

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ORGANIZATION, PERSONNEL AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

July 11, 2011

Chair Murray, Jr. called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in Committee Room 2-456 at Metropolitan's Headquarters.

Members present: Chair Murray, Jr., Vice Chair Edwards, Directors Ballin, Bowersox, Dick, Evans, Gray, Little, Montalvo, Quiñonez, and Wunderlich

Members absent: Directors Friedman and Sanchez

Other Board Members present: Directors Barbre, Blake, Brick, Brown, Foley, Griset, Lewinger, Morris, Peterson, Record, Steiner, and Wright

Staff present: Ardalan, Beatty, D. Becker, Bennion, Burton, D. Edwards, Elliott, Giron, Ivey, Jankovic, Kightlinger, Lem, Man, Mares, Morel, Neal, Norris, Pimentel, Pitman, Radhakrishnan, Riss, O. Sanchez, Scully, H. Torres, Upadhyay, Waade, and Wolfe

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

None

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATION, PERSONNEL AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 13, 2011

Approved

Motion: Director Evans

Seconded: Director Quiñonez

3. COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Murray gave a brief update on the FY 2010/11 Department Head Performance Evaluations.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- b. Subject: **Conference with Labor Negotiators. (Closed Session)**
Presented by: Chief Administrative Officer Gilbert Ivey
In closed session, staff provided an update on negotiations. No action was taken.
- a. Subject: **Oral update on IT Strategic Plan for period ending March 2011**
Presented by: Information Technology Section Manager Dave Edwards
Mr. Edwards gave an overview of the telephone system replacement project, the upgrade of the two-way radio system, and an update on strategy for cloud computing. In addition, Mr. Edwards mentioned that his section is doing some preliminary work on an Environmental, Health and Safety application and will be coming to the committee for approval in the fall.
Director Blake asked about Metropolitan's back-up plan if something happened to the cloud. Mr. Edwards replied that if the vendor's data center is used to run applications and if there is a problem, then everyone who is running in that environment is impacted until the vendor can fix it. Mr. Edwards stated this is one of the reasons an application like SCADA that is key to Metropolitan's operation would be kept in-house. It is easier to send Metropolitan's technicians to work on the problem because they would make it a priority. When you are in a cloud scenario you are one of a group of clients of the vendor and it gets handled in due course.
Director Blake asked about Metropolitan's sensitive material or data. He specifically asked if the information would be lost if there was a glitch with the cloud. Mr. Edwards responded that it

is the vendor's responsibility to make sure that no data is lost. He stated that it is important to have a strong written contract with the vendor so that there are repercussions if indeed they lose the data. Another way to check before getting into the cloud computing arena is to visit the vendor's data center to check out how they safeguard the data, how they back-up the data and see their disaster recovery capability.

In addition, Business Technology Group Manager Roy Wolfe responded before moving any of the sensitive data out on the cloud Metropolitan would go through several internal processes. He added that information that is on the cloud could be more secure because it can be stored in multiple locations. Should one location go down there are multiple back-ups on the cloud that the vendor would have access to. Metropolitan is watching other governmental organizations and how they proceed with implementing cloud computing.

Director Peterson asked about the Mars System and how is it affected by the change over in the radio system? Mr. Edwards replied that it is going to be upgraded as part of the scope of the two-way radio upgrade. He committed to discussing this matter with the member agencies ahead of time.

Director Gray asked if the email system was being considered as part of the cloud system. She stated that she would expect Metropolitan to be very selective about emails because there are sensitive emails that are part of the email system. Mr. Wolfe responded that the email system is one of the more common ones that other organizations have considered moving into the cloud. The City of Los Angeles switched their email system to the cloud. The Police and Fire Departments were moved over last because of additional security concerns. Metropolitan would of course want to make sure that there are enough safeguards in the system to ensure integrity. Mr. Wolfe stated that Metropolitan is waiting to see what problems the City of Los Angeles may run into before moving in that direction.

Director Jim Edwards asked why the DVL Pump Plant Control System was being upgraded if it was only 11 years old. Mr. Dave Edwards responded that the technology that was put in was very unique. For example, the communication systems that were built into it were pretty unique and today it is very difficult to replace some of the parts. Ten or eleven years in information technology is quite old.

7. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

9. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

Next meeting will be held on August 15, 2011

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

John W. Murray Jr.
Chair