

**APPROVED**

**MINUTES OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE  
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY MEETING  
OF THE  
PROGRAMS AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, September 10, 2020**

**9:00 A.M.**

**TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

**Members Present:**

|                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| City of Alameda            | Jim Oddie                  |
| City of Albany             | Nick Pilch                 |
| County of Alameda          | Scott Haggerty (alternate) |
| City of Berkeley           | Susan Wengraf              |
| City of Dublin             | Melissa Hernandez          |
| City of Emeryville         | Dianne Martinez            |
| City of Fremont            | Jenny Kassar               |
| City of Newark             | Mike Hannon                |
| Oro Loma Sanitary District | Shelia Young               |
| City of Piedmont           | Tim Rood                   |
| City of Pleasanton         | Jerry Pentin               |
| City of Union City         | Emily Duncan, Chair        |

**Staff Present:**

Wendy Sommer, Executive Director  
Timothy Burroughs, Deputy Director  
Pat Cabrera, Administrative Services Director  
Jeff Becerra, Communications Manager  
Justin Lehrer, Operations Manager  
Jeanne Nader, Senior Program Manager  
Angelina Vergara, Program Manager  
Trevor Probert, Program Services Specialist  
Arielle Conway, Program Services Specialist  
Cristian Aguilar, Program Services Specialist  
Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board

**1. Convene Meeting**

Chair Emily Duncan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Wendy Sommer explained the process that would be utilized during the meeting. A link to the process is available here: [Virtual-Meetings-Instructions](#)

**2. Public Comments**

There were no public comments on the remote call and no public comments were received via the public comments email portal.

## DRAFT

### **3. Approval of the Draft Minutes of July 9, 2020 (Pat Cabrera)**

There were no public comments on this item. Board member Hannon made the motion to approve the draft minutes of July 9, 2020. Board member Hernandez seconded and the motion carried 10-0. The Clerk called the role:

(Ayes: Duncan, Hannon, Hernandez, Kassan, Martinez, Oddie, Pentin, Rood, Wengraf, Young. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Haggerty, Pilch).

### **4. Community Based Outreach Project – Partnering with Urban Farms (Jeanne Nader)**

This item is for information only.

Prior to the presentations, Wendy Sommer commented that the current COVID 19 situation has prohibited staff from continuing to have in-person interaction with our audiences. Staff is responding to the COVID-19 challenges in innovative and creative ways and reimagining our projects so that we can continue to be effective in our projects.

Jeanne Nader, Senior Program Manager, provided an overview of the staff report and introduced Trevor Probert, Program Services Specialist. Mr. Probert presented a PowerPoint presentation and provided a summary of strategies and resources, including current examples for efforts underway with our urban farm partners. A link to the staff report and the presentation is available here: [Community-Outreach-presentation.pdf](#)

Board member Young inquired if the movie Symphony of the Soil can be shown at one of the board meetings. Mr. Probert stated that when staff showed the movie it was accompanied by a discussion on carbon farming and the duration was approximately two hours. Board member Young inquired about access to the film. Mr. Probert stated that information on accessing the movie is available at Lily Films. Board member Pilch thanked staff for a wonderful presentation and commented that he was pleased to see the efforts from the City of Albany and stated that he would be pleased to be a liaison in continuing to furthering staff and community involvement in carbon farming. Board member Hannon inquired about the minimum size of an urban farm and inquired about the amount of grants and funding available. Mr. Probert stated that the typical size of the urban farms that we work with range in size from ½ to 2 acres, and we also work with community gardens that are typically ⅓ of an acre. Ms. Nader stated that for the current budget year there are three community action grants at \$10,000 each and the focus is on food waste reduction and we are also trying to combine messaging encouraging people to use reusables to store the food.

There were no public comments on this item. Chair Duncan thanked Mr. Probert and Ms. Nader for a wonderful presentation.

### **5. Schools Outreach COVID-19 Update (Angelina Vergara)**

This item is for information only.

Angelina Vergara provided an overview of the staff report and introduced Arielle Conway, Program Services Specialist, and Cristian Aguilar, Program Services Specialist. Ms. Conway and Mr. Aguilar presented their collaborative approach to providing virtual training and other resources to students, their families, teachers and school leaders during this pandemic. A link to the staff report and the presentation is available here: [Schools-Outreach-Covid-19-Presentation.pdf](#)

## DRAFT

Board member Hannon thanked staff for an outstanding program and for the excellent work that staff is doing in the various schools. Board member Hannon inquired if most of the schools in the county are participating in the program. Ms. Vergara stated that their survey has shown that South County has the largest participation with the school field trips but we have an excellent working relationship with every school district throughout the county. Ms. Vergara added that the goal is to work with whoever is ready to work with us and transform their districts and we would be happy to provide data on participation. Board member Hernandez commented on a great program and encouraged staff to reach out to Board members for any assistance. Chair Duncan inquired if the virtual tours and other information on the website is available to anyone that may be interested in learning more about the program. Ms. Conway stated yes, we are using the website in a more dynamic way and will be adding more resources as they are developed. Ms. Conway added the virtual tour is not yet available but should be up on the website by mid-September.

There were no public comments on this item. Chair Duncan thanked Ms. Vergara, Ms. Conway, and Mr. Aguilar for a very motivating and inspiring presentation. Ms. Sommer commented that we are very excited about the next phase of our program and commended the schools team on an excellent job.

### **7. Member Comments**

Board member Young commented that she thoroughly enjoyed the schools presentation and specifically the presentation from Cristian Aguilar. Board member Young announced that Ron Dias, a longtime member, nearly 30 years, of the Oro Loma Sanitary District, recently passed away and asked that the Committee adjourn the meeting in his honor.

### **8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m. in honor of Ron Dias.