**Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission**

**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 6, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (“NNWPC”) was held on Wednesday, February 6, 2013, in the Reno Council Chambers, One East First Street, Reno, Nevada.

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

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| Voting Members Present:  Mickey Hazelwood, Chairman  John Buzzone, Vice Chairman  George W. Ball, Jr.  Michael DeMartini  Michael Drinkwater  John Flansberg  John Jackson  Neil Krutz (arrived at 1:35 p.m.)  Darrin Price  Jerry Schumacher (left at 2:37 p.m.) | Voting Members Absent:  John Erwin |
| Non-Voting Members Present:  David Boland | Non-Voting Members Absent:  John Bird  Harry Fahnestock  Kelvin Hickenbottom  My-Linh Nguyen  Edmund Quaglieri |
|  |  |
| Staff Members Present:  Jim Smitherman  Chris Wessel  June Davis  John Rhodes, Legal Counsel |  |

### Public Comments.

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

1. **Approval of the agenda.**

Commissioner Price made a motion to approve the February 6, 2013, meeting agenda as posted. Commissioner Ball seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

1. **Approval of minutes from the December 5, 2012 meeting.**

Commissioner DeMartini made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Commissioner Flansberg seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Commissioner Drinkwater abstained.

1. **Report by the Regional Transportation Commission (“RTC”) on its South East Connector project, including issues related to Steamboat Creek and flood management; and, possible direction to staff, Garth Oksol, RTC.**

Chairman Hazelwood welcomed Garth Oksol, RTC Project Manager, who thanked members for the opportunity to provide an update on the Southeast Connector (SEC) project. He stated that he would provide an update on the overall project and Matt Setty, CH2M Hill, would provide an update on the environmental components. (Copy of this presentation is on file.)

Mr. Oksol referred to Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR), which is a new project delivery method used in the state of Nevada. He added that the SEC is the second CMAR project in Nevada. He explained that CMAR is a design-build project that reallocates risk, while reducing the number of change orders. He referred to a map of the project area.

Mr. Oksol reported that Kiewit Western was hired as the contractor for the Phase 1 work and has been working with RTC and TY Lin since last March. He stated that the groundbreaking was held in December and construction began in February.

Mr. Oksol showed the alignment of the roadway, as well as volumetric mitigation areas. He also showed artist renderings of the bridge and some revegetated areas.

Mr. Oksol reported that a request for proposals (RFP) is out for contractors to bid on the Phase 2 CMAR. He added that proposals are due March 1, 2013. The selected contractor will need to validate CH2M’s cost proposal.

Mr. Oksol reported that the entire SEC project includes 5.5 miles of six-lane roadway. He stated that the team is examining the use of bio-swales for stormwater treatment and any other opportunities for low impact development (LID). He stated that RTC’s desire is to develop the SEC as a model for the community to use. He added that a multi-use path will follow the entire 5.5 mile roadway, which will provide recreational benefits to the community. He stated that RTC is also working to include bus routes for commuters.

Mr. Oksol concluded the first part of the presentation and introduced Matt Setty, CH2M Hill Environmental Manager. Mr. Setty reported that the SEC bisects several flood pools, so CH2M Hill is modeling the scenarios. He stated that the Phase 1 Base Case model will be submitted to the Flood Management Authority (“FMA”) and Cities for concurrence on how to handle some of the volumetric offsets required to meet the ordinance.

Mr. Setty reported that CH2M Hill propagated standard Army Corps of Engineers (“Corps”) criteria for flood modeling, including the flow connections. He stated that there are a number of opportunities for benefits in the environmental processes. He added that one of the objectives in the project is to provide the Truckee River with predictable continuous balanced sediment transport. He stated that a design element is to not accumulate and then flush out the mercury sediment during storm events. He summarized that these components would be presented at the public stakeholder’s meeting in the next month.

Mr. Setty stated that in reference to public safety, one of the design components will be to use the creek as a buffer to keep wild horses off the roadway. He added that approximately 10 acres of wetlands would be mitigated, in coordination with the Corps. He stated that in order to meet the Corps’ 404 permit requirements, an environmental analysis and risk assessment are being conducted.

