year to conduct a review. Staff is hopeful that Utica's strong relationship with resource agencies will help move these processes forward more efficiently.

5. Upcoming Meetings and Calendar Events

- A. Discuss potential dates for the next FERC Committee meeting.
- Not scheduled

6. Adjournment

- Director Conrado made a motion to adjourn. Director Schirato seconded. With no further business and no public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Utica Mission Statement

We are committed to preserving and protecting local control of our water resources through effective fiscal and operational management and assuring a safe and reliable water supply for municipal and agricultural stakeholders, while ensuring the quality and quantity of this precious resource for generations to come.

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Questions?

Contact Utica at admin@uticawater.com or (209) 736-9419.