

**NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

The regular meeting of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) was held on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 in the Washoe County Commission Chambers, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada.

- 1. Roll Call and determination of presence of a quorum** – Chairman Seidel called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. There was a quorum present.

Voting Members Present:

Wayne Seidel, Chairman
George W. Ball, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Michael J. DeMartini
John Erwin
John Flansberg
John Jackson
Rosemary Menard
Darrin Price
Jerry Schumacher
Stan Shumaker

Voting Members Absent:

Mickey Hazelwood

Non-Voting Members Present:

Harry Fahnestock
Kelvin Hickenbottom

Non-Voting Members Absent:

John Bird
David Noble
Jon Palm

Staff Members Present:

Jim Smitherman
Chris Wessel
June Davis
John Rhodes, Legal Counsel

- 2. Approval of the agenda.**

Commissioner Price made a motion to approve the January 6, 2010 NNWPC agenda as posted. Commissioner Ball seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 3. Approval of the minutes from the December 2, 2009 meeting.**

The minutes of the December 2, 2009 NNWPC meeting were submitted for approval. Commissioner Flansberg made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Commissioner Ball seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Commissioners Price, Shumaker and Erwin abstained due to absence from the December meeting.

- 4. Public Comments.**

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

- 5. Review and discussion of draft Water Resources chapter to be included in the 2011 Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan, including sustainable water resources available in Washoe County and population that can be supported by sustainable water resources to address issues raised by Washoe County Ballot Question #3 (2008), and possible direction to staff.**

Chairman Seidel invited Jim Smitherman to present this item. Mr. Smitherman referred to the staff report and a PowerPoint presentation, which included the following points:

Overview of Water Resources

- Sources of Water
 - Surface Water
 - Groundwater
 - Reclaimed Water
- Water Resources Baseline Table – Mr. Smitherman referred to the Draft Water Baseline Table and explained the basins and associated columns and notes. He clarified that the table is intended to show water resources that are quantified adequately for twenty-year planning purposes. He added that the commitment numbers came from last year’s Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan (“Water Plan”) Amendment and will be reviewed and updated as needed.
 - Truckee River and Tributary Water Resources
 - TROA, Orr Ditch Decree, Water Rights, State Engineer Decisions
 - Groundwater Resources
 - Perennial Yield Estimate, Water Rights, State Engineer Decisions
 - Reclaimed Water Resources
 - WRF Flows not Committed to Return Requirements

Factors Affecting Water Resource Sustainability

- Sustainability
 - Definition – The Chapter includes one and a half pages explaining “sustainability” in the context of the Water Plan, in relation to perennial yield estimates and legal access to the water. The Chapter also includes the methodology used for compiling the Baseline Table, as well as a purveyor or local government’s ability to accept rights for service or to improve land use planning based on independent evaluation of the available water.
 - Proposed Regional Plan Amendments
 - NNWPC and WRWC to compare Consensus Forecast with Sustainable Water Resources – Mr. Smitherman referred to the “Decision Tree – Regional Population Forecast based on Water Sustainability”, which is a procedural flow chart. He reviewed the process based on different scenarios.

Commissioner Menard asked what sort of changes might be made that would allow the same amount of water to serve additional people. Mr. Smitherman stated that for instance, development densities could be adjusted (i.e., people could move into a more dense development pattern, most likely reducing the irrigated acreage). He added that such land use density revisions would need approval of Regional Planning, which would be reflected in the Master Plans.

Commissioner DeMartini asked from where the 20-year planning horizon was chosen. Mr. Smitherman stated it is a requirement of the Regional Plan, with which the Water Plan must be consistent or in conformance.
- Economic Conditions – Mr. Smitherman reported that the economic conditions were well-covered by TMWA’s Draft Water Resources Plan so with TMWA’s permission, the information was used in the Regional Water Plan.
- Laws, Regulations, Decrees, Agreements (Federal, State, Local)
- Source Water Reliability
 - Climate Change and Drought
 - Water Quality

- Natural and Anthropogenic Influences, Surface Water, Groundwater and Reclaimed Water

Water Management Programs to Protect the Availability and Quality of Water Resources for Municipal and Industrial Use

