



STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Board Members
THRU: Mark Foree, General Manager
FROM: John Erwin, Dir. Natural Resources
DATE: 10 January 2013
SUBJECT: Request for Board direction to establish a Legislative Subcommittee and establish the process to review legislative activities

Recommendation

Staff requests that the Board provide direction to staff on establishing a Legislative Subcommittee to the Board and the process of reviewing legislative activities on proposed bills during the session.

Discussion

Beginning February, a standing item on legislative matters will become part of the Board's monthly agenda. A table summarizing Senate and Assembly bills along with the position the Board has taken on each will be provided to the Board similar to the attachment to this report. TMWA lobbyists will attend the Board meetings to answer questions and provide insights into the legislative intent.

Once the session gets underway, the timing of the TMWA Board meetings may not coincide with legislative activities as they affect TMWA's interests. The same may be true if the Board wishes to continue the formal Legislative Subcommittee process that has been used for the last three sessions. To monitor the Session, the Board has previously formed a Legislative Subcommittee consisting of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, meeting each Friday afternoon at 3:00 PM in a noticed public meeting with staff and TMWA lobbyists in attendance to discuss positions on the various bills. Occasionally the Sub-Committee meeting is canceled when no action is required for the week. The process worked well in the past. Subject to Board modification, staff recommends the same procedure and process be implemented for the 2013 Session.

In addition, staff requests Board direction related to implementing a process regarding how staff and lobbyists should proceed on those occasions when timing does not allow a formal meeting of either the Board or the Legislative Subcommittee.