

**NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, January 7, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) was held on Wednesday, January 7, 2009 in the Reno City Council Chambers, One East First Street, Reno, Nevada.

- 1. Roll Call and determination of presence of a quorum** – Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. There was a quorum present.

Voting Members Present:

George W. Ball, Jr.  
Greg Dennis  
Michael J. DeMartini  
John Jackson  
Neil Mann  
Rosemary Menard  
Darrin Price  
Jerry Schumacher  
Wayne Seidel

Voting Members Absent:

Michael Cameron  
John Erwin

Non-Voting Members Present:

John Bird  
Harry Fahnestock  
Kelvin Hickenbottom  
Jon Palm

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Ray Davis  
David Noble

Staff Members Present:

Jim Smitherman  
Chris Wessel  
June Davis  
John Rhodes, Legal Counsel

**2. Approval of the agenda.**

Commissioner Menard made a motion to approve the January 7, 2009 NNWPC agenda as posted. Commissioner Seidel seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**3. Approval of the minutes from the December 3, 2008 meeting.**

The minutes of the December 3, 2008 NNWPC meeting were submitted for approval. Commissioner Schumacher made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Commissioner Ball seconded the motion. Commissioner Dennis referred to page 2 of 7, ninth bullet and asked for clarification that the approximately 60,000 to 64,000 acre-feet annually (AFA) number is “additional”. Staff agreed to review the audio recording of the meeting. Chairman Price called for a vote on the motion, which carried unanimously.

**4. Public Comments.**

Chairman Price called for public comments and hearing none, closed the public comment period.

- 5. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) for funding in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund for a hydrologic and hydraulic analysis for a tributary watershed to Swan Lake.**

Chairman Price welcomed Dan St. John, Washoe County Public Works Director. Mr. St. John reported that he is the designated leader for the Washoe County Stormwater Task Force. He stated that based on the NNWPC's recently adopted priorities, he sees an opportunity relative to the North Valleys. He stated that he was requesting funding for a hydrologic study for the Swan Lake, Lemmon Valley, Golden Valley hydrologic basin. He stated that the study would basically refine previous studies and flood elevations for Swan Lake.

Mr. St. John reported that he feels it is timely to create a tool to assist with additional future studies on stormwater, sediment transport issues, etc. in the North Valleys. He added that it is a priority for the County to address flooding in that area. He stated he believes it ties into the 100-year flood elevation studies for Swan Lake and the Truckee River Flood Project. He welcomed questions from Commissioners.

Chairman Price stated that he has seen many studies performed on drainage in the Lemmon Valley area and asked if that information would be utilized in the current work. Mr. St. John reported that Walt West, Public Works and Denny Peters of Manhard Consulting, were present to answer technical questions.

Mr. Peters reported that specifically this effort would benefit from Manhard's recent regional model of the City of Reno and Truckee River, which is a calibrated model. He reported that previous models relied on some "off the shelf" information rather than real-time, calibrated information. He added that the model for Swan Lake could be used definitively for any other part of the watershed. Chairman Price asked whether prior studies performed in that area would be used. Mr. St. John reported that they would use a study done for the North Valleys High School and the detention basin. He clarified that they would be bringing in a "different set of tools" and a "different approach". He added that the methodology is more technical and will use geographic information system (GIS) information. Chairman Price mentioned that the high school is in Golden Valley and this request is for Lemmon Valley.

Mr. Peters stated that they have referenced studies performed by Manhard and Quad Knopf on Swan Lake.

Chairman Price mentioned that huge volumes of construction were performed on Lemmon Valley Drive with huge drainage systems. He stated there must have been studies and analyses performed prior to that work. Walt West reiterated that they have reviewed the Quad Knopf studies, which will be used in the current work.

Commissioner Dennis referred to the flood pool work and stated this study will focus on conveyance through a drainage facility, which are two different models.

Commissioner DeMartini stated he is concerned with the hydraulics portion of the study, which he believes is more of a specific improvement type analysis rather than regional analysis. He stated the hydrology portion makes sense to him regionally if developed that way. He agreed with Chairman Price that many studies have been performed regarding Lemmon Drive. He stated there used to be a railroad crossing across the drainage channel that presumably still exists; however, he did not see it included in the scope of work. He stated it is a major crossing that acts as a dam on the drainage. He stated that the issue could greatly increase the cost.

