

DRAFT - MINUTES
NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

The Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) held a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, via teleconference, and conducted the following business.

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

1. Roll Call and Determination of Presence of a Quorum

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

Voting Members Absent: None

Non-Voting Members Present: Cindy Turiczek

Non-Voting Members Absent: Ron Penrose; Harry Fahnestock; My-Linh Nguyen

Staff Members Present: Chris Wessel; Michael Pagni; Jennifer Purgitt

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Agenda (For Possible Action)

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

COMMISSIONER SOLARO MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLANSBERG. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TWELVE (12) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

Public Comment:

Michael DeMartini spoke regarding the need for more public outreach on agenda items that will be addressed.

4. Approval of the minutes from the March 17 and April 7, 2021 meetings (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER DRINKWATER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 17 AND APRIL 7, 2021 MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TWELVE (12) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

5. Discussion, action, and possible recommendation to the Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) on a proposed Regional Wastewater Source Control Plan Development-Phase 1 development plan; possible direction to staff - Chris Wessel, Water Resources Program Manager and Krishna Pagilla, PhD. Director, Nevada Water Innovation Institute. (For Possible Action)

The Nevada Water Innovation Institute (NWII) will develop wastewater source control frameworks for each of the five (5) regional water reclamation facilities. The proposed work is focused on reducing pollutants to enhance and possibly expand the opportunities to use wastewater effluent in existing and future water recycling projects.

NWII envisions two (2) project phases. Phase 1 is the initial focus and is planned as a single joint regional project initiative. Phase 1 is the subject of the current contract proposal. NWII and individual agencies would plan and implement the facility-specific tasks related to Phase 2.

Wastewater source control frameworks for each regional water reclamation facility will reflect current and anticipated effluent management/water recycling practices and existing and planned treatment unit processes. When implemented, the wastewater source control strategies will complement established agency environmental control policies, regulations, and protocols protecting effluent water quality.

Commissioner Enloe expressed support for this concept and asked Mr. Krishna if he is aware of the National Water Research Institute's source control guidance document used for indirect and direct potable reuse that was recently published.

Mr. Krishna confirmed he is aware of that document and will use that from a reuse point of view as a guidance to look at site specific conditions and opportunities we might be able to take into consideration.

Commissioner Wright discussed the importance of the Truckee River staying whole to satisfy the water right entitlements that are downstream. He expressed support for this project and is looking forward to seeing this work proceed.

Commissioner Drinkwater stated the end of the pipe treatment at the plant is the most expensive way to deal with the problem. It is prudent for us to investigate alternative ways to deal with pollutants and source control is one of the tools for that.

Public Comment:

Michael DeMartini expressed concern regarding the lack of adequate public outreach with regard to possible impacts of Class A+ water.

COMMISSIONER DRINKWATER MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND THE WRWC APPROVE THE REGIONAL WASTEWATER SOURCE CONTROL PLAN DEVELOPMENT-PHASE 1 AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HAUCK. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TWELVE (12) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

6. Discussion, action and possible recommendation to the WRWC on amendments to Resolution No. 5 and Facility Conformance Review Procedures under Section 51 of the Act; possible direction to staff – John Rhodes, Legal Counsel, and Chris Wessel. (For Possible Action)

Michael Pagni, Legal Counsel, disclosed that his firm is involved in some litigation involving a challenge to a tentative map approval by the City of Reno. Some of the issues that are involved in that litigation question whether the City of Reno appropriately considered conformance review procedure. Out of excess of caution, Mr. Pagni asked Mr. Rhodes to step in as Legal Counsel on this item.

The proposed Procedures have been further revised to accommodate direction to staff provided by the NNWPC at their April 7, 2021 meeting. Staff reviewed the changes that have been made.

Public Comment:

Matthew DeMartini submitted public comment by email. He briefly summarized the email noting that the law requires that the WRWC make the decisions on the conformance review procedure.

Michael DeMartini expressed concern about the far reaching effect of the proposed amendment and what it will allow to be constructed without a conformance review.

