

DRAFT - MINUTES
NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

The regular meeting of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission ("NNWPC") was held in the Washoe County Commission Chambers, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada and conducted the following business:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Drinkwater at 1:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call and Determination of Presence of a Quorum

Voting Members Present: Michael Drinkwater, Darrin Price, George Ball, Michael DeMartini, John Erwin, John Flansberg, Mickey Hazelwood, Danielle Henderson, John Enloe, and David Solaro.

Voting Members Absent: Brian Wadsworth and John Martini.

Non-Voting Members Present: Chris Anderson, Kim Davis, My-Linh Nguyen, and Edmund Quaglieri.

Non-Voting Members Absent: Harry Fahnestock.

Staff Members Present: Jim Smitherman; Chris Wessel; June Davis; and John Rhodes, Legal Counsel.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of the Agenda (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BALL. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) MEMBERS PRESENT.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the January 7, 2015, Meeting (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER ERWIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 7, 2015, MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PRICE. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH SEVEN (7) IN FAVOR AND THREE (3) ABSTENTIONS BY COMMISSIONERS JOHN ENLOE, MICKEY HAZELWOOD, AND DANIELLE HENDERSON.

5. Report on government authority concerning domestic well water quality; discussion and possible direction to staff – Chris Anderson, P.E., Washoe County Health District. (For Possible Action)

Chris Anderson presented information regarding domestic wells and water quality. Washoe County Health District does not maintain water quality information on domestic wells and only provides permits for the construction of wells. Mr. Anderson stated that there are tools and resources available to homeowners that want to have water quality testing done on their domestic wells. The University of Nevada Cooperation Extension has various fact sheets and publications on domestic wells available, as well as a link to a Water Test Interpreter program. The Washoe County Community Services Department also has some documents available on their website. The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection ("NDEP") Bureau of Safe Drinking Water has links on how to test your water, and links to the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"). Mr. Anderson stated that the Health District is currently revamping its website and is considering including some of these links in the next couple of months.

Commissioner Erwin asked if there are any instances when the Health District will not allow a domestic well to be drilled. Mr. Anderson stated those instances mostly have to do with setbacks and location, not water quality.

Commissioner Erwin asked about the steps a landowner takes with the Health District to get permission to drill a domestic well. Mr. Anderson stated that a permit is issued after a homeowner pays the Health District fee and requirements regarding the plot plan are met. If they have a licensed well driller, the Health District will go out and inspect the initial location of the well, confirm setbacks, do a lot check, and then perform an inspection of the drilling.

Commissioner Erwin asked what is required once the well is drilled. Mr. Anderson stated that a well log and a letter from the well driller is required. Once those are received, the Health District will sign off on the permit.

Commissioner Erwin asked if the Health District inspects how a well is hooked up to a house. Mr. Anderson replied no.

Commissioner DeMartini asked if commercial testing is required on a well with multiple tenants on a residential property. Mr. Anderson stated that he has not come across that situation but will look into it.

6. Review of projects funded by the Regional Water Management Fund (“RWMF”) that may not spend their entire fiscal year 2014-2015 budget allocations; discussion and possible recommendations for reallocation of fiscal year 2014-2015 funds, and budget allocations for fiscal year 2015-2016 to ensure those projects are adequately funded; and, possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman, NNWPC Water Resources Program Manager. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman reviewed information included in the staff report regarding funded projects that may not spend their entire budget allocations for the current fiscal year. Mr. Smitherman recommended reallocating up to \$125,000 out of the Highland Canal Project. Mr. Smitherman stated that he has been advised by Reno staff that about \$40,000 is all that is expected to be used this year on the technical support for the TMDL and water quality standards work. That would free \$35,000 out of that budget allocation. With those two items together, there is potentially \$160,000 that could be reallocated before the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2015.

Mr. Smitherman also reviewed recommendations for possible budget reallocations that included: \$25,000 to fund efforts to develop an effluent management strategy; \$22,000 to fund pre-planning activities for the development of a Truckee River Corridor Management Plan; and \$71,000 for Washoe County overhead charges.

