

**NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

The regular meeting of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) was held on Wednesday, June 2, 2010 in the Washoe County Commission Chambers, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada.

- 1. Roll Call and determination of presence of a quorum** – Chairman Erwin called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. There was a quorum present.

Voting Members Present:

John Erwin, Chairman
George W. Ball, Jr.
Michael J. DeMartini
Rosemary Menard
Darrin Price
Stan Shumaker
Wayne Seidel

Voting Members Absent:

Jerry Schumacher, Vice-Chairman
John Flansberg
Mickey Hazelwood
John Jackson

Non-Voting Members Present:

John Bird
Kelvin Hickenbottom

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Mark Clarkson
Harry Fahnestock
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 June 2, 2010 NNWPC agenda as posted. Commissioner Ball seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the minutes from the May 5, 2010 meeting.

The minutes of the May 5, 2010 NNWPC meeting were submitted for approval. Commissioner Ball made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Commissioner DeMartini seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Public Comments.

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

5. Review and discussion of draft Chapters 2, 3 and 7 of the 2011 Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan and possible direction to staff.

Mr. Smitherman reported that at the last NNWPC meeting, draft Chapters 2, 3 and 7 were distributed to Commissioners for review and comments. He explained that the comments were reviewed by staff and incorporated as appropriate. He added that most edits were minor or typographical. He added that the chapters are in draft format and will be reviewed and finalized before the final update is distributed. He

stated there are also notes where information has not yet been received. He stated that Chapter 7 includes the Policy statements; however, they are yet to be included in Chapters 2 and 3. He reminded Commissioners that policies and a collection of issues related to the Water Plan update were distributed at the last meeting and should be kept in mind during the review process.

Mr. Smitherman referred to the copies of the chapters and provided a brief overview of the sections and updates as follows:

Chapter 2 – Water Resources

- Purpose and Scope – The intent is to confirm that the requirements of State Law are being met.
- Summary of Findings – to be developed
- Surface Water – A map of the tributary streams was added.
- Sustainability – A section was added to explain water resources sustainability and the population forecast and the comparison work.
- Economic Conditions and the Cost of Water Rights – This section was largely borrowed from TMWA’s Water Resource Plan. The depth of the section is important based on the unprecedented economic conditions being experienced currently in the region.
- Laws, Regulations, Decrees and Agreements – This section covers the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA), Water Quality Settlement Agreement, Orr Ditch Decree and other legislation related to water use and water quality.
- Commissioner Price referred to section 2.1.3 – Reclaimed Water, and the phrase, “...the remainder is discharged to the Truckee River, Swan Lake wetlands or to the ground.” He asked if “ground” refers to groundwater recharge. Mr. Smitherman stated the intent was a rapid infiltration basin (RIB) but agreed that clarification is needed.
- Source water reliability and quality
- Groundwater quality, including man-caused contamination
- Programs, such as wellhead protection and clean up of contamination

Chairman Erwin stated that globally the Water Plan Update builds off the 2008-2025 Update, which includes many references to “Regional Water Planning Commission (RWPC)”. He suggested inclusion of a description of the transition of the RWPC into the NNWPC and the respective governance models.

Commissioner Menard agreed and suggested including the historical background in the introductory chapter, which is set up in “Executive Summary” format. Mr. Smitherman stated that was planned for inclusion in the Introduction. Chairman Erwin added that clarification of the Plan update being referenced (i.e. which year).

Chairman Erwin stated that he had a speaker request card regarding “geothermal” and invited the public comment. Ginger Pierce, Pleasant Valley resident, presented a map showing the geothermal wells that were drilled by Ormat. She reported she met with Mines and Minerals to discuss Ormat’s well, of which there are supposed to be three; however, she added there are “tons of them”. She was advised to ask TMWA for an explanation of the coloring, which she did. She summarized that she just thought the NNWPC would like to know about the new drills that are already drilled. Chairman Erwin thanked Ms. Pierce for her comments.

Chairman Erwin summarized that Chapter 2 is still available for textual changes and asked Commissioners to submit any recommendations to Mr. Smitherman.

Chapter 3 – Water Purveyors

- Need to add the Purpose, Scope and Findings
- Public Water Purveyors – Chairman Erwin asked if it was decided to use 2009 data as the most current, to which Mr. Wessel stated yes. Mr. Smitherman explained that some information had been

requested but not received from purveyors, which will be included. Chairman Erwin stated that he suggested rounding numbers, which Mr. Smitherman stated was a good suggestion and was used.

- TMWA provided new information since the last meeting that was inserted. Commissioner Price asked about mentioning repair of the flume after the earthquake damage. Chairman Erwin stated that TMWA has a write-up on the flume and would provide it to Mr. Smitherman for inclusion. Commissioner Price stated that Mike Carrigan has requested inclusion of the percentage of river that is used by TMWA (approximately 17%). Mr. Smitherman agreed to include the information.
- The section on Public Water Purveyor Consolidation Analysis was revised since the last meeting. Commissioner Price referred to South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District (STMGID), which was given direction from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to essentially become their own GID. He suggested including a blurb in the consolidation section. Mr. Smitherman agreed to examine the issue.
- Non-Public Water Purveyors – This section does not include the level of detail of the Public Purveyors.
- Domestic Wells – A comment was received to include the definition of domestic use from the Nevada Revised Statute (NRS), which was done.
- Reclaimed Water Purveyors – Section focuses on reclaimed water utilities owned by City of Reno, City of Sparks and Washoe County. Included is reclaimed water use versus return to the river.
- Water Rights Requirements – Includes discussion of TMWA Rule 7. Commissioner DeMartini referred to the map (Figure 3-1) and the reference to Utilities Inc. under Steamboat, which Mr. Smitherman agreed was an error and would be fixed.