Mr. St. John agreed that the issue needs to be studied related to the railroad crossing. He stated that regarding the specific hydraulics, Golden Valley and Lemmon Valley are hydraulically connected. He stated that Washoe County is committed to providing in-kind services to make the project happen.

Commissioner Seidel asked who currently funds the operation and maintenance (O&M) costs for the drainage facilities. Mr. St. John stated that the costs are shared by the City of Reno Utility and Washoe County's General Fund.

Commissioner Seidel reported that Manhard Consulting was selected as the consultant for the Truckee River Regional Model so he sees some efficiency here.

Chairman Price asked why the request is for \$50,000 when Manhard's proposal is for \$42,500. Mr. St. John stated that it could likely require additional services. Chairman Price mentioned the comment made by Commissioner DeMartini that the matched funding would be provided by in-kind services provided by Washoe County. He asked Mr. Smitherman if there is funding available for this project in the budget. Mr. Smitherman stated that the funds are available; however, they have not been factored in to the four-year budget projections.

Commissioner Seidel made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner DeMartini seconded the motion with the condition that the railroad crossing issue be examined and if problems are discovered, the consultant would report back with a revised proposal. The motion maker agreed with the modification. Chairman Price called for a vote on the motion, which carried unanimously.

**6. Review and possible amendment to the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) Administrative Policies & Procedures, and possible direction to staff.**

Chairman Price turned over the presentation to Jim Smitherman. Mr. Smitherman referred to the packet item, which includes the "General Policies" as follows:

- Selection of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- Meetings – schedule and location
- Order of Business
- Business Items, which includes setting future agenda items
- Addressing the Commission

Mr. Smitherman stated that in reviewing the law there is a procedure for establishing special meetings, which may be called by the Chairman with at least three days written notice in accordance with Open Meeting Law. He stated that the revisions were minimal and made in order to comply with the law.

Mr. Rhodes stated he reviewed the proposed amendments and that he agrees the amendments would bring the NNWPC into full compliance with the requirements set forth in Chapter 531 of the *Statutes of Nevada 2007*.

Chairman Price asked for clarification that the Policies and Procedures could be revised at any time, which Mr. Rhodes stated is correct.

Commissioner Seidel made a motion to approve the amendments. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**7. Status report on coordination with WRWC member agency representatives concerning regional consistency of water conservation provisions in development codes, and possible direction to staff.**

Chairman Price invited Chris Wessel to speak on this item. Mr. Wessel reported that a request was made at the last meeting for an update on regional conservation efforts and planning. He reported that staff has met with City of Reno, City of Sparks and Washoe County Community Development departments to discuss current code development and the possibility of incorporating regional conservation policies. He stated that each of the entities seem to be open to the idea.

Mr. Wessel reported that a meeting was held on January 5, 2009 with the member agencies and purveyors to discuss new elements with regard to conservation. He stated that the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) dictates certain conservation efforts. Chairman Price asked for a list of which items

are dictated by TROA. Mr. Wessel stated that the items are:

- Water meter retrofit – TMWA plans to be a fully-metered system by 2010.
- Block rate structures for municipal water services regionally
- Assigned day watering
- Public education

Mr. Wessel stated that the group is also examining landscape elements. He reported that there is a group called the Truckee Meadows Community Forestry Coalition, for which he has been attending meetings. He stated that the group includes arborists and others to address the issue of being able to maintain landscaping with metered watering. He stated that the TMWA Board would be looking for recommendations from the NNWPC probably in the fall.

Mr. Wessel summarized that the member agency staffs would continue to meet in an effort to develop regional policies over time.

Commissioner DeMartini referred to the participating entities and asked if there are other utilities that could be affected by the policies who are not participating. Mr. Wessel stated that the member agencies are those represented by the WRWC and NNWPC because private purveyors are not subject to their authority. He added that they would not be excluded.

Chairman Price stated that he appreciates that TMWA is spearheading the effort. He also requested a presentation and introduction to the newly formed Forestry Coalition. Mr. Wessel stated he would be happy to relay that request. He added that Lora Richards is spearheading the effort. Chairman Price requested a schedule as well.

