

**NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

The regular meeting of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (“NNWPC”) was held on Wednesday, November 3, 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
Jerry Schumacher, Vice-Chairman
George W. Ball, Jr. (arrived at 1:34 p.m.)
John Flansberg
Mickey Hazelwood
John Jackson
Rosemary Menard
Darrin Price
Stan Shumaker (arrived at 1:39 p.m.)
Wayne Seidel (arrived at 1:35 p.m.)

Voting Members Absent:

Michael J. DeMartini

Non-Voting Members Present:

Non-Voting Members Absent:

John Bird
Mark Clarkson
Harry Fahnestock
Kelvin Hickenbottom
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 November 3, 2010 NNWPC agenda as posted. Commissioner Menard seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 3. Approval of the minutes from the October 6 and October 20, 2010 meetings.**

The minutes of the October 6, 2010 NNWPC meeting were submitted for approval. Commissioner Schumacher made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Commissioner Price seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The minutes of the October 20, 2010 NNWPC meeting were submitted for approval. Commissioner Price made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Commissioner Schumacher seconded the motion,

which carried unanimously.

4. Public Comments.

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

5. Discussion and appointment of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission representative, (currently Barry Winzeler), and alternate, (currently George Ball), to the Truckee Meadows Water Authority Standing Advisory Committee (“TMWA SAC”), and possible direction to staff, Jim Smitherman, Water Resources Program Manager.

Chairman Erwin stated that staff’s recommendation is to reappoint Barry Winzeler as the NNWPC representative on the Truckee Meadows Water Authority Standing Advisory Committee, with George Ball as his alternate.

Commissioner Price made a motion to accept staff’s recommendation. Commissioner Schumacher seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Chairman Erwin asked Commissioner Ball if he was agreeable to the motion, which he stated he is.

6. Review all previously revised draft chapters of the 2011 Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan; detailed review of the Introduction, and Chapters 1 and 2, and possible direction to staff, Jim Smitherman, Water Resources Program Manager.

Mr. Smitherman reported that new versions of Chapters 1 and 2 were distributed at the meeting. He added that the other chapters were previously provided to Commissioners in agenda packets. He briefly reviewed the changes that have been made and welcomed questions or comments from Commissioners.

Chairman Erwin clarified that the new and recently revised chapters include the Introduction, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2. Mr. Smitherman briefly reviewed some of the edits that had been made since the last meeting. He reviewed the Introduction and stated that he incorporated suggestions from the last meeting, such as providing a history of the Regional Water Planning Commission and the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission.

Commissioner Price asked for clarification that Mr. Smitherman is working with the other planning agencies on the issue of "consistency". Mr. Smitherman stated that the language came directly from the law. Mr. Rhodes offered to work with Mr. Smitherman on language reflecting that the Act became effective April 2008.

Commissioner Menard referred to conversations from the last meeting regarding the financial analysis and stated that the Plan does not allocate any of the projects to a specific agency.

Mr. Smitherman reviewed the following edits made to chapters since the last NNWPC meeting based on comments from members via e-mail and at the meeting.

Policy 1.1.b

NRS 540.131 through NRS 540.151, requires all purveyors of water for municipal, industrial, or domestic purposes, with the exception of certain smaller purveyors, to submit the water conservation plans with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for compliance review and approval ~~and adoption by the State~~. 2005 Amendments to NRS 540.131 require conservation plans to be updated every five years.

Policy 1.2.a

TMWA, in its 2010-2030 Water Resource Plan re-evaluated its drought planning criteria and reaffirmed its prior findings and conclusions regarding drought ~~“Based on comparable methods to flood”~~ planning. The historic drought from 1987 to 1994 is the most severe record of repetitive low precipitation and snow-pack run-off years in the one hundred plus years of keeping record ~~and the statistical methods developed for this plan, planning for the 8 year event with today’s resources is more than adequate to meet expected drought frequencies...of 1987—1994 plus a repeat of 1987 hydrology...”~~

Mr. Smitherman reported that the following explanatory paragraphs from TMWA’s 2010-2030 Water Resource Plan were added.

TMWA, in its 2010-2030 Water Resource Plan re-evaluated its drought planning criteria and reaffirmed its conclusions:

“TMWA’s current resources and continued dedication of river rights will allow TMWA to meet a demand of 119,000 acre-feet under TROA implementation or 113,000 acre-feet without TROA based on the historic drought from 1987 to 1994; this 8-year drought was the most severe on record. Without TROA a 9-year drought design will support a demand of 110,000 acre-feet. Use of a more stringent drought cycle design, without data to support it, ultimately reduces the use of available resources and burdens the region with the cost requirement to replace the lost resource. Using the 9-year drought design (1987-1994 plus a repeat of 1987 hydrology) preserves the opportunity for the local community to continue to develop in an orderly fashion without necessitating unreasonable and unnecessary interruptions during the next few years before TROA is implemented, which is projected to meet demands of 119,000 acre-feet annually.

