

JPIA

Monday

35th Anniversary Breakfast

A first-time JPIA special event breakfast “celebration” of a very successful 35 years of insuring water agencies

Keynote Speaker: Jeremey Lowe, Environmental Science Associates

A direct call for the water industry to take climate change seriously, and to prepare for its many anticipated significant effects on how and where water (and wastewater) is collected, stored, treated and delivered.

With an emphasis on the impacts of anticipated sea-level rise and flooding, Lowe highlighted some of the planning and prototype efforts that are already underway, but his takeaway message was that much more adaptive planning and implementation remains to be done.

Board of Director’s meeting

More or less a “typical” business meeting, with no items of controversy.

There was an interesting presentation/discussion on the importance of succession planning, recognizing that the water industry is facing a generational change as current expertise, experience and leadership retires. They made the case that this “loss of knowledge” is an “insurance” issue. And explored various practices to improve the inevitable transition.

Reviewed districts who have “Committed to Excellence”.

Town Hall

An “Open Topic” session and discussion on JPIA and related topics.

Networking Reception

ACWA

Tuesday

Water Management Committee Meeting

Great overview of what's happening in water management. Reports from all subcommittees and highlights of upcoming sessions and working groups

Presentation on “Integrating Storage in California’s Changing Water System” report by The Nature Conservancy – Maurice Hall. A modeling proposal for California Water Management that incorporates surface storage as a “forebay” to more aggressive groundwater storage. Well received but with calls for broader variables.

Update from Mike Floyd on DWR’s “Strategic Plan for Future of IRWM in California”

Update on ACWA’s “Headwaters Framework” (Managing headwaters for water supply)

Social Media and Website Workgroup

An interesting group that I’ve enjoyed following that reviews the many challenges of using electronic communication.

Conservation Campaigns (content, structure, and effectiveness) continue to be of primary focus.

Majority of this session was a presentation on some effective uses (and the costs) of Facebook postings (and options)

Also some discussion of the demographics of each SM “channel” (Twitter, eg) and the recommended purposes of using each.

Local Government Committee

New Chair – Jo McKensie – is doing good. (Marion Ashley is no longer chair)

Continuing Discussion (from Spring 2014 Meeting) of Joint Powers A reminder to attend this committee’s sponsored session on Thursday.

Short review of Lake Elsinore’s experience with taking over a small (and VERY broken) mutual. A cautionary tale for Crestline Village

Welcome Reception in Exhibit Hall

Reviewed exhibits.

Wednesday

Opening Breakfast

“The Australia Experience: Coping with a Millennium Drought”

(video available at: <http://vimeo.com/11491195>)

Attorney’s Program - Is Sustainable Obtainable?

A helpful, broad panel discussion on the future of Groundwater Management’s task to achieve “sustainable” water extractions.

Luncheon

Speaker: Sen. Darrell Steinberg

Topic: *“Legislative Leadership: Getting to a 2/3 Vote in the Water Bond and Other Seemingly Impossible Missions”*

- video available at: <http://vimeo.com/115284494>

Attorney’s Program – “The Future of Water Transfers After the 2014 Drought”

A lively panel reviewing the transfer action in 2014 and making predictions about process streamlining in 2015 (Room was packed. Sat on the floor!)

- See attached document for a transcription -

Legal Committee Meeting

As always, a good overview of “interesting” legal issues and tasks.

Update and report on SWRCB “action” (primarily about the new GW legislation, from its chair, Felicia Marcus

An alarming issue about a 218 rate challenge (fundamentally, a conservation-based “tier” structure) in San Juan Capistrano. I remain unclear as to the status however, but we should be tracking this, as their rates (like CVWD’s) have been in place since the 90’s

Legal Committee is still working on an update to their Prop 218 handbook. We need to get one when it’s released.

Appellate Case summary is not longer being printed. I asked for an electronic copy, but have yet to hear back from them.

Thursday

Attorney’s Program – “The State’s Response to the Drought”

An overview of the state’s 2014 actions with some arguments against some of them. There were some “respectful” disagreements among the panelists, but the predominant conflict of opinions revolved around historical Central Valley agricultural interests. Not very germane to Crestline Village.

Luncheon

Keynote: “Groundwater Legislation: History in the Making or Another Dead End?”

(Speaker: Eric Garner, BB&K)

This was an interesting take on the new legislation. Eric was not terribly enthusiastic, and not terribly optimistic, but in summary, seemed to say, “Hey guys, this is it. Groundwater management is here. If you don’t take an aggressive approach to getting in front of these new requirements, you’ll probably regret it.”.

- o Video available at: <http://vimeo.com/115288443>

Local Government Program: “Joint Powers Authorities – The New Frontier”

An interesting introductory overview of the functions, purposes, and to some degree, the processes of JPAs, with some anecdotal history of existing JPAs.

Region 9 Business Meeting

Reports and updates from region members on various ACWA business and committee activities. I reported on a couple of the sessions I attended.

Friday

ACWA’s Hans Doe Past Presidents’ Breakfast in Partnership with ACWA/JPIA)

Save Our Water 2014 Campaign, “*Californian’s Don’t Waste*” Update

Insiders Look at the 2014 Elections – A review of the meaning and import of the recent state and federal election results