- Surface Water Programs
 - Truckee River Restoration
 - Watershed-based Water Quality Planning
 - Tributary Watershed Assessment and Stream Surveys
 - Environmental Control and Pre-treatment
 - Coordinated Monitoring Program (MOU)
 - Truckee Meadows Regional Storm Water Quality Management Program
- Groundwater Programs
 - Groundwater Recharge
 - Wellhead Protection Plans
 - Central Truckee Meadows Remediation District and Other Contaminated Sites
 - Municipal Well Siting
 - Groundwater Resources Data Center and Domestic Well Mitigation
- Other Programs
 - Low Impact Development
 - Hill Slope Development
 - Cloud Seeding
 - Public Outreach Programs

Mr. Smitherman invited questions or comments. Commissioner Price referred to a sentence on page 4 of 21 of the Chapter, "...the local governments and water purveyors *will limit such approvals or may take affirmative actions to mitigate the deficits* through mechanisms such as artificial recharge and recovery of groundwater, conjunctive use of available resources, or the use of alternative water resources." He suggested that "will limit such approvals" be worded more strongly, such as, "will not get approved" or that "the developer would have to bring water". He reiterated that purveyors would not approve development if water is not available. Mr. Smitherman agreed to review the wording.

Commissioner Ball referred to page 6 and the reference to, "...will show over *50,000 acre-feet* of Truckee River mainstem rights are potentially available for dedication to TMWA...". He stated that the number is critical and asked if the number has already been developed or how it would be developed. He asked if the number refers to the number of water rights that have not been dedicated to municipal and industrial (M&I) purposes. Mr. Smitherman clarified that the number would be developed in the next chapter. He added that the number is based on the remaining, uncommitted water rights according to the Orr Ditch Decree that have not been committed to M&I service. Commissioner Ball referred to water rights committed to the South Truckee Meadows, which provide recharge in addition to irrigation. He stated that those uses and concerns need to be reflected in the "available" number. Mr. Smitherman agreed that is a good point that needs to be spread across all the estimates.

Commissioner DeMartini asked if it is visualized that at the end of the approval process, every property in the County could be built and have water. Mr. Smitherman stated that he does not envision the Water Plan as controlling land use zoning; however, the purpose of baseline planning is to estimate a 20-year level of land use with respect to water availability on a sustainable level.

Commissioner Menard stated it is important to keep in mind that the process is based on matching a planning number (which is 20 years out and a moving number). She added that it does not change the fact that in order to get a map approved for development, water rights must be available.

Chairman Seidel called for further questions or input from Commissioners. Mr. Smitherman reported that the appropriate action for this item would be to provide direction to staff if desired.

Commissioner Price suggested making some wording change recommendations prior to presentation to the Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC). He reiterated his previous recommendation to strengthen the language in the paragraph on page 4 and added that the revision should be distributed to WRWC members. Mr. Smitherman stated that he would mention the recommendations from today's meeting. Mr. Rhodes stated that the actual wording changes are not necessary for the meeting on January 8, 2010, although the comments would be relayed to the WRWC. He added that the new chapter is a work in progress and it is not intended to be approved at this point.

Commissioner Menard reiterated that this chapter on sustainability is being developed based on the Washoe County Ballot Question 3 (WC-3) and the request to plan for population that can be sustained by long-term resources. She added that this first draft is to begin the process, which will move forward to the public.

6. Status report on development of the 2011 Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan, including outline, timeline and contractual services, and possible direction to staff.

Mr. Smitherman gave a brief overview of the staff report, which included:

