

**NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

The regular meeting of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) was held on Wednesday, February 4, 2009 in the Reno City Council Chambers, One East First Street, Reno, Nevada.

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

Voting Members Present:

Greg Dennis
Michael Cameron
Michael J. DeMartini
John Erwin (arrived at 1:54 p.m.)
Neil Mann
Rosemary Menard
Wayne Seidel

Voting Members Absent:

George W. Ball, Jr.
John Jackson
Darrin Price
Jerry Schumacher

Non-Voting Members Present:

Jon Palm

Non-Voting Members Absent:

John Bird
Ray Davis
Harry Fahnestock
Kelvin Hickenbottom
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 February 4, 2009 NNWPC agenda as posted. Commissioner Dennis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 3. Approval of the minutes from the January 7, 2009 meeting.**

The minutes of the January 7, 2009 NNWPC meeting were submitted for approval. Commissioner Mann made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Commissioner Menard seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 4. Public Comments.**

Vice-Chairman Seidel called for public comments and hearing none, closed the public comment period.

- 5. Status report the North Valleys Initiative.**

Vice-Chairman Seidel welcomed Michael Drinkwater, City of Reno Public Works, to present an update on the development of an Integrated Water and Reclaimed Water Management Plan for the North Valleys (North Valleys Initiative). Mr. Drinkwater reported that this project was funded by the Regional Water Management Fund approximately seven months ago. He provided a brief overview of the project, which

focuses on expanded reuse of reclaimed water and indirect potable reuse via aquifer recharge.

Mr. Drinkwater reported that ECO:LOGIC Engineering is the consultant for the project and has been working with a core group that meets regularly. The group includes key personnel from Reno, Sparks, Washoe County, Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) and the Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC).

Mr. Drinkwater reported that Jeff Stone from El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) gave a presentation to the core group. He stated that EID has implemented a residential irrigation program using reclaimed water, which has been very successful. He mentioned the issue of public perception, which California's State Board of Public Health has been able to overcome.

Mr. Drinkwater explained that the goal of this project is to provide a framework for the management of a regionally integrated reclaimed water system, as well as conceptual-level buy-in by the local and State regulatory agencies.

Vice-Chairman Seidel asked when the project was scheduled for completion. Mr. Drinkwater stated that ECO:LOGIC plans to complete the evaluation in May with a final report by June or July. Vice-Chairman Seidel asked how the project was funded. Mr. Drinkwater stated that the WRWC approved funding in the amount of \$172,000, which is billed and paid via City of Reno and reimbursed by the Regional Water Management Fund.

Mr. Drinkwater reported that ongoing related work (not funded by the WRWC) includes:

- City of Reno Advanced Oxidation Pilot Test – City of Reno is testing the process at the Reno-Stead Water Reclamation Facility (RSWRF) in order to find a suitable treatment process for aquifer recharge. The final results are expected in May 2009.
- City of Sparks Dual System Analysis – City of Sparks is working with Optimatics Inc., a water system optimization firm from Chicago, to perform an evaluation of a proposed subdivision in Lemmon Valley to determine the feasibility of a dual-plumbed system.

Commissioner DeMartini asked if there is a cost estimate for treating 1,000 gallons, to which Mr. Drinkwater stated not at this time.

Vice-Chairman Seidel thanked Mr. Drinkwater for his presentation.

6. Status report on Regional Hydrologic Model development project.

Vice-Chairman Seidel welcomed Jay Aldean, Deputy Director of the Truckee River Flood Management Project, to present an update.

Mr. Aldean reported that an item will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on February 10, 2009. The request will be for approval of the Regional Hydrologic Model – Phase 1. He stated that Manhard Consulting was selected as the consultant for the project. He added that the Truckee River Flood Management Project staff agreed to separate the project into two phases. The first phase (in the amount of \$195,000) will include a study of the Sun Valley watershed with use of the (gridded surface subsurface hydrologic analysis) GSSHA model. He added that the total budgeted cost for the project is \$1 million.

Commissioner Menard asked about the timeline for results. Mr. Aldean stated that the results should be available in a maximum of six months, but hopefully will be available in four months. He added that the goal will be to determine whether proposed land use changes are reasonable. He added that it is a one-year project.

Commissioner DeMartini asked if the scope of work is available. Mr. Aldean agreed to provide it to Mr. Smitherman for distribution.

Commissioner DeMartini stated that one of the goals of the Regional Water Planning Commission was to determine whether or not use of detention or retention were good and asked if this modeling effort could predict that answer. Mr. Aldean stated the answer is a “resounding yes”.

Vice-Chairman Seidel asked if the model would be a public domain model. Mr. Aldean stated it could be; however, it would require training and knowledge on its use. Vice-Chairman Seidel expressed his hope that the model would be accessible to the public entities without having to pay huge fees for its use.

Commissioner DeMartini asked if the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) or Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would be agreeable to using the modeling results as a starting point. Mr. Aldean stated that the Corps is aware of and onboard with the effort. He added that FEMA has bought off on use of the model in other areas.

Vice-Chairman Seidel thanked Mr. Aldean for his update.

