

DRAFT - MINUTES
NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

The Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) held a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at the Washoe County Chambers, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, and conducted the following business.

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

1. Roll Call and Determination of Presence of a Quorum

Voting Members Present: Michael Drinkwater; John Enloe; John Flansberg (*zoom at 1:32 p.m.*); Danielle Henderson (*zoom at 1:35 p.m.*); John Martini; Chris Melton; Dave Solaro; Kara Steeland; Michael Widmer (*zoom*)

Voting Members Absent: Bill Hauck; Mervin Wright

Non-Voting Members Present: None

Non-Voting Members Absent: Cindy Turiczek; Ron Penrose; Harry Fahnestock; Thomas Pyeatte

Staff Members Present: Kim Rigdon; Birgit Widegren; Lucas Foletta; 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 DRINKWATER. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the February 1, 2023 NNWPC Meeting (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER ENLOE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STEELAND. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

5. Report, discussion, and possible direction to staff regarding procedure and draft criteria to evaluate public at large NNWPC Board Member applications – Kim Rigdon, Water Resources Program Manager; and Birgit Widegren, Water Management Planner (For Possible Action)

(Member Flansberg present on zoom at 1:32 p.m.)

(Member Henderson present on zoom at 1:35 p.m.)

Kim Rigdon, Water Resources Program Manager, presented the report. At the February NNWPC meeting, staff was directed to advertise the vacancy and recruit applicants. They were also directed to develop criteria to evaluate applications and consider creating a subcommittee including NNWPC members to select a qualified candidate. The report includes draft evaluation criteria for review.

Birgit Widegren, Water Management Planner, explained the draft evaluation criteria.

Commissioner Drinkwater expressed support for the evaluation criteria presented and discussed the need for the two people that have already submitted applications to be able to address the criteria that will be adopted in their applications.

Ms. Rigdon stated she can email the applicants the criteria. She also proposed that the recruitment period be extended 30 days to April 7.

Commissioner Enloe asked if the applicants are required to be residents of Washoe County.

Ms. Rigdon stated they are not required to be residents of Washoe County. Members of the NNWPC must be residents of the state of Nevada.

Commissioner Enloe stated it seems they should either be a resident of Washoe County or work in Washoe County.

Lucas Foletta, Legal Counsel, confirmed that the statute only requires that they be residents of Nevada but that can be considered by the NNWPC when evaluating applicants.

Ms. Rigdon stated they can include that in the criteria if that is what the NNWPC wants.

Commissioner Enloe stated it seems like having a tie to this community is important. He asked how we are advertising for the open position.

Ms. Widgren stated they put a notification in the Reno Gazette Journal as well as other local committees.

Commissioner Widmer agreed with Commissioner Enloe with respect to the residency criteria.

Commissioner Flansberg stated he is not a resident of Washoe County but has worked for the City of Reno for over 17 years. Since this is for our public at large position, he can see where being a resident of Washoe County or being employed in the planning area could be included in the criteria.

COMMISSIONER FLANSBERG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CRITERIA AS PRESENTED AND ADD CRITERIA PER COMMISSIONER ENLOE'S COMMENTS THAT THEY BE EITHER A RESIDENT OF WASHOE COUNTY OR EMPLOYED IN WASHOE COUNTY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DRINKWATER.

Commissioner Drinkwater suggested adding that new language into criteria number five rather than making it a standalone criterion in order to keep the total point system at 100.

Ms. Rigdon stated they can do that.

Chair Solaro asked the motion maker if he agreed.

COMMISSIONER FLANSBERG AGREED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE DIRECTION THAT THE NEW LANGUAGE BE ADDED TO CRITERIA NUMBER FIVE.

Ms. Rigdon asked for direction on the number of applicants that should be brought forward and if there should be an NNWPC subcommittee to review applications.

Chair Solaro stated if there are more than five applications, staff should rank them and bring the NNWPC the top five based on the criteria. There is no need for a subcommittee.

COMMISSIONER FLANSBERG AGREED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE CHAIR SOLARO'S DIRECTION. SECONDER, COMMISSIONER DRINKWATER, AGREED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NINE (9) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

6. Presentation and report regarding the Truckee Meadows Source Water and Watershed Protection Plan update – Kim Rigdon, Water Resources Program Manager; Kara Steeland, Truckee Meadows Water Authority; and Jill Sutherland, RCI, Inc

Jill Sutherland, RCI, Inc., gave a presentation on the Truckee Meadows Source Water and Watershed Protection Plan update.

Commissioner Steeland co-presented and provided an update on the Truckee Meadows Water Authority implementation activities since the plan was approved in 2020.

Commissioner Enloe stated the City of Reno participated with us in this process. During the development we reached out to Washoe County and the City of Sparks and there was concern that this was going to be an onerous process that would add time to the development review process. Commissioner Enloe asked Commissioner Steeland to comment on what the City of Reno's experience has been.

Commissioner Steeland confirmed there was concern about that from City of Reno staff and we did not want to increase review time at all. All they must do during their review process is check that that applicant has received an automated email from us, so we set up a form on our website where they put in their information, and it comes to us. When they submit that form, they get an automated email from us and that's all they are required to submit. We do everything on our end. It created no additional work except making sure there is one email in the business license application process. It has been a smooth process and we have not heard any complaints from Reno staff that it is too onerous.

Commissioner Steeland confirmed for Chair Solaro that the review process is initiated through the business license process.

Commissioner Steeland stated that last year this program received a national award for source water protection programs from the American Water Works Association (AWWA).

Ms. Rigdon asked about the process the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) goes through if there is a concern.

Commissioner Steeland explained that they don't have any regulatory authority, so it is more of an education outreach process, and we have had positive interactions with development.

7. Action, discussion, and possible direction to staff on the draft Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Tentative Budget, and possible recommendation to the WRWC to approve the tentative budget — Kim Rigdon, Water Resources Program Manager; and Susan Dees, Fiscal Manager (For Possible Action)

Ms. Rigdon presented the staff report. The draft tentative budget includes Regional Water Management Fund (RWMF) revenues, cash on hand and expenses for staff and non-staff professional services. Additional budget worksheets include details for professional services related to priority projects and routine operating expenses. Based on input received here today, staff will prepare a tentative budget for review and adoption by the WRWC.

COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE WRWC FOR APPROVAL OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MELTON. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NINE (9) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

8. Discussion regarding location and possible agenda items for the upcoming NNWPC meetings, and possible direction to staff – Kim Rigdon, Water Resources Program Manager (For Possible Action)

The next meeting will be April 5, 2023. The meeting agenda will include: a presentation from Commissioner Henderson on the Truckee River Flood Management Program; a presentation on the One Truckee River efforts; and a presentation from the Desert Research Institute (DRI) on the Washoe County Rain Gage Network and the Washoe County Evapotranspiration Project. There may be a new standing agenda item in the Program Manager’s Report on a stakeholder advisory group for the State Water Plan Update.

No action was taken.

9. Commission Comments

Commissioner Flansberg thanked staff for putting together the One Water Nevada tours.

10. Staff Comments

None

11. Public Comment

None

12. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Birmingham.

Approved by:

Dave Solaro, NNWPC Chair

APPROVED BY COMMISSION IN SESSION ON _____, 2023.