Commissioner Seidel asked if the Builders Association and Landscape Associations would be included and when. Chairman Price stated that a schedule would show that projected timeline and milestones. Mr. Smitherman clarified that when draft code amendments were ready to move forward, they would be presented to the public and the development community would have an opportunity to review and respond.

#### **8. Informational report regarding Truckee Meadows Water Authority Standing Advisory Committee.**

Chairman Price welcomed Barry Winzeler, NNWPC Representative to the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) to provide an informational update on the meetings. Mr. Winzeler stated that no meeting was held so he had nothing to report but offered to provide an update at the next NNWPC meeting.

#### **9. Program Manager's Report**

Mr. Smitherman reported that he included updates on the following topics as requested or that he thought would be of interest to Commissioners. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item is for Commissioners to review the information included in the agenda packets and to ask questions, make comments, or request additional information.

##### **a. Status report on projects and Work Plan supported by the Regional Water Management Fund**

Commissioner Ball stated there are a variety of projects included on the list and asked that the NNWPC be kept up to date as appropriate. Mr. Smitherman agreed.

##### **b. Financial report on the Regional Water Management Fund**

##### **c. Update on Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) that may affect the NNWPC**

Mr. Smitherman referred to BDR 237, which will include new language provided by the

Legislative Committee to Oversee the WRWC. He also referred to new BDRs that were introduced in December. He stated that BDR 22-750, introduced by Assemblywoman Leslie includes language very similar to that of Washoe County Ballot Question No. 3 related to sustainable water resources.

**d. Truckee River Flood Management Project status report**

Mr. Smitherman reported that a status update on the Truckee River Flood Project was included as an informational item.

Mr. Smitherman welcomed questions or comments from Commissioners. Chairman Price thanked Mr. Smitherman for his update.

**10. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding agenda items for the February 4, 2009, Commission meeting and future meetings.**

Mr. Smitherman provided a list of agenda items for the February 4, 2009 NNWPC Agenda that was included in Commissioner's packets. The potential items include:

1. Conceptual process for development of the comprehensive plan required by Chapter 531, *Statutes of Nevada 2007*
2. Status report on Regional Hydrologic Model development project – Truckee River Flood Management Project staff
3. Program Manager's Report:
  - a. Status of projects and Work Plan supported by the Regional Water Management Fund
  - b. Financial report on the Regional Water Management Fund
  - c. BDR's affecting the NNWPC
  - d. Truckee River Flood Management Project status report
4. Informational report regarding Truckee Meadows Water Authority Standing Advisory Committee – Barry Winzeler
5. Other Informational Items

Mr. Smitherman reported that other potential future agenda items include:

- Status update on the North Valleys Initiative
- Update on the Public Process for the City of Reno's Letter of Map Revision for Silver Lake flood project (partially funded by NNWPC) – Mr. Smitherman reported that a verbal report or informational item could be provided.

Commissioner Schumacher requested an update from Rosanna Coombes, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency on Washoe County Question No. 3. Mr. Rhodes reported that staff plans to keep Commissioners informed of any new information. He added that a meeting is scheduled for the governmental entities and cautioned over having a quorum of the NNWPC being present. By a show of hands it did not look like a problem.

Commissioner DeMartini asked if a standing item for informational reports from John Bird should be added. Chairman Price stated that Mr. Bird is welcome to provide comments at any time on any item.

Commissioner Seidel referred to a new BDR 924 regarding fluoridation of water in Washoe County. He suggested that issue be tracked. Ms. Menard reported she was meeting with the group behind that BDR later that day. She reported that DWR and TWMA would be involved in the related cost analysis. Commissioner Seidel stated he hoped the NNWPC would have an opportunity to review the technical and cost analysis. Ms. Menard stated that the current requirement is for fluoridation for communities with populations greater than 400,000.

**11. Commission Comments.**

None

**12. Staff Comments.**

None

**13. Public Comments.**

Chairman Price called for public comments.

Kathy Brandhorst made comments related to the Truckee River, water in the Reno area and other issues.

Chairman Price called for further public comments and hearing none, closed the public comment period.

**14. Adjournment.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Niki Linn, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on \_\_\_\_\_ 2009.

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Darrin Price, Chairman