

MINUTES
NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

The Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission ("NNWPC") held a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, at the Washoe County Commissioner Chambers, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, and conducted the following business.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wright at 1:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call and Determination of Presence of a Quorum

Voting Members Present: Jon Combs; Michael DeMartini; Michael Drinkwater; John Enloe; Bill Hauck; Mickey Hazelwood (*present at 1:32 p.m.*); Danielle Henderson; John Martini; David Solaro; Mervin Wright; John Zimmerman

Voting Members Absent: John Flansberg

Non-Voting Members Present: Thomas Pyeatte; Ron Penrose

Non-Voting Members Absent: Harry Fahnestock; Cindy Turiczek; My-Linh Nguyen

Staff Members Present: Jim Smitherman; Chris Wessel; John Rhodes, Legal Counsel; and Jennifer Purgitt

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Agenda (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ENLOE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

4. Approval of Minutes from the August 7, 2019 Meeting (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HAUCK. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

(Commissioner Hazelwood present at 1:32 p.m.)

5. Report on the Draft 2019 update of the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan and the process for its approval; and possible direction to staff – Jeremy Smith, Interim Executive Director, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency. (For Possible Action)

Jeremy Smith, Interim Executive Director, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency ("TMRPA"), gave a presentation on the Draft 2019 update of the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan ("Regional Plan") and the process for its approval.

Commissioner DeMartini discussed the need for the natural resources part of the plan to be a high priority.

Director Smith explained that the Natural Resources Plan and the Public Infrastructure Investment Plan will be occurring concurrently.

Commissioner Solaro expressed appreciation for the work that has gone into this plan.

Jim Smitherman, WRWC Water Resources Program Manager, stated he will be working with Director Smith on developing the Public Infrastructure Investment Plan.

COMMISSIONER HAUCK MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLARO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ELEVEN (11) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

6. Report by the Desert Research Institute (“DRI”) on last winter’s cloud seeding operations for the Truckee River and Lake Tahoe Basins, and possible direction to staff – Chris Wessel, WRWC Water Management Planner and Frank McDonough, DRI. (For Possible Action)

Chris Wessel, WRWC Water Management Planner, provided a staff report. Since 2009, DRI has conducted its cloud seeding program for the Truckee River and Lake Tahoe Basins using funds provided by either the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”) or the Truckee River Fund (“TRF”), and the WRWC. At this time, the WRWC, TMWA and the TRF do not anticipate providing funding for the Program in the 2019-2020 water year.

(Mr. Rhodes absent from 2:10 to 2:17 p.m.)

Frank McDonough, DRI, presented information regarding last winter’s cloud seeding operations for water year 2018-2019 and an overview of plans for this winter. By the end of last winter the Tahoe basin had about 185% of normal snow pack. The Tahoe-Truckee Project had 18 cloud seeding events prior to February 15, 2019 and 530 total generator hours. That created an additional 10,065 acre feet of SWE in the snowpack. Mr. McDonough answered questions regarding climate models and cost benefit.

COMMISSIONER SOLARO MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HAUCK. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ELEVEN (11) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

7. Report on the American Flat Hydrogeologic Investigation by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”), and possible direction to staff – Greg Pohll, Principal Hydrogeologist/Modeler, TMWA. (For Possible Action)

Greg Pohll, Principal Hydrogeologist/Modeler, TMWA, gave a presentation on the American Flat Hydrogeologic Investigation. The hydrogeologic investigation was conducted at the American Flat Road site in the West Lemmon Valley hydrographic basin. The study included a seismic survey, construction of one injection well and two monitoring wells, an aquifer test on the injection well, an extended duration (4 month) recharge test, water quality sampling of injectate water and local groundwater, and a water compatibility evaluation for the background and injectate water. The American Flat Road Hydrogeologic Investigation Report is attached.

Commissioner DeMartini expressed concern regarding arsenic levels in the aquifer and the need for more studies on how pumping into the aquifers might move around the concentrations of arsenic that are at the deeper levels.

Mr. Pohll confirmed that the arsenic concentrations in the local groundwater are higher than the Truckee River but injection of this fluid in this case caused the arsenic concentrations to go down. With regard to whether or not the study addresses a more regional issue, this particular effort was focused on the American Flat site but TMWA is also doing other studies including a regional groundwater modeling study. This modeling tool was used to help us understand how injection at this site would impact the regional system. We’ve done a lot of work to incorporate a

significant amount of regional data to develop this groundwater model and we are using this model to help better understand the system.

