

MINUTES
NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 3, 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 Enloe at 1:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call and Determination of Presence of a Quorum

Voting Members Present: John Enloe, John Martini, George Ball, Michael Drinkwater, John Erwin (arrived at 1:42 p.m.), John Flansberg (arrived at 1:32 p.m.), Mickey Hazelwood, Danielle Henderson, Darrin Price, David Solaro, and Brian Wadsworth.

Voting Members Absent: Michael DeMartini.

Non-Voting Members Present: None.

Non-Voting Members Absent: Chris Anderson, Harry Fahnstock, Kim Davis, My-Linh Nguyen, and Cindy Turiczek.

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 DRINKWATER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLARO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NINE (9) MEMBERS PRESENT.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the May 6, 2015, Meeting (For Possible Action)

(Commissioner Flansberg arrived at 1:32 p.m.)

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 6, 2015, MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BALL. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) MEMBERS PRESENT.

5. Presentation by the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe ("PLPT") on its triennial review of water quality standards and rationale for proposed changes to certain standards – Brian Wadsworth, PLPT Water Quality Manager.

Commissioner Wadsworth stated that the public comment period for the PLPT Water Quality Control Plan is from May 26, 2015, until August 21, 2015. A public hearing will be held on August 6, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at the Tribal Chambers in Nixon, NV. Commissioner Wadsworth's presentation included the following topics: introduction of the PLPT; history of the PLPT Water Quality Standards; current PLPT Water Quality Program and Water Quality Standards; triennial review process; proposed changes to the PLPT Water Quality Control Plan; and a timeline of events.

(Commissioner Erwin arrived at 1:42 p.m.)

Chairman Enloe asked how well the river and the lake comply with the standards today. Commissioner Wadsworth stated there is an issue with dissolved reactive phosphorus as well as Total Dissolved Solids (“TDS”). The Water Quality Standards are goals for the system and do not have to be met at the time they are adopted.

Commissioner Flansberg asked if total phosphorus readings have been taken and how they compare to the standard. Commissioner Wadsworth stated that they do take total phosphorus readings on the river and Pyramid Lake. The lake is functioning fairly well. Since there is no standard on the Truckee River within the reservation they cannot tell how it compares unless using the State standard of 0.05 (milligrams per liter total phosphorus).

Commissioner Erwin requested clarification on the proposed numeric standards of water quality, in particular a depth notation concerning total nitrogen. He asked whether depth is measured in feet or meters. Commissioner Wadsworth explained that when the standards were originally adopted the units were micrograms per liter and since many other standards are in milligrams per liter the micrograms were converted to milligrams. That standard applies from 0 to 20 meters depth of the lake and the depth average of 0.115 is for the full water column, which is 100 meters. Commissioner Erwin suggested using Commissioner Wadsworth’s description as a notation on the depth average.

No action was taken.

6. Presentation on data collection and possible recommendations for the “Finance & Costs” chapter of the 2016 Regional Water Management Plan (“RWMP”) update; discussion and possible direction to staff – Catherine Hansford, Hansford Economic Development. (For Possible Action)

Catherine Hansford, Hansford Economic Development, presented an update on the “Finance & Costs” chapter of the 2016 RWMP. The Truckee River Flood Project was included in the 2011 version and Ms. Hansford is recommending that it be pulled out and discussed separately in its own chapter. Ms. Hansford put together a master CIP list of all the water related capital improvements for the next five years. Ms. Hansford reviewed a handout titled “Comparison of 2011 and 2016 Five Year CIP Funding Sources”.

Commissioner Price asked if the grants column is anticipated revenue. Ms. Hansford stated it is secured grants.

Ms. Hansford reviewed the next steps in the Scope of Work and suggested an additional item that is not in the scope of work but that she feels can be accomplished within the current approved budget. That suggestion is to complete a fee burden analysis looking at not only the water related fees associated with development but it would add up all the development costs and fees to determine total cost of development for different types of housing or non-residential in different parts of the County. This could be a helpful analysis and tool to understand developer incentives to develop in certain areas and to coordinate with the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (“TMRPA”) for potential to create incentives for development in particular areas such as the Transit Oriented Corridors. Ms. Hansford will prepare a proposal for a fee burden analysis for consideration at a future time.

No action was taken.

7. Presentation of comments received on the “Population Forecast and Projections of Water Demand, Peak Day Requirements and Wastewater Flow” chapter for the 2016 RWMP update; discussion and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman, NNWPC Water Resources Program Manager. (For Possible Action)

Jim Smitherman stated that there are no significant updates or revisions to report on this chapter. No action was taken.

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

Chris Wessel stated that staff is not anticipating a lot of changes to the “Sources of Water” section of this chapter. There will be some significant changes to the “Factors Affecting Water Resource Sustainability” section. Most of those changes will come from TMWA’s Water Resource Plan.

Commissioner Drinkwater asked if there is an official definition or criteria for a water emergency. Commissioner Erwin confirmed that there is criteria and a plan embedded in the RWMP. Clarity can be added to that information if needed.