There was a clarifying discussion regarding future overhead expenses. Mr. Smitherman also clarified that there will still be an ending fund balance, even with the shortage in the overhead budget.

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT AND DIRECT STAFF TO INCLUDE \$125,000 IN THE DRAFT FY 2015-16 BUDGET FOR THE HIGHLAND CANAL PROJECT, AND SET ASIDE \$71,000 TO COVER WASHOE COUNTY OVERHEAD FOR FY 2014-15, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HAZELWOOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) MEMBERS PRESENT.

7. Presentation on the proposed development of a Truckee River Corridor Management Plan, and request for funding, in an amount not to exceed \$22,000 from the RWMF, to partially fund pre-project planning activities and provide match funding for a Truckee River Fund grant application; discussion and possible

**direction to staff – Christi Cakiroglu, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (“KTMB”).
(For Possible Action)**

Terri Svetich, Stantec Senior Engineer, reviewed information on the following topics: the Truckee River; public agencies overseeing various elements and activities on the Truckee River; Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”) concerns regarding the Truckee River; past and present flood projects; river restoration; and Truckee River TMDLs.

Christi Cakiroglu gave a presentation on the proposed development of a Truckee River Corridor Management Plan, and requested funding for pre-project planning activities. The presentation included information on the cost to the community from non-point source pollution, and the scope for the proposed Truckee River Corridor Management Plan.

Commissioner Enloe stated that the proposal being requested is only on projects and programs related to removing garbage, litter and waste from the River. The intent is to do pre-planning work to try to establish a long-term program that would maintain that effort.

Ms. Cakiroglu clarified that the proposal to the Truckee River Fund will be for addressing short-term and long-term needs for Phase 1, and that will lay the foundation for moving to Phase 2.

Commissioner Flansberg asked if the proposal would reestablish a program like the past Washoe County Sheriff crews that would do some of the cleanup along the River. Ms. Cakiroglu stated that funding for that program ended as of December 31, 2014. Prior to the recession, the City of Reno also had a Park River Ranger through the Parks Department and a River Ranger through the Reno Police Department. Since those positions were removed there has been an increase in degradation along the River. Because of cuts to the Parks Department, some of the trash cans in parks along the River have been removed because there is not sufficient staff to empty them. Ms. Cakiroglu stated that the focus of the River Plan will be looking at short and long-term needs, and a River Ranger would be on the table for discussion.

Commissioner Price asked what would happen if the NNWPC contributes to funding this effort and the grant is not awarded. Ms. Cakiroglu stated that a refund would be provided.

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO WORK WITH KTMB TO DEVELOP A FUNDING AGREEMENT/CONTRACT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$22,000 FROM THE RWMF FOR THAT PURPOSE, AND AUTHORIZE THE WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM MANAGER TO SIGN THE CONTRACT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ERWIN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) MEMBERS PRESENT.

8. Report on the development of an effluent management strategy, and request for funding, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from the RWMF, to contract for project manager services to lead and manage the ongoing strategy development; discussion and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman stated that the final technical memo on the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (“TMWRF”)/Huffaker Reservoir Effluent Interconnection Pipeline Evaluation project is included with the staff report. Also included with the staff report is a document outlining a proposal to develop a Regional Effluent Management Strategy.

Commissioner Enloe reviewed information on the draft effluent management planning framework and the request for funding. The purpose of this effort would be to provide TMWRF’s representatives with the information they need to make an informed decision when they consider supplying effluent to areas outside of the Truckee Meadows Service Area.

Commissioner Price asked about other funding sources. Commissioner Enloe stated that there is \$100,000 in cash and/or staff time from Reno, Sparks, Washoe County, and TMWA to facilitate this effort.

COMMISSIONER SOLARO MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 TO CONTRACT WITH A PROJECT MANAGER TO LEAD AND MANAGE THIS PROCESS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BALL. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) MEMBERS PRESENT.

