

WESTERN REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION MINUTES

Friday, November 7, 2008

The regular meeting of the Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) was held on Friday, November 7, 2008, at City of Sparks Legislative Council Chambers, 745 Fourth Street, Sparks, Nevada.

- 1. Roll Call and Determination of presence of a Quorum** – Chairman Carrigan called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. There was a quorum present.

Commissioners Present:

Mike Carrigan, Chair
Dave Aiuzzi, Vice-Chair
Steve Cohen
Jim Ainsworth
Bob Larkin
Geno Martini
Ron Smith
Bonnie Weber

Representing:

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

Commissioners Absent:

Bob Cashell

Representing:

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA)

- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Aiuzzi led the Western Regional Water Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 3. Public Comment**

Chairman Carrigan called for public comments and hearing none, closed the public comment period.

- 4. Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Larkin made a motion to approve the November 7, 2008 WRWC agenda as posted. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 5. Approval of the Minutes of the September 12, 2008 meeting.**

The minutes of the September 12, 2008 Western Regional Water Commission meeting were submitted for approval. Commissioner Martini made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Commissioner Ainsworth seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 6. Discussion and possible approval of an Agreement for Legal Services for the Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) and Northern Nevada Water Planning Commissioner (NNWPC) with Rhodes Law Offices, Ltd., and, if approved, authorize the Chairman to execute the Agreement.**

Darrin Price presented a brief summary of the staff report, explaining that the NNWPC recommends approving a contract with Rhodes Law Offices, Ltd., to continue legal services to the WRWC and the NNWPC.

John Rhodes reported there were only a couple of changes from his original contract, which include

clarification that he is an Independent Contractor; he does not need an office at Washoe County Department of Water Resources (DWR); he carries \$1 million in Professional Liability Insurance and that the contract would be for a one-year term (previously six months). He reported that his previous estimate of approximately 20 hours per week has been sufficient. He added that the contract could be terminated by either party at any time upon notice.

Commissioner Martini made a motion to approve staff's recommendation that the "WRWC approve the proposed Agreement for Legal Services for the WRWC and NNWPC with Rhodes Law Offices, Ltd., and to authorize the Chairman to execute the Agreement". Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. Presentation of the proposed 2008 Amendment to the Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan, and possible direction to staff regarding public review and setting a public hearing for adoption of the proposed Amendment.

Mr. Smitherman referred to the Amendment, which was distributed to commissioners, and reported that he has been working with staff from the member agencies, as well as Rosanna Coombes, Director of Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) in an effort to make the document more readable and defined. He stated that his hope is to present the revisions and receive approval from the WRWC to present the Amendment for a 30-day public review process, which would be followed by a public hearing for adoption. He added that he hoped to schedule the public hearing for December 12, 2008. He offered to provide any public comments received on the Amendment to this Board.

Mr. Smitherman referred to a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the proposed revisions, which include:

- A section related to sustainable water resources and included as a "Forward"
- Key findings, which is a short executive summary
- Comparison statements related to the consensus forecast compared to the numbers presented in the Facility Plans
- Updated water resources
- Correlation of water demand and wastewater demand
- Cost per dwelling unit estimates in an effort to correlate the cost tables to water resources and wastewater facilities
- Deletion of references to future service areas (FSAs)

Mr. Smitherman reported that by incorporating the above-mentioned revisions, the Plan Amendment is consistent with the Regional Planning horizon to 2030.

Commissioner Aiazzi commented that the "Forward" section was very well-written and should be presented to the public. Mr. Smitherman stated that he could not take credit as the section was written by the Public Information Officers from Reno, Sparks, Washoe County and Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency. He added that the section has been a subject of discussion at Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN), Chamber of Commerce and the Realtors Association. Commissioner Larkin mentioned that it is available on TMRPA's website. Mr. Smitherman added that it is also linked to the Washoe County website as well.

Mr. Smitherman reported that the consensus population forecast for 2030 is projected for the Truckee Meadows Service Area (TMSA) at 620,000. He stated that the calculated population estimate from the TMSA based on dwelling unit counts (derived from traffic analysis zones [TAZ]), calculates to 681,000. He added that the difference in the population numbers can be explained in that the Facility Planning number is higher because of a number of conservative assumptions used to size facilities (so that facilities

when built are not undersized). He stated that the difference between the numbers is approximately 61,000 (or approximately 9%), which is reasonable according Shawn Stoddard, who has a Ph.D. in economics and years of experience.

Commissioner Larkin suggested using the 620,000 number. Mr. Smitherman stated that could be done; however, staff was trying to report the numbers from the Facility Plans. He added that the Facility Plans are moving forward currently as amendments to the Master Plans for Reno, Sparks and Washoe County. He summarized that the Master Plans and the Amendment will go to Regional Planning for conformance review so it would be helpful to see how the numbers are linked. Commissioner Larkin suggested using 620,000 plus or minus 9% to prevent confusion. Mr. Smitherman agreed to work with Ms. Coombes on the issue.

