

**NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 1, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (“NNWPC”) was held on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 in the Reno City Council Chambers, 1 East First Street, Reno, Nevada.

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

Voting Members Present:

George W. Ball, Jr., Chairman  
Neil Krutz, Vice Chairman  
John Buzzone  
Michael DeMartini  
John Erwin  
John Flansberg  
John Jackson  
Darrin Price  
Jerry Schumacher  
Stan Shumaker (arrived at 1:46 p.m.)

Voting Members Absent:

Mickey Hazelwood

Non-Voting Members Present:

My-Linh Nguyen (arrived at 1:43 p.m.)

Non-Voting Members Absent:

John Bird  
David Boland  
Harry Fahnestock  
Kelvin Hickenbottom  
Janelle Thomas

Staff Members Present:

Jim Smitherman  
Chris Wessel  
June Davis  
John Rhodes, Legal Counsel

**2. Public Comments.**

Chairman Ball called for public comments

Ginger Pierce, Galena / Steamboat Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) and Pleasant Valley homeowner, stated that Ormat agreed to work with those affected by the drilling of a well on the fault line (which is planned). She stated that temperatures in the domestic wells have been monitored by representatives of her group. She reiterated that Ormat is agreeable to working with the CAB and homeowners.

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

**3. Approval of the agenda.**

Commissioner Flansberg made a motion to approve the February 1 meeting agenda as posted. Commissioner Erwin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of minutes from the December 7, 2011 meeting.**

Commissioner Erwin made a correction to Barry Winzeler’s comment on page 8 of 9 of the December 7,

2011 minutes. He revised the second bullet to read, "During the recent fire in Southwest Reno, TMWA's pumping ability in the affected area was lost due to power failure."

Commissioner Erwin made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Krutz seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Chairman Ball and Commissioners Flansberg and DeMartini abstained.

**5. Report on the Truckee Meadows Water Authority ("TMWA") Water Usage Review Program for 2010 and 2011; discussion and possible recommendation to the Western Regional Water Commission ("WRWC") regarding a scope of work and request for additional funding in the amount of \$126,470 from the Regional Water Management Fund ("RWMF") for the 2011 and 2012 Water Usage Review Program, and possible direction to staff, Lora Richards, TMWA.**

Chairman Ball invited Lora Richards, TMWA, to present this item. Ms. Richards explained that she normally provides an update to the NNWPC in the spring; however, she did not provide an update in 2011. She stated that her request is for Commissioners to review the results from 2011 in consideration of reimbursing 2011, as well as to consider funding for 2012.

Ms. Richards stated that her report was included in the agenda packet and offered to provide a presentation if requested. Chairman Ball asked for a synopsis of the report highlights. Ms. Richards stated that the Water Usage Review Program has been very successful. She explained that the purpose of the program is for customers to schedule an audit of his/her system based on an unusually high water bill. TMWA checks the equipment and provides training and suggestions for decreasing water use.

Commissioner Buzzone asked if TMWA follows up (perhaps after a year) to review the results. Ms. Richards stated they do monitor customer bills in follow up as necessary. She added that TMWA also holds workshops to educate customers on water usage.

Commissioner Price made a motion to approve the request for funding for 2011 and 2012. Commissioner Buzzone seconded the motion. Commissioner Price asked why the water usage changed so much from one year to the next. Ms. Richards stated that previously the program focused on commercial only but residential was added, which resulted in the increase. Chairman Ball called for a vote on the motion, which carried unanimously.

**6. Report on responses to the Request for Qualifications for a groundwater management study to identify strategies and potential funding mechanisms to address regional groundwater quality and quantity issues, including nitrate concentrations related to septic tanks; discussion and possible recommendation to the WRWC for funding in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 from the RWMF for the study, Chris Wessel, NNWPC Water Management Planner.**

Chairman Ball invited Mr. Wessel to present an update. Mr. Wessel stated that this item is in follow up to a previous NNWPC agenda item when the discussion focused on a septic alternatives study. He reported that a request for qualifications (RFQ) was distributed and four firms responded. The firms included:

- AMEC/Lombardo
- Stantec
- Farr West Engineering
- Manhard Consulting

Mr. Wessel stated that a selection team reviewed the statements of qualification and selected AMEC/Lombardo as the most qualified team for the job. He stated that a meeting with the team is scheduled for the following morning to discuss the scope of work. He added that as discussed by the

NNWPC, it is recognized that \$20,000 would not be adequate for the first phase of the project and the requested deliverables. Staff believes that \$60,000 would be a more appropriate amount not to exceed.