Commissioner Price asked if water quality monitoring is required. Mr. Setty stated that issue would be dictated by Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (“NDEP”)’s 104 Water Quality Certification permit. He added that a special use permit will also be required from the City of Reno.

Mr. Setty reported that there has been ongoing stakeholder and agency participation, which slowed but will now pick up. Included in the discussions will be the hydraulic and hydrology models, sediment transport model and an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-type ecological risk assessment.

Mr. Setty stated that CH2M Hill is nearing completion of a technical memorandum on the spatial distribution of mercury contamination within the system.

Commissioner Price stated that concerns have been voiced from the downstream users and asked for clarification as to what the concerns were. Mr. Setty stated that there was a request from the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT) to work with John Mosley to provide the appropriate environmental analysis of potential sediment inputs to the Truckee River and the timing, which could potentially affect the fisheries.

He added that he has participated in the monthly meetings with the PLPT.

Commissioner Price asked Mr. Setty to elaborate on the water chemistry model and how it is calibrated. Mr. Setty stated that the process being used does not include a lot of background data. He added that total organic carbon is a driver of the methylation process. He added that they will also be examining the dissolved oxygen concentrations. He summarized that the model is not meant to be a predictive tool but intended to feed the ecological risk assessment. Commissioner Price stated that Steamboat Creek is of extreme importance to the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF). Mr. Setty stated a lot of discussion is occurring between RTC and TMWRF.

Commissioner Flansberg asked what the schedule is in moving forward with Phase 2. He also asked for the website address. Mr. Setty reported that RTC’s SEC website is [www.southeastconnector.com](http://www.southeastconnector.com). He added that the schedule is as follows:

* Completed 404 Permit application submitted to the Corps, accompanied by the 50% design drawings and specifications – Beginning in June
* Amendment to deliver the 100% design specifications – End of December
* Issue for construction drawings on the street – April 2014

Commissioner Drinkwater referred to the comment about discussions with TMWRF staff and asked for an update on those discussions. Mr. Setty stated that he would submit the 401 application in July or in November. Commissioner Drinkwater requested a meeting with Mr. Setty to bring him up to speed on the discussions. (*Note: Mr. Drinkwater was recently hired as the TMWRF Plant Manager.*)

Commissioner Price made a motion that the NNWPC accept this report on the South East Connector project and provide direction to staff, as appropriate. Commissioner Flansberg seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

1. **Discussion of a scope of work and funding request, in an amount not to exceed $50,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund, for an Enhanced Nitrogen Removal Planning Study for the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility; and, possible recommendation to the Western Regional Water Commission ("WRWC") to approve this project and the funding request, Terri Svetich, P.E., City of Reno.**

Terri Svetich, Engineering Manager for the City of Reno, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file). She reported that she has provided presentations in the past focusing on the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and Water Quality Standards (WQS), including those that exist for the river currently.

She explained that the wasteload allocation (WLA) is what forms the basis for the permit discharge limitations for TMWRF. She stated that the treatment plant is very advanced and is located at the Truckee River and Steamboat Creek. She summarized that although the plant is very advanced, there are still issues to be addressed.

Ms. Svetich reviewed some of the projects or proposals to benefit TMWRF in its discharges to the river. She stated that University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Farms is one of the largest sites in Nevada to receive the application of effluent, which helps TMWRF tremendously in meeting its discharge limits.

Ms. Svetich stated that we now need to turn our attention to the inside of TMWRF. She reported that when the plant reaches ~30 million gallons per day (MGD) discharge to the river, we would be crossing the line of our WLA and begin to exceed the limit. She stated that approximately 21 MGD was discharged to the river in 2012.

Ms. Svetich reported that based on discussions with NDEP and the EPA, they are first looking at Lahontan’s WQS based on its connection with the Truckee River via the Truckee Canal. She added that based on that decision, it will be a while until NDEP and EPA are actually able to re-evaluate the TMDL and WLA for the Truckee River. She stated that in the meantime, staff is examining what could be done operationally to improve nitrogen removal at the plant.

Ms. Svetich stated that treating for nitrogen at TMWRF’s discharge level is not common. She mentioned possibilities such as coagulation or particle removal by adding chemicals or an advanced coagulant to the full flow that would be removed by the existing filters. She clarified that staff is examining processes that would complement TMWRF. She mentioned reverse osmosis and stated it is very expensive; however, it does have the ability to remove other constituents in addition to nitrogen. She stated that it would be worthwhile to examine what the actual cost would be. She added that another process would be an advanced oxidation method to improve the nitrogen removal.