Mr. Smitherman continued reviewing the presentation. He reported that the water resources table was updated to include estimated yields from proposed importation projects within Washoe County. The total range is 60,800 to 64,000 acre-feet per year (AFA). He added that when reporting numbers in acre-feet, they also reported the number in million gallons per day (MGD) for comparison purposes. He agreed to use Commissioner Larkin's suggestion of (+/-) 9% on the numbers that are based on the consensus forecast. He reviewed the number for the water demand estimates and water resource estimates and summarized that the numbers show that there are water resources identified in Washoe County that may be used to meet the projected 2030 TMSA demands consistently with the consensus forecast.

Commissioner Larkin referred to the Water Baseline spreadsheet, particularly the deficit for Spanish Springs and asked how that issue would be addressed. Mr. Smitherman stated that Washoe County has a Facility Plan and strategy for Spanish Springs to reduce the demand on groundwater over time. Commissioner Larkin asked if that number is calculated into the future demand and supply. Mr. Smitherman stated that the water rights that would be moved to Spanish Springs to offset the deficit are not included in the potentially available water for future growth. Commissioner Larkin stated that it is important to make it clear that while it looks like we are very close in projected populations and facilities estimations and acre-feet of projected and existing water, we still have a deficit in Spanish Springs that may not be solvable by resources within Washoe County. He added that he has been very concerned over that issue and is even more concerned with the passage of Washoe County Ballot Question 3 (WC #3).

Chairman Carrigan asked if there is a map for the Spanish Springs area and asked if it includes only the unincorporated area or the area just outside Sparks. Mr. Smitherman stated he would have to review the Facility Plan to be sure but he believes it only includes the unincorporated area of Spanish Springs.

Mr. Smitherman stated that the Amendment includes an explanation that as a general rule, we should plan to have wastewater treatment capacity of at least half of the water demand in the future. He added that the planned wastewater treatment capacity is 55.6 MGD by the year 2030, which is very conservative (in that the facilities would be oversized).

Mr. Smitherman reported that a section was added which states that costs are expressed in current dollars. He added that cost estimates for facilities to serve new growth would be paid by connection fees, with the exception of some flood control costs. He noted that the water costs do not include the cost of water rights or construction costs for future importation projects. He reported that the Truckee River Flood Project costs were included at \$1.1 billion (which includes local flood control projects to serve new growth).

Mr. Smitherman reported that with the help of the consultant, ECO:LOGIC Engineering, the cost per dwelling unit was included in the Amendment. He stated that the estimated costs per dwelling unit are as follows:

- Water = \$10,000
- Wastewater / Reclaimed Water = \$15,000
- Flood Management = \$3,700 (assuming that everyone in the region pays into the project)
Commissioner Aiazzi asked if that number is based on the current 1/8-cent sales tax. Mr. Smitherman stated it was not determined from where the revenue would come.

Commissioner Larkin asked if it would be prudent to use the (+/-) 9% for those costs, which Mr. Smitherman stated it would.

Commissioner Larkin questioned the number for the Flood Project. Commissioner Aiazzi asked if the dwelling unit cost was based on the \$1.1 billion total cost or the local share, which is \$800 million. Mr. Smitherman stated that \$800 million was used. He offered to update the number to show the local share if desired. Commissioner Larkin stated either number could be used; however, it needs to be explained, with which Mr. Smitherman agreed.

Mr. Smitherman reported that the proposed schedule for adoption is as follows:

- Receive approval from the WRWC today to release the Amendment (with the revisions suggested at this meeting) for the 30-day public review period. During the 30-day review period, Mr. Smitherman intends to hold a workshop / open house where the public can present comment cards (probably in early December).
- Set the Public Hearing date for December 12, 2008 for adoption of the Amendment
- Following the Public Hearing, present the Amendment to the Regional Planning Commission for a consistency review

Mr. Smitherman reported that law requires that advertisements be placed in the local newspapers, which would cost approximately \$4,000.

Commissioner Cohen asked why planning is only being done to 2030. Mr. Smitherman stated that 2030 was selected to be in conformance with the Regional Plan, which is the planning horizon. Commissioner Cohen referred to Table 2, which shows 85,000 acre-feet (AF) of demand and stated that Mr. Smitherman is using 65,000 AF and added that is more than (+/-) 9%. Mr. Smitherman stated that the 85,000 number is based on the conservative assumptions from the Facility Plan. He reiterated that facilities would be designed to last longer than to the year 2030.

Commissioner Cohen referred to the Conservation section 8.4 and the reference to delaying construction of new facilities. He stated he hoped that planning would not rely on conservation and added that it is important to build facilities when they are needed. Mr. Smitherman stated that planning for new construction would be based on water use trends over a long period of time.

Commissioner Aiazzi mentioned the odd or even watering days and stated that customers think it is to conserve water; however, it is actually in place to even water flows so that construction of new facilities can be delayed. He referred to WC#3 and stated that taking this Amendment to the public addresses what is called for in the ballot question. He suggested coordinating the timing of the Public Hearing with the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). He reiterated that the Amendment is very well-written and does address WC#3. Commissioner Larkin agreed that is a great idea. He added that the BCC is unclear whether they need to take formal action. He stated he is awaiting direction from the District Attorney. Commissioner Larkin asked Ms. Menard to follow up on the coordination issue.