Mr. Wessel reported that the Clean Water Act (CWA) 208 Water Quality Grant (\$40,000) is once again available and could be applied to this project. He clarified that staff is in the process of applying for the grant and it is unlikely that it would not be received.

Mr. Wessel requested that Commissioners recommend to the Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) to increase the budget by \$40,000 (with the overall budget amount not to exceed \$60,000); proceed in negotiations with the top-ranked firm; and to apply the \$40,000 in grant funds if received toward the budget increase. He clarified that if the grant is not received, \$40,000 is available in the Regional Water Management Fund (RWMF) budget.

Chairman Ball asked what the timeline for completion is. Mr. Wessel stated that three to four months is anticipated based on the amount of funding available.

Commissioner DeMartini referred to Christian Kropf's 2007 report, which mentioned 44 parts per million (ppm) and asked if that refers to nitrate or nitrogen. Mr. Wessel stated that his understanding is that it refers to nitrogen. Commissioner DeMartini requested the opportunity to review the report. Mr. Wessel stated the report is available on the NNWPC website.

Chairman Ball asked about the anticipated start date. Mr. Wessel stated that if possible, he would like the project to begin by the end of the month if the WRWC approves the funding and contract at its February 10, 2012 meeting.

Chairman Ball asked about the timing of the 208 Grant and whether money would be used from the RWMF prior to receipt of the grant. Mr. Smitherman stated that he anticipates that funds would be received prior to the end of the project.

Commissioner Price asked about the timing of funding for the project for the remainder of the year. Mr. Wessel explained that the \$60,000 is for the *project*, not for this year or the next. He added that staff does anticipate increasing the budget item for similar projects for the next year's budget.

Chairman Ball asked if the report would be used as supporting documentation for planning, design and construction of wastewater collection systems in some of the problem areas. Mr. Wessel explained that the goal of the project is to identify practical means by which we might be able to move forward locally by finding other areas that have successfully accomplished a program to address the groundwater management issues.

Commissioner Flansberg asked for clarification that the recommended motion in the staff report was to request not to exceed \$60,000, \$20,000 of which is available currently. Mr. Wessel stated that is correct.

Commissioner Flansberg made a motion to recommend that the WRWC approve funding in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 from the RWMF for this study and that any offset in funding that may be received from the 208 Grant would be used for that purpose. Commissioner Shumaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**7. Report on representation and structure of the NNWPC and the WRWC following the pending consolidation of Washoe County's Department of Water Resources and TMWA, and the possible dissolution of the South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District ("STMGID"), John Rhodes, NNWPC Legal Counsel.**

Chairman Ball invited Mr. Rhodes to speak on this item. Mr. Rhodes stated that this item was scheduled in response to a request from Commissioner Price at the last meeting, to review the make up of the NNWPC and WRWC based on the pending consolidation of DWR and TWMA, as well as the possible dissolution of STMGID. Mr. Rhodes reported that he reviewed the language related to representation on both boards. He read from the WRWC Act regarding membership and providing that the Board of Trustees shall include "One member designated by the Board of Trustees of the STMGID or its successor..."

Mr. Rhodes clarified that his understanding of the current proposal is that STMGID and DWR would merge, as opposed to dissolution of STMGID. He stated that a likely interpretation from the Act would be that a representative of the successor entity would be entitled to a seat on the WRWC Board. The successor entity would initially be Washoe County, and eventually would be TMWA (if the TMWA/DWR consolidation occurs). He offered to keep an eye on the situation and report back as appropriate.

Mr. Rhodes next referred to membership of the NNWPC, which is also found in the WRWC Act. He read a provision of the Act requiring that this Commission must have as a voting member: "The Director of Water Resources for Washoe County, or his designee." He explained that if DWR is consolidated into TMWA, Washoe County would still be a reclaimed water and sanitary sewer provider so that position would remain unchanged. He added that he is aware of other changes occurring between other County departments; however, the position in issue would be filled by the Director responsible for reclaimed water/sanitary sewer, or his designee.

Mr. Rhodes referred to the membership of STMGID or its successor on the NNWPC and stated that based on his initial read, if STMGID merged into DWR, the County would have an additional seat on the NNWPC. If the County is then consolidated into TMWA, TMWA would have an additional seat.