- As required by statute, staff solicited information from water purveyors within the planning area for documentation related to their operations and facility plans. Based on new and existing information staff has developed a preliminary draft of Chapter 2 – Water Resources for the 2011 plan for the commission's review. This item was presented at today's meeting.
- Staff has begun assembling information for Chapter 3 - Water Purveyors and Chapter 4 - Wastewater. Review drafts of these chapters are anticipated to be completed within first quarter of 2010.
- In coordination with the Truckee Meadows Flood Management Project, staff has developed a revised outline for the Flood Project section of Chapter 5 - Background on Flood Control /Storm Drainage. The development of this chapter remains on-schedule for the second quarter of 2010. Mr. Smitherman reported that this update is expected to be completed by the end of March.
- Staff has negotiated a scope of work with Washoe County Department of Water Resources to provide GIS services related to the production of maps and figures for the plan. The approved budget, not to exceed \$17,000, is for up to 200 labor hours which is based on the time expenditure for the development of the 2004 – 2025 RWMP. Commissioner Price asked if the proposed TMWA/DWR integration would impact any of the senior GIS staff that might work on this project. Commissioner Menard stated that it would not impact the work to be done.
- Staff has negotiated a scope of work and budget, not to exceed \$49,000, for ECO:LOGIC Engineers to provide engineering services to revise facility cost estimates, revise a regional water balance using current population estimates and provide a regional wastewater analysis. The contract will provide for work products to satisfy several legislatively required elements of the RWMP. Mr. Smitherman stated that the scope of work was approved by the NNWPC at the last meeting, although the scope was still being finalized at that time. He stated that the final scope was included in the agenda packets and would also be provided to the WRWC for approval.

Mr. Smitherman reported that ECO:LOGIC would work with staff from the different entities on regional wastewater and reclaimed water facility plans. He added that there is a lot of information available that will be utilized by the consultant.

Commissioner Price asked for clarification of ECO:LOGIC's role. Mr. Smitherman stated that in past planning efforts, a consultant has been hired to mesh facility plans that were not necessarily developed in coordination with one another. The current plan is for the entities to work together

to make the best use of facilities that are being planned. Commissioner Price stated that years ago Carollo Engineers provided very good data on expansion of the area treatment plants and encouraged ECO:LOGIC to utilize the information. Chairman Seidel agreed that it is important to use existing information where available. Commissioner DeMartini asked if it would be appropriate to hear from the consultant. John Enloe, ECO:LOGIC, confirmed that he has previous information available.

7. 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 of Projects and Work Plan supported by the Regional Water Management Fund

The updated Status Report of Projects was provided in the agenda packets. Commissioner Ball asked when it would be appropriate to schedule updates on the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) projects. Commissioner Menard suggested scheduling updates in March or April.

b. Financial report on the Regional Water Management Fund

The Financial Report on the Regional Water Management Fund was provided in the agenda packets.

c. 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.

d. Informational report from the NNWPC representative on the Truckee Meadows Water Authority Standing Advisory Committee (SAC)

Mr. Smitherman reported that there was no SAC meeting so no update was included.

8. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding agenda items for the February 3, 2010, Commission meeting and future meetings.

Mr. Smitherman stated that the next regularly scheduled NNWPC meeting would be February 3, 2010. Agenda items for the meeting include:

- Status Report on "State of the Science" for the Central Truckee Meadows (Groundwater) Remediation District, Chris Benedict, Washoe County Department of Water Resources
- Program Manager's Report, Jim Smitherman
 - Status Report of Projects and Work Plan supported by the Regional Water Management Fund
 - Financial report on the Regional Water Management Fund
 - Status report on possible integration/consolidation of the Washoe County Department of Water Resources and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority
 - Truckee River Flood Management Project status report
 - Informational report from the NNWPC representative on the Truckee Meadows Water Authority Standing Advisory Committee
- Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding agenda items for the March, 3 2010, Commission meeting and future meetings, Jim Smitherman

- Other Informational Items

Commissioner Menard reported that if desired, the items could be postponed to the March meeting and the February meeting could be cancelled.

Commissioner Price stated that he would like to see updates on the website and the Legislative Oversight Committee; however, he added that they were not time sensitive issues.

Commissioner Erwin made a motion to cancel the February meeting. Commissioner Menard seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Smitherman clarified that the March 3, 2010 meeting would be scheduled at the Washoe County Commission Chambers at 1:30 p.m.

9. Commission Comments.

Commissioner Ball expressed his appreciation and complimented staff on the work done on the new Chapter 2 related to water sustainability.

10. Staff Comments.

None.

11. Public Comments.

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

12. Adjournment.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Niki Linn, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on _____ 2010.

Wayne Seidel, Chairman