COMMISSIONER SOLARO MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE WRWC THAT THE WRWC ADOPT AN AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION NO. 5, AFTER HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING, APPROVING THE PROPOSED REVISED FACILITY CONFORMANCE REVIEW PROCEDURES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ENLOE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TWELVE (12) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

7. Presentation, discussion and possible action on the draft update to the Cost and Financing chapter for the 2021 Regional Water Management Plan (RWMP); discussion and possible direction to staff – Chris Wessel and Catherine Hansford, Economic Consultant. (For Possible Action)

This chapter is a high-level analysis of costs associated with planned and recommended major facility improvement programs for water, wastewater, drainage, and flood management. Cost data are summarized from local government and utility five-year capital improvement programs (CIP). The chapter includes some major improvements anticipated beyond the five-year CIP timeframes for informational purposes, but because of a higher level of uncertainty, they are not included in the cost analysis.

Catherine Hansford provided a report on her progress to date and expected timeframes for completion of the updated chapter.

Public Comment:

Michael DeMartini expressed concern regarding the projection of the cost customers may experience in the near future due to changes in how the water process is being treated.

COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLANSBERG. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TWELVE (12) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

8. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the draft update to the “Storm Water and Watershed-Based Water Quality Planning” chapter for the 2021 RWMP; discussion and possible direction to staff – Chris Wessel and Theresa Jones, Storm Water Program Coordinator. (For Possible Action)

The chapter outlines the activities associated with the storm water program and its management of the Environmental Protection Agency’s Municipal Storm Water Permit issued to the community. In addition, the chapter covers various other programs which coordinate with the Storm Water Permit Coordinating Committee and are supported by Western Regional Water Commission.

Theresa Jones, Storm Water Program Coordinator, provided a report on the chapter update and expected timeframes for completion.

COMMISSIONER FLANSBERG MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLARO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TWELVE (12) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

9. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the draft update to the Population Forecast and Projections of Water Demand, Peak Day Requirements and Wastewater Flow chapter for the 2021 Regional Water Management Plan (RWMP); discussion and possible direction to staff – Chris Wessel and Jim Smitherman, Water Resource Consultant. (For Possible Action)

Staff is currently working in coordination with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), and the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) to develop data and analyses to update the various sections of this chapter.

The staff report includes a list of sections and subsections including notes on anticipated revisions.

Commissioner Enloe requested a copy of this chapter in Word format and stated he will distribute it to TMWA for comments.

COMMISSIONER WIDMER MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLARO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TWELVE (12) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

10. Report, discussion, and possible action on comments received on the draft update to the Regional Water Planning Policies and Criteria chapter for the 2021-2040 Regional Water Management Plan (RWMP); discussion and possible direction to staff – Chris Wessel. (For Possible Action)

Staff has not received any comments regarding the proposed changes to this chapter. The conformance review procedures are a part of this chapter and will be incorporated upon approval by the WRWC.

Commissioner Enloe stated that TMWA has reviewed this chapter and is good with it.

Commissioner Flansberg stated that based on the earlier agenda item on source water, there may be some general comment to be added to this chapter in regard to work that we are looking to go forward with.

Public Comment:

Michael DeMartini stated the issue of water quality may need to be expanded on with regard to distribution of water to different areas, such as the north valleys.

COMMISSIONER HAUCK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DRAFT SUBJECT TO FURTHER COMMENT AND REVISION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLANSBERG. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TWELVE (12) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

11. Status and discussion regarding chapters and schedule related to the drafting and presentation of 2021-2040 RWMP update, and possible direction to staff – Chris Wessel. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Wessel briefly reviewed the schedule for review of chapter updates.

No action was taken.

12. Program Manager's Report – Chris Wessel

- a. Report on the status of projects and Work Plan supported by the Regional Water Management Fund (RWMF);
- b. Financial Report on the RWMF.

Mr. Wessel presented information included in the regular Program Manager's report.

13. Discussion regarding location and possible agenda items for the upcoming NNWPC meetings, and possible direction to staff – Chris Wessel. (For Possible Action)

Commissioner Solaro reported that starting June 1, Washoe County Commission Chambers will be open for public meetings.

The next NNWPC meeting will be held on June 2, 2021. Possible agenda items include: project proposals; and RWMP chapter updates.

No action was taken.

14. Commission Comments

None

15. Staff Comments

None

16. Public Comment

None

17. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Birmingham.

Approved by:

John Martini, NNWPC Chair

APPROVED BY COMMISSION IN SESSION ON _____, 2021.