9. Presentation of staff review comments on the “Water Purveyors” chapter for the 2016 Regional Water Management Plan (“RWMP”) update; discussion and possible direction to staff – Chris Wessel, Water Management Planner. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Wessel reviewed information included in the staff report regarding the sections within Chapter 3 identified for updating.

Commissioner Price asked why the consolidation analysis section is included. Mr. Wessel stated that section will either be removed or will be included as a summary of consolidation events, mostly to preserve how we got to where we are.

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLARO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) MEMBERS PRESENT.

10. Presentation of comments received on the “Conservation” chapter for the 2016 RWMP update; discussion and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Wessel reviewed information included in the staff report regarding updates for this chapter that will be provided by the Nevada Water Planning Division, the Nevada Public Utilities Commission, the Sun Valley General Improvement District, and TMWA. Commissioners can contact Western Regional Water Commission (“WRWC”) staff with any further comments or revisions to Chapter 7 or Chapter 3.

Commissioner Erwin stated that the TMWA Board of Directors will be seeking input from Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County planning departments as they develop the conservation measures.

COMMISSIONER ERWIN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE STAFF REPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ENLOE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) MEMBERS PRESENT.

11. Presentation of comments received and proposed revisions to the “Planning Policies and Criteria” chapter for the 2016 RWMP update; discussion and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman summarized staff recommendations for revisions to Goals 1 through 4 in this chapter, based on comments received to date. More comments and revisions will be brought forward in future NNWPC meetings.

COMMISSIONER FLANSBERG MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE STAFF REPORT, SECONDED BY CHAIRMAN DRINKWATER. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) MEMBERS PRESENT.

12. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding any chapters of the RWMP previously reviewed by the NNWPC in relation to the 2016 RWMP update. (For Possible Action)

There were no comments on this item.

13. Report on legislative activities, including Bill Draft Requests (“BDR”) and Bills pending in the 2014 session of the Nevada Legislature that may affect or are of interest to the Western Regional Water Commission / NNWPC – John Rhodes, NNWPC Legal Counsel.

John Rhodes, NNWPC Legal Counsel, reviewed information included in the staff report regarding BDRs and Bills that may be of interest to the WRWC and the NNWPC. The WRWC staff and the WRWC Legislative Subcommittee will track Bills, recommend positions to be taken, and provide periodic updates to the WRWC and the NNWPC.

Commissioner Price asked what can be done to help get the Cloud Seeding Bill passed. Mr. Smitherman stated that the Bill is coming out of the Assembly Natural Resource Committee and that testimony at those Committee meetings may help. Mr. Rhodes stated that WRWC staff does have direction from the WRWC to support the Cloud Seeding BDR, and will do so.

14. Program Manager’s Report – Jim Smitherman.

- a. Report on the status of projects and work plan supported by the Regional Water Management Fund (“RWMF”);
- b. Financial report on the RWMF;
- c. Report on the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (“TMRPA”)’s parcel-based population and employment modeling project;

Mr. Smitherman stated that all projects are up-to-date, the RWMF is under-budget, and there is nothing new to report on the TMRPA project.

15. Discussion regarding possible agenda items for the March 4, 2015, NNWPC meeting, and other future meetings; and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman stated future agenda items will include: review of several chapters of the RWMP, project priorities and expenditures, legislative activities report, and standing items.

Commissioner Erwin asked about the schedule for the election of a NNWPC Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and suggested addressing that item at the end of the March meeting.

Chairman Drinkwater referenced the Highland Canal Project and stated that if this body intends to fund construction projects, he would like to see some way to "risk rank" the projects. Mr. Smitherman stated that topic may be appropriate to include in the agenda item for project priorities for next year.

16. Commission Comments

None

17. Staff Comments

Commissioner Enloe was welcomed as a new member of the NNWPC.

18. Public Comment

None

19. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Birmingham.

Approved by:

Michael Drinkwater, Chairman

APPROVED BY COMMISSION IN SESSION ON _____, 2015.