The TMWA Board approved the following recommendation:

“(1) until TROA is implemented and recognizing that although demands could expand through the continued conversion of irrigation water rights, TMWA will base its planning to municipal to 113,000 acre-feet annually using an 8-year drought period use but manage demands to 110,000 acre-feet based on a 9-year drought period and (2) continue review of the performance of and possibly change its planning this standard based on changes in future conditions factors such as demand growth, conservation improvements, hydrologic cycles, climate changes, etc. and update the Board should future conditions change.”

Policy 4.2.a

Sec. 51. 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, on and after the date the initial Comprehensive Plan is finally approved, no ~~alternative or~~ facility intended to provide a service relating to a subject of the Comprehensive Plan within the planning area may be constructed, if the facility is of such a kind or size as ~~solution to the situation~~ is expected to affect the working of the Comprehensive Plan as distinct from providing normal service to customers, unless it is included in the Comprehensive Plan or has been reviewed and approved as provided in subsection 3 ~~Regional Water Plan within the Planning Area~~.

Policy 4.2.b

The WRWC shall address ~~become involved in~~ a water-related matter, consistent with its purposes, powers and responsibilities as described in the Act, ~~at the recommendation of the NNWPC or one of~~

~~its member agencies, or at its discretion when a regional problem exists or when a proposed alternative or facility solution to the situation is expected to affect the working of the Regional Water Plan.~~

Chairman Erwin offered a suggestion to condense Table 9-1 and Table 9-2, as well as to number the items for ease in locating them. Mr. Smitherman explained that Table 9-2 is a summary of the proposed action items. He stated that from that list, items requiring work by the NNWPC or the WRWC in the next five years comprise Table 9-1, which will be used to compile Work Plans.

Commissioner Menard expressed her concern over the number of proposed action items. She suggested perhaps having a report every five years that lists all the projects; however, only including some of the top priority projects. She also suggested providing a more open ended description of the action needed.

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.

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

d. Informational report from the NNWPC representative on the Truckee Meadows Water Authority Standing Advisory Committee (item pulled because no TMWA SAC meeting was held)

Barry Winzeler provided a brief overview of the SAC meeting of November 2, 2010. He stated the focus of the meeting was the TMWA/DWR integration, which is moving forward. He stated some of the items for consideration included the timing, the position of both agencies to merge, ensuring no adverse impact to customer rates and new growth. He added that a very detailed financial analysis of both agencies is being developed due to decreased water sales of both utilities of the last few years. A third party will review the financial analysis upon completion. The entities are examining "creative financing" to eliminate the need for DWR to refinance its debt.

Commissioner Price thanked Mr. Winzeler and asked if there was discussion on how the entities will develop similar rate schedules, as required by the interlocal agreement. Mr. Winzeler stated that issue was not discussed; however, the next SAC meeting will focus on the financial package.

8. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding agenda items for the November 17, 2010, Commission meeting and future meetings.

Commissioner Price requested an agenda item to acknowledge Wayne Seidel's work on the NNWPC over the years.

Mr. Smitherman stated that agenda items for the following meeting include:

- Review all previously revised draft chapters of the Water Plan, including presentation of all the appendices, figures and tables. Chairman Erwin requested replacement pages only, as opposed to a new printed copy of the Water Plan. He also requested that staff send Chapter 8 to commissioners in Word format for editing.
- Resolution of Appreciation for Wayne Seidel
- Program Manager's Report
 - Status Report of Projects and Work Plan supported by the Regional Water Management Fund
 - Financial report on the Regional Water Management Fund
 - Truckee River Flood Management Project status report

Commissioner Flansberg made a motion to approve the agenda items as suggested. Commissioner Price seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

9. Commission Comments.

Chairman Erwin mentioned that discussion is occurring over the possibility of merging the Regional Transportation Commission ("RTC"), the WRWC and the Regional Planning Governing Board ("RPGB"). He asked if the issue should be brought forward to this group. Commissioner Menard reported that there is an agenda item for the November 12, 2010 WRWC meeting. She stated that the RPGB requested examining a merger of the three entities.

Commissioner Price asked how the City of Sparks Public Works position on the NNWPC would be filled. Commissioner Menard suggested possibly sending a letter to City of Sparks inviting a new representative.

10. Staff Comments.

None

11. Public Comments.

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

12. Adjournment.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Niki Linn, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on _____ 2011.

John Erwin, Chairman