Commissioner Enloe stated that TMWA is not doing any flood studies related to this work but is looking strictly at groundwater conditions.

Commissioner DeMartini expressed concern that some of the more extensive studies referred to should be under the umbrella of the county rather than TMWA.

Commissioner Enloe confirmed that TMWA is not doing a flood study.

Mr. Pohll explained that DRI is being funded by the Corp of Engineers to look at the impact of surface water runoff on flooding. That is a separate project and TMWA is on the technical advisory committee, not conducting the study.

Commissioner DeMartini stated that he thinks there is a regional study that should be done that this study should be part of that nobody seems to be doing.

COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COMBS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ELEVEN (11) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

8. Report on TMWA's Bedell Flat Hydrogeologic Investigation and possible direction to staff – Christian Kropf, Senior Hydrogeologist, TMWA. (For Possible Action)

Christian Kropf, Senior Hydrogeologist, TMWA, gave a presentation on the Bedell Flat Hydrogeologic Investigation. TMWA is investigating the feasibility of aquifer recharge with water that meets the State of Nevada quality standards for category A+ reclaimed water within the Truckee Meadows and valleys north of Reno. The feasibility study at the Bedell Flat hydrographic basin north of Lemmon Valley is being conducted in phases. The initial phase was limited to understanding the potential infiltration capacity of near-surface soils in the southwest part of the basin. Additional phases will investigate the infiltration capacity of adjacent areas and will assess the geology, hydrogeology, aquifer properties, potential storage volume, long-term infiltration, and recoverability of recharged water in the study area. This initial phase of work was partially funded by the Western Regional Water Commission ("WRWC"). Work completed in 2018 and 2019 indicates that near-surface soils in the southwestern part of the Bedell Flat basin are favorable for infiltration. Additional geologic and hydrogeologic investigations are underway to assess the infiltration capacity of deeper unsaturated zone soils, the occurrence, quality, and flow of groundwater, and the climatic variability in these areas. These assessments will be conducted jointly with the U. S. Geological Survey ("USGS") through the installation of monitoring wells, soil sample collection and analyses, and weather station monitoring. In addition to the USGS, current work is also supported by funding made available by the WRWC.

Mr. Smitherman clarified that the state of Nevada is making the funds available to pass through and fund this. It is not technically the Regional Water Management Fund ("RWMF") in the end, the state will reimburse us for the money that we pass through.

COMMISSIONER HAUCK MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLARO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ELEVEN (11) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

9. Report on activities of the OneWater Nevada project, including location of, and access to project information and reports; and possible direction to staff – Rick Warner, Warner and Associates; John Enloe, TMWA; and Jim Smitherman, Water

Resources Program Manager, Western Regional Water Commission. (For Possible Action)

(Commissioner Solaro absent at 3:23 p.m.)

A presentation was given on activities of the OneWater Nevada feasibility study, including location of, and access to project information and reports. A OneWater Nevada website is presently under development, which once finished will provide access to pertinent information and serve as the report repository.

COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINI. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

10. Program Manager's Report – Jim Smitherman.

- a. Report on the status of projects and Work Plan supported by the RWMF;
- b. Financial Report on the RWMF.

Mr. Smitherman presented a brief overview of the staff reports included for this agenda item.

Commissioner Drinkwater asked about the status of the Steamboat Ditch Study.

Mr. Smitherman reported that he does not have a final scope of work for that project yet. Mr. Smitherman will look into the status of that scope of work and report back at the next meeting.

11. Discussion regarding location and possible agenda items for the November 2019 NNWPC meeting, and other future meetings, and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

The next meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2019. Mr. Smitherman noted that he will be on vacation at that time. The November meeting agenda will include the annual priorities workshop. The five year review of the Regional Water Management Plan will be on the agenda for the December meeting.

No action was taken.

12. Commission Comments

None

13. Staff Comments

None

14. Public Comment

None

15. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Birmingham.

Approved by:



Mervin Wright, NNWPC Chair

APPROVED BY COMMISSION IN SESSION ON 11/26, 2019.