7. Review conceptual process for development of the Comprehensive Plan required by Chapter 531, Statutes of Nevada 2007, and possible direction to staff. (Heard out of order)

Vice-Chairman Seidel turned over the presentation to Jim Smitherman. Mr. Smitherman referred to the staff report, which includes the following proposed steps to develop the 2011 Comprehensive Plan:

- Solicit input from Plan users and other interested parties regarding its usefulness and implementation
- Review State, regional and local plans pertaining to water or land use and report back to NNWPC on information received
- Review plans from other regions for formatting and organizational ideas
- Review current Water Plan as amended and report findings and recommendations to the NNWPC
- Make revision to existing sections or develop new sections as necessary to address additional plan requirements as required by Chapter 531, Statutes of Nevada 2007
- Coordinate or retain as recommended by the NNWPC other agencies or contractors to provide technical or other services

Mr. Smitherman reported that TMWA’s Demand Model is based on population and economic factors to enable projections by service territory.

Commissioner Cameron asked if the climate change issue would be factored into the water plan. Mr. Smitherman reported that University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) received grants to study climate change. Commissioner Cameron reported projections are being made of a 10% reduction in precipitation in the South Western United States. Commissioner Menard mentioned that increased water demands based on longer irrigation seasons could be seen with increased climate. Mr. Smitherman agreed that climate change should be recognized.

Commissioner Menard made a motion to approve staff’s recommendation. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

8. Discussion and possible approval of Scope of Work regarding website development and funding in an amount not to exceed \$10,594, and if approved, request the Program Manager to execute an interlocal agreement with Washoe County for the project.

Vice-Chairman Seidel invited Chris Wessel to speak on this item. Mr. Wessel reported that currently the WRWC has a temporary website that was developed by TMWA. He stated that June Davis currently

works with Chris Mathews on the NNWPC website, which is part of the Washoe County Department of Water Resources' (DWR) website.

Mr. Wessel reported that bids were received for development of a website for the NNWPC and the WRWC, which ranged from \$4,400 to \$9,200. He stated that Dale Casale, a Certified Microsoft Application Developer from DWR offered to develop a web-based communal work space for \$6,194.

Mr. Wessel reported that a program called Sharepoint is recommended to enable working collaboratively on documents, such as the Water Plan. The program would include a virtual library of documents. Commissioner DeMartini asked if such collaboration would be in violation of Open Meeting Law. John Rhodes, Legal Counsel, reported that the program would be helpful in working on documents such as the Water Plan; however, he added that it could not be used for meetings.

Commissioner DeMartini asked if the program would be available to the public. Mr. Wessel stated that the program is a work in progress and that issue has not been addressed; however, it could be a security risk.

Commissioner Mann stated there is a definite distinction of what should be available to Commissioners versus the public. He added that the collaboration would be multi-jurisdictional.

Commissioner Mann asked if the website would be hosted on the County website. Mr. Wessel stated that the agreement has been that the County would provide in-kind services for maintenance of the website; however, it does not cover development of the website.

Commissioner Dennis made a motion to approve staff's recommendation to approve the scope of work and budget amount of \$10,594 (\$4,400 for the website development and \$6,194 for the web-based communal work space) from the Regional Water Management Fund. Commissioner Menard seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

9. Informational report regarding Truckee Meadows Water Authority Standing Advisory Committee.

Vice-Chairman Seidel invited 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 reported that a meeting was held February 3, 2009. He stated that topics of the meeting included:

- Recruitment of SAC members
- Discussion of additional meetings to address upcoming rate increases
- Discussion of consolidation / integration of TMWA and DWR – The integration analysis is going well and should be completed in six months. Full consolidation is not anticipated for at least two years.

Commissioner DeMartini asked if the upcoming rate increases and additional funding for TMWA would be upcoming decisions. Mr. Winzeler reported that a detailed update is to be provided at the next SAC meeting and he offered to keep the NNWPC updated.

Vice-Chairman Seidel thanked Mr. Winzeler for his report.

10. 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 feel free to ask questions, make comments, or request additional information.

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

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 list of BDRs, which includes bill language as available.

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.

e. Update on public process for the City of Reno's Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) for Silver Lake

Mr. Smitherman reported that Reno and Washoe County held two public workshops in the North Valleys to address the LOMR, which had reasonable turn-outs. He added that a Memorandum was included in the agenda packet, which provides an update on the project.

Mr. Smitherman welcomed questions or comments from Commissioners. Vice-Chairman Seidel thanked Mr. Smitherman for his update.

11. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding agenda items for the March 4, 2009, Commission meeting and future meetings.

Mr. Smitherman referred to the list of agenda items for the March 4, 2009 NNWPC agenda that was included in Commissioner's packets. The potential items include:

1. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) regarding a scope of work and funding request in an amount to be determined from the Regional Water Management Fund for the Truckee Meadows Water Authority's 2009 Water Usage Program, and possible direction to staff.
2. Status report on River Restoration BMP Handbook with Kennedy Jenks Consultants
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:

- Possible discussion of a possible Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Economic Stimulus grant in the amount of \$40,000 for the 208 Water Quality Plan for preliminary work on reclaimed water and wastewater. He added that no matched funding would be required.

12. Commission Comments.

None

13. Staff Comments.

Mr. Smitherman reported that based on comments made by Commissioner DeMartini at the last NNWPC meeting regarding the Marlin and Lemmon drainage and a railroad crossing, the scope of work presented by Manhard Consulting was revised to include that issue. He stated that the contract amount was

increased to \$48,000. He added that Washoe County Public Works would provide the surveying for the project.

14. Public Comments.

Vice-Chairman Seidel called for public comments and hearing none, closed the public comment period.

15. Adjournment.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Niki Linn, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on _____ 2009.

Darrin Price, Chairman