



UTICA WATER AND POWER AUTHORITY

UWPA Office Building
1168 Booster Way
Angels Camp, CA 95222
(209) 736-9419

Minutes of the October 7, 2021 Special Board Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Utica Water and Power Authority met in Regular Session via remote access at the UWPA office in Angels Camp, California.

Directors present:

- Rocky Chick (UPUD), Chair
- Alvin Broglio (COA), Vice Chair
- Jennifer Davis-Herndon (COA), Secretary
- Greg Rasmussen (UPUD), Director
- Larry Thompson, At-Large Community Board Member

Directors absent: None

Also present:

- Joel Metzger, General Manager
- Lori Karnes, Administrative Manager
- Frank Fields, O & M Superintendent

Others Present:

- Public at Large

Item 1: CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLIEGIANCE

- The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Chick

Item 2: ROLL CALL

- Director Chick, Director Rasmussen, Director Thompson, Director Davis-Herndon, Director Broglio. All present said aye.

Item 3: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board did not make a motion to approve the agenda.

Item 4: PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public may address the Board on items not listed on the agenda. Comments are limited to five minutes. The public is encouraged to work with staff to put items on the agenda for Board consideration. No action will be taken on items not on the agenda

There was no public comment

Item 5: REGULAR AGENDA

Discussion and possible action on all items

A. Community At-Large Board Member Applicant Interviews (Metzger)

Four members of the public submitted applications for the community at-large board member seat. Mr. Gary Conrado, Mr. Joe Fontana, Mr. Joe Oliveira, and Mr. Jeff Johnson all submitted applications. A list of questions was prepared for the applicants to answer. At the close of the interview each of the candidates were given the opportunity to direct questions to the Board.

Gary Conrado

Mr. Conrado retired from PG&E and worked the hydro system locally during his time with PG&E. Conrado worked as a ditch tender on the Utica system and became a working journeyman, then moved to a supervisor with responsibilities over the entire area. He became a maintenance planner and more involved in work management. In his opinion the biggest challenge that Utica faces is water rights and securing the rights for future generations. Other challenges are FERC regulations and Department of Forestry requirements. Conrado complimented the outreach Utica has implemented and the rebranding effort to make the public more aware of the functions of Utica Water and Power Authority.

Joe Fontana

Mr. Fontana has lived in Calaveras County since 2008 and was a member of the MSD Board from 2012 until 2020. He was also a member of Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (IRWMA) and helped form the Integrated Regional Water Management Authority Joint Powers Authority. Fontana worked for large corporations most of his career and managed up to 200+ hourly employees who reported to him. He became interested in water when he was a teenager and feels moved to give back to the community. A major issue for Utica Water and Power Authority (UWPA) is the ongoing maintenance of the wooden flume system and high cost to relicense the power plants. An alternative source of water is important to supply the community in case the flumes are burned again. Fontana believes he would be an asset to UWPA because of his service on many local boards, including Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (IRWMA) and Murphys Sanitary District (MSD). His management background gives him the ability to manage a project effectively. He has experience in researching grants that helped pay for projects at MSD, therefore maintaining lower rates for rate payers. His communication skills involve listening and evaluating what the person is saying and identifying the facts. Fontana says his skillset would bring a fiscally conservative approach along with business skills from years of experience.

Joe Oliveira

As a City Council member, Mr. Oliveira was appointed to the UWPA and is familiar with UWPA operations. He was operations manager at AT&T and has a general business background. He stays current about the system and understands the issues at UWPA. Oliveira is interested in the community member position because it is a different perspective from representing the City. It is important to have the community in mind when evaluating different decisions and making sure the community is well represented. He has a good general understanding of UWPA and understands the water crises, aging infrastructure, and challenges that go with that. He understands the function of the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and how it serves the city and community. Oliveira sees the top three challenges for UWPA as Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing, infrastructure issues, and current water shortage. He has managed contracts, employees, general operations, procurement, and has city council experience. He understands Brown Act and transparency in a public setting. Oliveira believes written communication is the most effective followed by oral communication and gives considerable thought to issues prior to communicating.

Jeff Johnson

Mr. Johnson grew up on Red Hill Road, in Vallecito, attended Mark Twain Elementary, and Bret Harte High School. Johnson served on the Grand Jury, was founder of Friends of the Fair in 2009, and is a local business owner. He joined the Angels Camp Business Association, serves on the Board of Destination Angels Camp and is very involved with the fairgrounds and youth programs. Johnson is interested in serving because of the importance of water for the community, its ranchers, and farmers. It is a precious resource we need to keep. Johnson described the top three challenges UWPA faces are financial, preserving jobs and providing for employees, protecting the rights of our water users and ranchers. His ability to make tough decisions as a board member and his passion for the community gives him good qualifications for the position. He believes listening is key to being effective, doing research, and trying to make the best decision for the community and district. His commitment to the community, serving on several local boards, and preserving people's rights makes him a strong candidate.

The board reviewed and discussed each candidate's qualifications in length.

Director Davis-Herndon motioned to nominate Gary Conrado to be seated as Utica Water and Power Authority's Community At-Large Board Member.

- **Motion:** Director Davis-Herndon
- **Second:** Director Rasmussen
- **Board Discussion:** None
- **Public Comment:** None
- **Vote:** 4-1
- **Ayes:** Directors Chick, Rasmussen, Davis-Herndon, Thompson
- **Noes:** Director Broglio
- **Abstain:** None
- **Absent:** None

B. Review and potential adoption of revised Irrigation Water Contractor Agreement (Metzger)

Metzger reviewed the contract with the Board and noted a few minor changes to bring the contract up to date.

Director Rasmussen made a motion to adopt the revised Irrigation Water Contractor Agreement.

- **Motion:** Director Rasmussen
- **Second:** Director Thompson
- **Board Discussion:** None
- **Public Comment:** None
- **Vote:** 5-0
- **Ayes:** Directors Chick, Rasmussen, Thompson, Davis-Herndon, Broglio
- **Noes:** None
- **Abstain:** None
- **Absent:** None

Recess: 6:36 p.m.

Item 6: ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board adjourned to closed session at 6:44 p.m.

- A. Public Employee Performance Evaluation Pursuant to Government Code Section 4957(b)(1). Title: General Manager

Closed session ended at 8:36 p.m.

Item 7: REPORTABLE ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION

There was no reportable action

Item 8: BOARD / GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Item 9: UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS AND CALENDAR EVENTS

- Wednesday October 13, 2021 at 9 a.m. – Utica System Tour
- Tuesday October 26, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting
- November meeting cancelled due to maintenance outage

Item 10: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Approved at the October 26, 2021 meeting:

Ralph Chick

Chair

Attest:

Lori Karnes

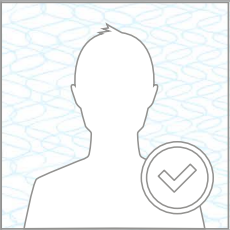


Clerk to the Board

Signature Certificate

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Document signed by:

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28 Oct 2021 16:56:57 UTC

Page 1 of 1



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