Ms. Svetich summarized that the focus of this item would be to get a planning level cost, what it would take to implement, timeline, design, footprint, and other issues of the different processes for possible future implementation to remove nitrogen. She requested a recommendation to the WRWC for the approval of funds not to exceed $50,000. She added that included in the packet was a proposal from Carollo Engineers to perform the assessment for $44,320.

Commissioner Drinkwater referred to the life cycle costs and asked about staffing and needed qualifications, energy costs, ozone issues and equipment costs. He stated that Carollo’s estimated meeting costs were $5,000 to $7,000 each for three meetings. He added that TMWRF staff is familiar with Carollo staff and did not believe a face to face kickoff meeting would be necessary. He stated he would prefer to see that money applied to the analysis of processes.

Ms. Svetich stated that she believed the staffing, energy and equipment costs were included in the scope; however, she offered to clarify the issue. She added that if those considerations were not included, she would request that they be added. She agreed with Mr. Drinkwater on the number of meetings needed.

Commissioner Flansberg stated that he believes this analysis is very important and all alternatives need to be considered for the future of the plant.

Commissioner Buzzone made a motion to approve the funding recommendation with the recommended changes in the scope and asked if the results would be brought back to the NNWPC. Ms. Svetich stated that she plans to bring back the results. Commissioner Ball seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

1. **Report on the South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District (“STMGID”), issues arising from the pending consolidation of Washoe County's water utility with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority ("TMWA"), and possible consolidation of STMGID with TMWA, Jerry Schumacher, STMGID.**

Commissioner Schumacher, STMGID Board of Trustees, provided a report on the status of STMGID. He stated that what was previously considered the Local Managing Board (“LMB”) is now the Board of Trustees for STMGID, sworn in during the month of January. He reported that since the last NNWPC meeting, STMGID took action on a merger with Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”). He reported that STMGID would merge directly with TMWA, rather than first merging with Washoe County Department of Water Resources (“DWR”). He stated that STMGID is negotiating its own merger. He added that if for some reason the merger is not successful, STMGID has the option of becoming a stand-alone entity.

Commissioner Ball asked if the wastewater management of the Truckee Meadows would ultimately be one authority. He also asked if similarly we were looking at one water authority. He stated that his water and wastewater utility experience would suggest that ultimately the citizens in the entire Truckee Meadows would benefit from consolidated water and wastewater utilities.

John Rhodes, Legal Counsel, stated that the Nevada Revised Statutes clearly direct the WRWC and NNWPC to study consolidation of all of the public purveyors of water. He explained that Washoe County DWR and TMWA have been in discussions to consolidate; however, recently STMGID has come into the picture. He stated that regarding wastewater, planners have examined the consolidation issue although that concept is not required by statute.

Chairman Hazelwood thanked Commissioner Schumacher for his update.

1. **Report on the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (“TMRPA”) parcel-based population and employment modeling project; and possible direction to staff, Jim Smitherman, NNWPC Water Resources Program Manager.**

Mr. Smitherman reported that since his last update, the WRWC approved the NNWPC’s recommendation to approve a time extension of the project to June 30, 2014. He reported that TMRPA is currently working on its industrial land use analysis project, which is part of Phase 2 of this project. The Regional Planning Governing Board (“RPGB”) directed TMRPA that the scope of the analysis is to include Carson City, Douglas County and the portion of Storey County within the Tahoe-Reno industrial complex.

Mr. Smitherman stated that the TMRPA is planning to hold a 1 ½ day workshop on September 11 and 12, which is funded by a federal grant. He stated that the workshop would mark the transition from the industrial land use analysis to the active scenario planning. He stated that the scenario planning would last through the remainder of the project into June 2014.

Mr. Smitherman reported that he is working with TMRPA staff to spell out the remaining budget within the contract term. He offered to bring it back to the March NNWPC meeting.