Chairman Erwin mentioned that the Chapter is titled “Water Purveyors”, yet includes domestic wells, reuse water, etc. Mr. Smitherman agreed the title should be broader to include everything covered. Mr. Rhodes suggested possibly, “Water Purveyors and Other Users”.

Commissioner DeMartini referred to Figure 3-4 and asked if Sparks Marina is intended for reuse water. Commissioner Seidel stated there is no reclaimed water coming into the marina at this time or being planned. Mr. Smitherman agreed it should be shaded to match the other figures. Commissioner DeMartini suggested perhaps shading the reuse parcels in purple.

Chapter 7 – Water Conservation Plan – Efficient Use of Water

- Introduction includes an explanation of the Base Case Conservation plan.
- Summary of Findings – Includes Base Case, Ongoing Measures, Future Measures, and Drought Measures
- Table 7-2 reflects some of the accomplishments of the Base Case
- Federal Laws, Local Government Laws, Purveyor Rules
- State of Nevada Conservation Objectives
- Ongoing Measures to Conserve Water – Assigned Day Watering was updated to reflect recent changes made by TMWA.
- Truckee Meadows Community Forestry Coalition
- Programs, such as the Ultra Low Flow Toilet Installation and Retrofit – Program funding was spent so the program no longer exists. Commissioner Price stated that Sun Valley GID continued the program 3 years after funding was discontinued from the Water Planning Commission, which was a huge success.
- Future Water Conservation Initiatives
- Drought Conditions and Response Plan – Revised to reflect current precipitation conditions.
- Recommendations for Future Action

Commissioner Price referred to the suggestion to clarify the transition of the Water Planning Commission. He suggested that an explanation of the transition from Sierra Pacific Power Company to

TMWA and when those changes occurred.

Commissioner Menard mentioned the reference to rain barrels, cisterns, etc. and suggested adding information on the use of gray water. She added that some other areas have implemented gray water systems. Chairman Erwin stated that the dual-water system is mentioned. Commissioner Menard suggested adding information on other areas. Mr. Smitherman agreed to examine the issue.

Chairman Erwin reiterated that TMWA has adopted the three-day per week watering program, which is included in this update. He mentioned that another change is from the four stages of drought response to a three stage planning process. He added that the comment was added that the water metering program was completed by TMWA but could reflect "where practicable".

Chairman Erwin summarized that the chapters reviewed are still available for further edits and suggestions. He asked about the schedule for Chapters 4, 5 and 6. Mr. Smitherman stated that his hope was to provide them at today's meeting; however, they were not ready at this time. He added that they should be available within a week and would be distributed. He asked for direction on whether to send information piecemeal as it is available or as a whole chapter. Members agreed the chapter as a whole would be preferable.

Mr. Smitherman stated that Chapters 2, 3 and 7 would also be brought back to reflect today's discussion. He reiterated that the draft Chapters 4, 5 and 6 would be provided to Commissioners in the next week to provide time for review prior to the July meeting. Chairman Erwin asked staff when Chapters 8 and 9 would be available. Mr. Smitherman stated most likely in August. Mr. Smitherman offered to provide updated timelines for the Plan update at future meetings.

6. 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.

b. Financial report on the Regional Water Management Fund

The updated Status Report of Projects 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. He added that Barry Winzeler reported the next SAC meeting would be scheduled in September.

7. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding agenda items for the July 2010, Commission meeting and future meetings.

Mr. Smitherman stated that he would be on vacation the week of July 7, which would be the next regularly scheduled NNWPC meeting. He suggested moving the meeting to the following week, July 14, 2010. Agenda items for the meeting include:

- Review Draft Chapters 4, 5 and 6 of the 2011 Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan, including pertinent planning policies and issues for future planning, and possible direction to staff, Jim Smitherman, Water Resources Program Manager.
- 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 pending 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 August 4, 2010, Commission meeting and future meetings, Jim Smitherman.
- Other Informational Items

Commissioner Menard made a motion to schedule the next NNWPC meeting for July 14, 2010 and to review draft Chapters 4, 5 and 6. Commissioner Ball seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

8. Commission Comments.

Commissioner Price requested an update on the July 15, 2010 Legislative Oversight Committee meeting when available. Commissioner Menard stated that a work session is also scheduled for the LOC on August 14, 2010. Commissioner Price requested an update on the work session as well.

9. Staff Comments.

Mr. Wessel reported that any items distributed at the meetings would be available on the NNWPC website. He added that the agendas and packet information are currently available on the website.

10. Public Comments.

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

11. Adjournment.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Niki Linn, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on _____ 2010.

John Erwin, Chairman