

**WESTERN REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

The Western Regional Water Commission (“WRWC”) Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 15, 2020, at the Sparks Council Chambers, Legislative Building, 745 Fourth Street, Sparks, Nevada, and conducted the following business.

1. Roll Call and Determination of Presence of a Quorum

Chair Hartung called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. There was a quorum present.

Commissioners Present:

Donald Abbott
Sandra Ainsworth
Paul Anderson
Jenny Brekhus
Kristopher Dahir
Naomi Duerr (by phone)
Vaughn Hartung
Jeanne Herman
Bob Lucey

Appointed by:

Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (“TMWRF”)
Sun Valley General Improvement District (“SVGID”)
Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”) (Sparks)
TMWA (Reno)
City of Sparks
City of Reno
Washoe County
TMWA (Washoe County)
TMWA (STMGID Successor)

Commissioners Absent:

None

Appointed by:

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jim Smitherman.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Agenda (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER LUCEY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAHIR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NINE (9) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

5. Election of WRWC Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer for the 2020 calendar year - Jim Smitherman, WRWC Water Resources Program Manager. (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MADE A MOTION TO RE-ELECT THE BOARD POSITIONS AS THEY STAND NOW, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAHIR.

Commissioner Brekhus asked about the WRWC rules on rotation of the chair and vice chair positions.

Jim Smitherman, WRWC Water Resources Program Manager, stated the rules are silent on any rotation. They do say that anyone on the board can serve as chair, vice chair, secretary or treasurer and that the secretary and treasurer positions do not necessarily have to be filled by WRWC members.

Commissioner Brekhus stated she will not support the motion because we have had the same chair for five years and boards that are a reflection of regional cooperation do best when they are governed by bylaws that call for a rotation.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH EIGHT (8) COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) OPPOSITION BY COMMISSIONER BREKHUS.

6. Approval of the Minutes for the October 16, 2019, Meeting. (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER DAHIR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HERMAN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NINE (9) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

7. Review, discussion and possible approval of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission's ("NNWPC") recommendations concerning the appointment of two voting members to the NNWPC from the following list of candidates: i) with respect to the public at large member to represent environmental, biological, conservation or public concerns, Mickey Hazelwood, Arthur O'Connor, Jeanne Ruefer and Matt Sundquist; and ii) with respect to the member to represent the owners of domestic wells, Michael DeMartini, Jeanne Ruefer, and Michael Widmer; and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman and Chris Wessel, WRWC Water Management Planner. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman reported that advertisements for both positions were published in the Reno Gazette Journal on November 6, 10, 13 and 17, 2019, and sent by email to various interest groups in Washoe County. The NNWPC, at its December 4, 2019 meeting, considered the applications and voted unanimously to recommend appointment of Mickey Hazelwood as the public at large member, and Michael Widmer as the member to represent domestic well owners.

Public Comment:

Kathy Stewart spoke in favor of the applicant Michael DeMartini.

Comments from Janice Boykin and William Hedley Jr. were entered into the record.

There were no further requests to speak under public comment.

Commissioner Dahir asked how many well owners are represented by the NNWPC member that will be appointed.

Chris Wessel, WRWC Water Management Planner, stated there are about 8,000 domestic well owners in Washoe County.

Commissioner Brekhus asked about term limit provisions in the bylaws.

Mr. Smitherman stated the bylaws are silent on term limitations.

Commissioner Herman spoke in favor of reappointing Michael DeMartini.

Commissioner Duerr expressed a preference to reappoint both of the NNWPC members.

Commissioner Anderson expressed concern that it could be undermining the NNWPC to not appoint those they recommended after we asked them to recommend two people.

Commissioner Lucey expressed support for Commissioner Anderson's comments also noting that the WRWC did not participate in the interview process.

Commissioner Ainsworth expressed support for the recommendations of the NNWPC.

Chair Hartung expressed support for the NNWPC recommendations.

COMMISSIONER DAHIR MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT TO THE NNWPC: MICKEY HAZELWOOD AS THE PUBLIC AT LARGE MEMBER, AND MICHAEL WIDMER AS THE MEMBER TO REPRESENT DOMESTIC WELL OWNERS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ANDERSON.

Commissioner Duerr stated recommendations from the NNWPC are advisory and the WRWC can apply its own judgement and is not bound by the recommendation. She would prefer to see both previous NNWPC members reappointed.

Commissioner Dahir agreed the WRWC is not bound to a decision because of a recommendation. He sees the WRWC's options as either approving the recommendations or interviewing all of the applicants before making the appointments.