No action was taken.

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

No action was taken.

10. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Western Regional Water Commission (“WRWC”) to revise the schedule to review and adopt the 2016 RWMP update, and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman stated that the public purveyor’s consolidation affects the timing of the development of TMWA’s Water Resources Plan. The snow pack next winter is going to potentially affect TMWA’s water resources planning. Due to these two factors, Mr. Smitherman requested a revised schedule to review and adopt the 2016 RWMP.

In addition to those factors, effluent management planning is becoming increasingly complex. More time to complete some of the detailed analyses of the management alternatives for effluent would make for a better regional water management plan too.

Mr. Smitherman recommended a revised schedule consisting of two timetables. In the first timetable staff can complete the review of the existing 2011 RWMP by the end of the year and compile a review report that the NNWPC can review and recommend to the WRWC detailing the review and what is expected as far as revisions for an update. The second timetable takes nine months to get through actually compiling all of the pieces that will be missing at the end of the year into the plan update and then go into the plan adoption process.

John Rhodes, Legal Counsel, confirmed that language in the statute says that the review has to be completed five years after the initial plan is updated or adopted. The review will be completed in conformance with the law and amendments will then be prepared as quickly as possible and brought for adoption.

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NEW SCHEDULE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLANSBERG. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ELEVEN (11) MEMBERS PRESENT.

11. Discussion and possible approval of funding in an amount not to exceed \$20,356 from the Regional Water Management Fund (“RWMF”) for approximately half the

cost of technical assistance from the Desert Research Institute (“DRI”) for effluent management planning; and if approved, authorize the Water Resources Program Manager to execute a contract with DRI for that purpose – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman stated that members of the working group were referred to an individual at the DRI who is skilled at linear optimization programming. The working group is proposing that the NNWPC recommend sharing the cost with the other entities in the working group. \$20,000 would come from the RWMF and the remaining \$20,000 would be split by TMWA, Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County by way of a joinder agreement.

Mr. Smitherman explained the complexities of the problems being faced in managing the effluent from the different sources considering the different constraints and variables. DRI has agreed to compile the model in an Excel spreadsheet so that staff could continue to input variables and data and continue to make model runs.

Chairman Enloe further explained that the linear programming that DRI can provide is a matrix algebra method and is a way to solve multiple equations simultaneously. DRI was requested to make a presentation at a future NNWPC meeting.

COMMISSIONER FLANSBERG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ERWIN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ELEVEN (11) MEMBERS PRESENT.

12. Review and possible approval of the WRWC Routine Operating Budget for non-staff services for Fiscal Year 2015-2016, and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER ERWIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE STAFF’S RECOMMENDATION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINI. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ELEVEN (11) MEMBERS PRESENT.

13. Report on legislative activities, including Bills pending in the 2015 session of the Nevada Legislature that may affect or are of interest to the WRWC/NNWPC – John Rhodes, WRWC/NNWPC Legal Counsel.

Mr. Rhodes reported that SB 423 (Cloud Seeding) and AB 353 (Competitive Bidding on professional service contracts) both died in committee. SB 70 (Open Meeting) did pass and became effective as of May 27, 2015. SB 70 requires written documentation by the person who posts notice of meetings and it requires that meeting minutes be approved within 45 days of the meeting or at the next meeting of the public body, whichever is later.

Public Comment – Cathy Brandhorst spoke.

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”);

Report included in the meeting packet.

- b. Financial report on the RWMF;

Mr. Smitherman is expecting to finish the fiscal year in good shape with cash in reserve to cover any under-collection in the revenue from the fees and earned interest.

- c. Report on the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency’s parcel-based population and employment modeling project;

The TMRPA staff is meeting today with their consultant on the Residential Housing Growth Study and Mr. Smitherman will report back at the next NNWPC meeting.

15. Discussion regarding possible agenda items for the July 1, 2015, NNWPC meeting, and other future meetings; and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman stated there is nothing time sensitive to address at a July meeting.

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO CANCEL THE JULY NNWPC MEETING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ERWIN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ELEVEN (11) MEMBERS PRESENT.

Chairman Enloe requested a status or summary report from the Remediation District on their CIP activities and where they are going with the program.

Commissioner Price requested a report on the efforts being made by DRI to pursue funding from other agencies that are benefiting from the cloud seeding efforts.

16. Commission Comments

Commissioner Ball stated that he is stepping down as the NNWPC representative on the Truckee Meadows Water Authority Standing Advisory Committee.

Mr. Rhodes stated that selection of another representative would require action by TMWA. There has been talk about TMWA eliminating that position because there are 2 TMWA representatives on the NNWPC already.

17. Staff Comments

Mr. Smitherman reported that staff will be holding a brief workshop on the RWMP review and update process on Tuesday, June 9, 2015, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at TMWA.

18. Public Comment

Cathy Brandhorst spoke on several topics.

19. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Birmingham.

Approved by:

John Enloe, Chairman

APPROVED BY COMMISSION IN SESSION ON _____, 2015.