Commissioner Price requested inclusion of some of the milestones and the projected end associated with this project. He added that with a $1.5 million project, it is nice to see when it is projected to end. He asked if any of the additional agencies mentioned would contribute to the cost of the modeling. Mr. Smitherman stated that his understanding was that they would not be contributing due to budget constraints. He clarified that our local government directed the inclusion although there is an appetite to participate. Mr. Price requested that this information be provided in the update, as well as the percentage of interest, to which, Mr. Smitherman agreed.

Mr. Smitherman stated that the next phase would include the RTC and the Washoe County District Health Air Quality Division.

Commissioner Ball made a motion to accept the report. Commissioner Buzzone seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

1. **Report on legislative activities, including Bill Draft Requests and Bills pending in the 2013 session of the Nevada Legislature, as of January 31, 2013, that may affect or are of interest to the WRWC / NNWPC, John Rhodes, NNWPC Legal Counsel.**

Mr. Rhodes reported that the legislature convened its 2013 Session on February 4, 2013. He referred to the staff report, which lists Bill Draft Requests ("BDRs") and Bills pending in the 2013 Nevada Legislature, as of January 31, 2013, that may affect or are of interest to the WRWC and NNWPC. He stated that no additional language is available for the BDRs at this time. Pending Bills are noted with an Assembly ("AB") or Senate ("SB") designation, and the complete language of each Bill is available by clicking on the corresponding link contained in the electronic version of this report. WRWC staff and the WRWC Legislative Subcommittee will track these BDRs and Bills, recommend positions to be taken, and provide periodic updates to the WRWC/NNWPC.

Mr. Rhodes stated that the Legislative Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on Fridays, commencing March 1, 2013. He offered to continue to provide updates to the NNWPC.

Commissioner Drinkwater asked if the BDR number would change to an AB or SB when language is provided to make it a bill, to which Mr. Rhodes stated, yes.

1. **Report on NNWPC / WRWC facility plan conformance review procedures, Jim Smitherman.**

Mr. Smitherman reported that Mr. Rhodes and he met with the Planning Directors of Reno, Sparks and Washoe County in December to discuss how to coordinate the local development approval process for facilities that might need a conformance review with the Regional Water Management Plan. He stated that Mr. Wessel and he agreed to examine the online development application postings. He added that he is also working on a list of criteria to identify facilities that meet the statutory requirement of a facility of such a kind or size that might affect the working of the Plan. He summarized that he would develop a checklist to make the process easier.

Mr. Smitherman stated that staff would ultimately develop a resolution for approval by the WRWC concerning conformance reviews and the associated procedures (NRS 531). He summarized that this item would be brought back to the NNWPC for further discussion and recommendations.

1. **Program Manager’s Report, Jim Smitherman.** 
   1. **Status Report of Projects and Work Plan Supported by the Regional Water Management Fund**
   2. **Financial Report on the Regional Water Management Fund**
   3. **Informational report from the NNWPC representative on the Truckee Meadows Water Authority Standing Advisory Committee (“TMWA SAC”)**

Mr. Smitherman reported that the items included under this item are provided as informational items. He invited any questions or comments, of which there were none.

1. **Discussion regarding possible agenda items for the March 6, 2013 NNWPC meeting, and other future meetings, and possible direction to staff, Jim Smitherman.**

Mr. Smitherman reported that there are upcoming agenda items, which include:

* Tentative budget for the WRWC for Fiscal Year 2013/2014
  + Discussion of Draft Work Plan and any contracts that need to be renewed
* Presentation of the final report on the Septic System study if available; if not it will be scheduled for April
* Revised scope of work for TMRPA
* Standing Items
  + Legislative Update
  + Program Manager’s Report
  + Status update on STMGID merger

Commissioner Price referred to the tentative budget and stated that he would like to see how quickly the RWMF money is being spent and the possibility of bonding needs for the future. Mr. Smitherman stated that Mr. Wessel would provide a spreadsheet for a 5-year timeframe budget. He added that we have not spent the available budget for years.

1. **Commission Comments.**

Commissioner Price welcomed Commissioner Drinkwater and congratulated him on his new position as TMWRF Plant Manager. Members and staff also congratulated Mr. Drinkwater.

1. **Staff Comments.**

None

1. **Public Comments.**

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

1. **Adjournment.**

#### With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Niki Linn, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2013.

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Mickey Hazelwood, Chairman