Council Member Brekhus asked if Mr. Widmer is a contractor or vendor to any of the jurisdictions at this point.

Mr. Smitherman stated he was a consulting hydrogeologist for a time but believes he is retired.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH EIGHT (8) COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) OPPOSITION BY COMMISSIONER HERMAN.

8. Report on staff review of the 2016 Regional Water Management Plan ("RWMP"), the five-year update process and anticipated timeframe; and possible direction to staff – Chris Wessel and Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Wessel presented the staff report which includes a table containing a high-level outline of tasks anticipated by staff to accomplish the 2021 update to the Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan ("RWMP"). Staff anticipates that a complete draft of the RWMP 2021 update can be developed by the January 1, 2021, statutory deadline for completion of the review. A rewrite of the RWMP by the NNWPC and adoption by the WRWC was completed in January 2011, followed by a subsequent update in 2016.

Mr. Wessel and Mr. Smitherman answered questions regarding some of the tasks and chapters in the RWMP.

Chair Hartung suggested this item may need to be brought back on a future agenda for more discussion.

COMMISSIONER DAHIR MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2016 RWMP IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN REVIEW REQUIRED BY STATUTE, AND AS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2021 RWMP UPDATE, WITH THE CAVEAT THAT WE WILL COME BACK AND TALK ABOUT THIS MORE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NINE (9) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

9. Review and possible approval of a Second Amendment to the Agreement with Data Instincts to assist and provide guidance in the development of outreach strategies, messages, materials and information dissemination methods related to regional effluent management planning, at no additional cost to extend the term of the Agreement through December 2020; and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman presented information included in the staff report. Data Instincts has been performing well relative to the scope of work and direction from staff. Some of the hands-on technical work is being performed by agency staff, which has resulted in the project being under budget to the extent that Data Instinct's work can continue through 2020 with little or no additional funding. The NNWPC made a recommendation to the WRWC for approval of a Second Amendment to the Agreement at no additional cost to extend the term through December 2020.

COMMISSIONER BREKHUS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH DATA INSTINCTS TO CONTINUE THE PROJECT THROUGH DECEMBER 2020; AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE THE AMENDMENT FOR THAT PURPOSE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ABBOTT. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NINE (9) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

10. Discussion on Program Manager plans for retirement, recommendation for a possible recruitment process, and recommendation for designation of an Interim Program Manager, and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman announced he plans to retire around the end of March 2020. He recommended that Chris Wessel be appointed Interim Program Manager effective upon his retirement. He also recommended that Washoe County conduct an open competitive recruitment for a Water Resources Program Manager and provide the WRWC with a list of qualified candidates who have been interviewed and approved for hire by Washoe County. The WRWC could then interview and select from among the candidates and indicate to the County which candidate is the WRWC's choice.

COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT CHRIS WESSEL AS INTERIM PROGRAM MANAGER EFFECTIVE UPON MR. SMITHERMAN'S RETIREMENT, AND DIRECT THE PROGRAM MANAGER TO REQUEST THAT WASHOE COUNTY CONDUCT AN OPEN COMPETITIVE RECRUITMENT FOR A WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM MANAGER TO REPLACE MR. SMITHERMAN,

SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HERMAN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NINE (9) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

11. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding agenda items and dates for future WRWC meetings - Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Commissioner Brekhus requested a future agenda item discussing the WRWC bylaws and a possible amendment to rotate the officers. She also requested a future agenda item for discussion of terms limits for the NNWPC.

The OneWater Nevada Team is inviting the WRWC to convene a working lunch workshop on Wednesday, February 19 at TMWA to learn about the OneWater Nevada project. It is possible that a tour can be arranged later that day to see the advanced purified water pilot treatment units now located at the Reno-Stead Water Reclamation Facility.

March 18, 2020 will be the regularly scheduled annual concurrent workshop with the NNWPC to review recommendation for annual priorities and the tentative budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.

The 18th Annual Truckee River Field Study Course, offered by the Nevada Water Resources Association, is scheduled for Thursday, May 7 and Friday May 8, 2020.

No action was taken.

12. Commission Comments

Commissioner Ainsworth expressed appreciation for the reports provided by Mr. Wessel and Mr. Smitherman.

Commissioner Dahir congratulated Mr. Smitherman on his plans for retirement.

13. Staff Comments

None

14. Public Comment

None

15. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Christine Birmingham, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on _____ 2020.

Chair Vaughn Hartung