

DRAFT - MINUTES
NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

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 Chair Flansberg at 1:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call and Determination of Presence of a Quorum

Voting Members Present: John Flansberg, Danielle Henderson, Michael DeMartini, Michael Drinkwater, John Enloe, Bill Hauck, Mickey Hazelwood, John Martini, Darrin Price, David Solaro, Mervin Wright, John Zimmerman

Voting Members Absent: None

Non-Voting Members Present: None

Non-Voting Members Absent: Harry Fahnestock, My-Linh Nguyen, Thomas Pyeatte, Cindy Turiczek

Staff Members Present: Jim Smitherman; Chris Wessel; Donna Fagan; and John Rhodes, Legal Counsel

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Agenda (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER ENLOE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINI. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TWELVE (12) MEMBERS PRESENT.

4. Selection of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the term of April 2017 to April 2018, and possible direction to staff. (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER ENLOE MADE A MOTION TO SELECT COMMISSIONER HENDERSON AS CHAIR AND COMMISSIONER DeMARTINI AS VICE-CHAIR OF THE NNWPC, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINI. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TWELVE (12) MEMBERS PRESENT.

5. Approval of Minutes from the March 1, 2017, Meeting (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 1, 2017, MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TWELVE (12) MEMBERS PRESENT.

6. Presentation of a proposal for the development of a regional storm water drainage network Geographic Information System ("GIS") map, including procedure, required entities / parties, and scope and funding, and possible recommendation to the Western Regional Water Commission ("WRWC") – Jim Smitherman, Water Resources Program Manager and Jeremy Smith, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency. (For Possible Action)

Jim Smitherman presented an overview of the staff report and stated the WRWC requested this item at their March 15, 2017, meeting. The WRWC asked that staff work together with the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (“TMRPA”) on this proposal.

Jeremy Smith, Ph.D., TMRPA GIS Coordinator, presented information on a draft scope of work to develop this GIS map as requested by the WRWC.

Commissioner Martini expressed concern that this proposal may be an overreaction to the current runoff situation. The City of Sparks already has a system with drainage network information and he is not in favor of the proposed project.

Commissioner Price discussed the fact that the TMRPA does not maintain storm water data and asked for information regarding the goal of this project.

Dr. Smith explained that at this time there does not appear to be a regionally compiled and connected network of storm water conveyance. The main goal of this project would be to determine what information is available and bring it together.

Commissioner Price expressed concern regarding approving this project without approval from the Regional Planning Governing Board (“RPGB”) for the work to be done.

Mr. Smitherman confirmed for Commissioner Price that the results of the project would be included in the next update of the Regional Water Plan.

Chris Wessel, NNWPC Water Resources Planner, discussed the value this project could have for the Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee (“SWPCC”).

Commissioner DeMartini discussed the flooding issue in Lemmon Valley and expressed concern regarding the disjointed responsibilities between the different jurisdictions involved. He also stated that there is a lot of information available that needs to be compiled and connected.

Commissioner Flansberg discussed the coordination efforts that are being made between the City of Reno and Washoe County with regard to the flooding in Lemmon Valley. He also stated that it might be helpful to do something on a regional basis to understand where there are gaps of information in the drainage network. There may be some benefit to approving Phase I of the proposed project to gather data and see where we stand.

Commissioner DeMartini stated that the GIS portion of the proposal without the more detailed studies would provide the tie in they are looking for and that the TMRPA would be a logical party to put together the GIS map.

Commissioner Wright discussed support for Phase I noting that results from that may drive thoughts regarding where to go from there.

Commissioner Drinkwater stated he has not heard a clear and convincing answer to the question of what problem this project would solve. He is not willing to approve the scope of work until after the RPGB approves supports for the project, and he would like to hear to what extent this work may already be underway in other jurisdictions. Commissioner Drinkwater suggested bringing this proposal back to next month’s NNWPC meeting with more information.

Commissioner Solaro discussed the possibility that this proposal may be a knee-jerk reaction to a something that may not be a problem or a problem that has not been identified. He also stated that a GIS map would not necessarily help the coordinated efforts that are currently being made with regard to flooding issues.

Commissioner Price asked what portion of the funding would be required for just Phase I.

Dr. Smith explained that there would be about \$6,250 for in-kind support from Mr. Smitherman and \$10,000 as reimbursement for TMRPA labor and \$10,000 for any required hardware and software.

Commissioner Price would like to know the details regarding support software that would be needed.

Commissioner Flansberg asked about the potential effects of delaying a decision for one month.

Mr. Rhodes explained that the WRWC is not bound to follow the recommendations of the NNWPC and suggested that the motion include an explanation as to why a one month delay is being requested. Mr. Rhodes summarized discussion stating that further information the NNWPC wants includes more concrete estimates of cost; an indication from the RPGB whether they are willing to support such a project; and, whether their staff has time to conduct it. Historically, the WRWC has gone along with requests for 30-day delays but legally they are free to do whatever they want.

COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE WRWC THAT THIS PROJECT NOT BE CONSIDERED. THE MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND THAT THE WRWC DELAY ACTION ON THIS REQUEST UNTIL THE MAY 3, 2017, NNWPC MEETING WHEN FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND COSTS FOR PHASE I WILL BE AVAILABLE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DRINKWATER. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TWELVE (12) MEMBERS PRESENT.

7. Report on legislative activities, including Bill Draft Requests and Bills pending in the 2017 session of the Nevada Legislature that may affect or are of interest to the WRWC / NNWPC, and possible direction to staff – John Rhodes, WRWC / NNWPC Legal Counsel. (For Possible Action)

John Rhodes, Legal Counsel, presented the staff report on this item.

COMMISSIONER ENLOE MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND THAT THE WRWC PREPARE A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR DRI'S CLOUD SEEDING EFFORTS IN THE GOVERNORS BUDGET, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PRICE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TWELVE (12) MEMBERS PRESENT.

8. 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 March 30, 2017, public workshop concerning the 2016 Regional Water Management Plan

Mr. Smitherman presented an overview of the staff reports for these items. He will be taking comments received at the workshop to the WRWC to recommend they be included in an appendix showing comments from other entities.

9. Discussion regarding location and possible agenda items for the May 3, 2017, NNWPC meeting, and other future meetings, and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman stated that the May 3, 2017, NNWPC meeting will be held in the Washoe County Commission Chambers.

Possible future agenda items will include:

- Revisiting Item 6 with more information as requested;
- Contracts for ongoing projects that will need to be renewed;
- Report on any pending legislative items; and any other standing items

No action was taken.

10. Commission Comments

Commissioner Solaro stated that the City of Reno and Washoe County are working together on the flooding in the north valleys.

Commissioner DeMartini asked who is representing domestic well owners in the efforts between the City of Reno and Washoe County with regard to the flooding issue.

Commissioner Solaro stated that Washoe County is representing residents of Washoe County and is working individually with impacted residents regardless of whether or not they have domestic wells.

11. Staff Comments

Mr. Smitherman welcomed Commissioner Wright to the NNWPC representing the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

12. Public Comment

Cathy Brandhorst spoke on various topics.

13. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER HAUCK MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 2:44 P.M., SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DRINKWATER. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TWELVE (12) MEMBERS PRESENT.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Birmingham.

Approved by:

Danielle Henderson, Chairman

APPROVED BY COMMISSION IN SESSION ON May 3, 2017.