Mr. Rhodes summarized that he is not prepared to issue a formal legal opinion on these matters, at this time; however, these were the initial potential outcomes he recognized. He added that he is sure that legal counsel for all the entities involved will follow the negotiation process and make final determinations. He clarified that he had not received any direction from the WRWC related to changing the legislation in the upcoming session.

Mr. Rhodes reiterated that he would provide the NNWPC with any updates.

**8. Update on the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA)'s Parcel-based Population and Employment Modeling Program, and possible direction to staff, Jim Smitherman, NNWPC Water Resources Program Manager.**

Chairman Ball invited Mr. Smitherman to provide a report on TMRPA's current status. Mr. Smitherman reported that since his last update to the NNWPC, he completed a compilation of a Geographic Information System (GIS) layers that incorporate sewer interceptors and trunk main interceptors in sub-areas within the system of each of the service providers. He stated that currently he and TMRPA staff are working with engineers from each of the service providers to rank their capacity in the delineated sub-areas. The goal is to get an overall look at the ability for each of the sub-areas to absorb development, should the model predict development in the next twenty or so years. He offered to provide the visual information when it is completed.

Mr. Smitherman stated that staff is also working to include the wastewater treatment plant capacity for effluent reuse or disposal into the GIS layer. He added that later in the month, he would be working with water service providers to determine areas of possible growth that might or might not have existing

infrastructure. Also included in the GIS layer will be available water resources to serve growth. Mr. Smitherman explained that the GIS layers should be available for presentation by the end of March.

Mr. Smitherman referred to a map that was included in the staff report. He explained that the map is from one of the first model runs of undeveloped parcels that the model is predicting for development for two timeframes (now to 2020 and 2020 to 2035). He reported that the map was presented to the Regional Planning Governing Board (RPGB) and the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Board in December. He added that the RPGB directed staff to provide the information to RTC staff, which is using the information to develop and calibrate their regional transportation model to include in the update to the Regional Transportation Plan.

Mr. Smitherman stated that as information is available from TMRPA, it will be provided to the RTC, as will the consensus forecast (a draft of which is expected later this month). He summarized that the RPGB and RTC would hold a joint meeting in June to review the development suitability information.

Chairman Ball asked if the NNWPC would be included in the summary information. Mr. Smitherman stated that he would provide the water and wastewater information to the NNWPC. He added that he would request TMRPA staff to present an update.

Mr. Smitherman stated that he believes his involvement in the project has been very worthwhile. He briefly explained some of the tasks required in developing the model.

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

- a. Status report of projects and Work Plan supported by the Regional Water Management Fund**
- b. Financial report on the Regional Water Management Fund**
- c. Informational report from the NNWPC representative on the Truckee Meadows Water Authority Standing Advisory Committee ("TMWA SAC")**

Mr. Smitherman reported that the items included in the agenda packet are provided as informational items. He reported that Barry Winzeler had no report on the TWMA SAC for this meeting. Mr. Smitherman added, however, that he was invited to provide an update to the SAC on activities of the NNWPC.

Chairman Ball asked if there were any "hiccups" in any of the projects or work plan. Mr. Smitherman stated that everything is proceeding smoothly.

## **10. Discussion regarding agenda items for the March 7, 2012, NNWPC meeting, and other future meetings, and possible direction to staff, Jim Smitherman.**

Mr. Smitherman reported that the March NNWPC meeting would again be held at Reno City Council Chambers. He stated that items for the March NNWPC meeting include:

- Report on status of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP)'s review of the Truckee River water quality nutrient standards
- Discussion of the process to review the Washoe County Consensus Forecast
  - Complete an analysis of water demands to sustainable water resources – to be done every two years in conjunction with the Consensus Forecast
- Discussion of updating the 208 Water Quality Plan, which was last updated in 2007
- Progress report on TMRPA's population / employment modeling
- Review of the draft RWMF budget – Public Hearing on the budget is required in May
- In a couple of months, NNWPC officers need to be re-elected
- Program Manager's Report

Chairman Ball asked when the next update is due for the Regional Water Management Plan. Mr. Smitherman stated it is due in 2016.

Chairman Ball requested continuing updates from the Truckee River Flood Management Authority. Mr. Smitherman suggested reading the minutes from the last meeting when Danielle Henderson provided an update.

**11. Commission Comments.**

None

**12. Staff Comments.**

None

**13. Public Comments.**

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

**14. Adjournment.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Niki Linn, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on \_\_\_\_\_ 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_  
George W. Ball, Jr., Chairman