Commissioner Larkin stated there is a BCC meeting on November 10, 2008 and stated he would request an agenda item to address the issue.

Commissioner Larkin made a motion to accept the staff report with the recommended changes and to authorize Mr. Smitherman to move forward with the time schedule. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Commissioner Larkin clarified that his motion includes authorization of funding not to exceed \$4,000 for legal advertising as required. Commissioner Smith agreed in his second. Chairman Carrigan called for a vote on the motion, which carried unanimously.

8. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding possible designation of the WRWC as the local Water Quality Planning Agency under Section 208 of the Clean Water Act, in place of the Regional Planning Governing Board.

Mr. Smitherman reported that currently the RPGB is the designated 208 Water Quality Planning Agency for Washoe County. He stated that the Governor made that designation in 1992. He added that many members of this Board sit on the RPGB as well. He stated that in October the RPGB recommended that staff open dialog with the WRWC to solicit interest in being designated as the 208 Agency.

Mr. Smitherman provided a brief background of the 208 Plan, which is a section of the Federal Clean Water Act. Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) requires that the 208 Plan be kept up to date. He stated that the 208 Plan is current and the next update is recommended in 2012. He reported that the NNWPC approved the recommendation (if the RPGB agrees), with nine in favor and one opposed.

Commissioner Cohen stated he thinks it is a good idea but asked if the Legislative Sub-committee would have any issues with it. Chairman Carrigan stated he thinks the WRWC is on its own to do this. He added that six commissioners sit on both Boards.

Commissioner Aiuzzi asked what the rationale for the one descending vote was, to which Mr. Smitherman stated the commissioner thought it was moving too fast.

Commissioner Martini made a motion to approve staff's recommendation. Commissioner Ainsworth seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

9. Discussion and possible approval of two letters of support for Clean Water Act Section 319 grant proposals for water quality monitoring program planning and implementation and for watershed planning gap analysis.

Terri Svetich, Senior Civil Engineer for City of Reno and Coordinator for the Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee, and John Buzzone, Senior Engineer for Washoe County Department of Water Resources, presented this item. Ms. Svetich explained that NDEP released a request for proposals (RFP) for Clean Water Act 319 funding. The Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee (SWPCCSPCC) wished to take advantage of the opportunity to apply for funding for Coordinated Monitoring and to pursue a gap analysis for watershed management planning. She added that a Watershed Management Plan for the Tributaries was adopted by the NNWPC; however, we need to evaluate where we are currently and where we need to go with regard to watershed planning on the Truckee River.

Ms. Svetich reported that it was decided it would be best to go through the SWPCCSPCC in an effort to keep the program regional. She reported that the SWPCCSPCC prepared two grant proposals that would be submitted to NDEP today. She requested approval by the WRWC to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of support.

Commissioner Weber made a motion to authorize Chairman Carrigan to sign the letters of support. Commissioner Aiuzzi seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

10. Report and discussion on Water Conservation/Sustainability with a representative group of attendees at the recent WaterSmart Conference in Las Vegas.

Chairman Carrigan invited Chris Wessel to speak on this item. Mr. Wessel reported that legislation designates the responsibility of a Conservation Plan to the NNWPC. He stated that he would be presenting a summary of the WaterSmart Innovations Conference that he and others from the community recently attended, which was funded by the WRWC. The presentation included the following:

- Attendees:
 - Karen Melby, City of Sparks Community Development
 - Kyle West, City of Reno Community Development
 - Sandra Monsalve, Washoe County Community Development
 - Andy Gebhardt, Truckee Meadows Water Authority
 - Lora Richards, Truckee Meadows Water Authority
 - Betsy Mellinger, Washoe County Department of Water Resources
 - Mike Ariztia, Sun Valley General Improvement District
 - Alan Reich, South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District
 - Janelle Thomas, City of Sparks Public Works
 - Chris Wessel, Western Regional Water Commission

Mr. Wessel reported that there were attendees from Australia, Canada, the Caribbean, Jordan, and other areas.

- The purpose, reason and goals varied based on individual needs, such as:
 - Water savings
 - More reliable supplies
 - Reduced operation and maintenance (O&M) cost
 - Deferred capital improvement project (CIP) costs
 - Reduced energy consumption
 - Deferred rate increases
 - Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions / low carbon footprint
- Ways to Succeed, which include
 - Purveyor consensus and cooperation
 - Interagency backing and support
 - Local government reinforcement
 - Public awareness and endorsement
- Conference at a Glance:
 - Outdoor Water Conservation Programs – Landscape was the main target and recognized as the biggest water-use consumption (typically 50 to 80%)
 - Programs aimed at reduction of outdoor water use, which include landscape architect / technician certification programs, water audit program, irrigation controllers, landscape renovation
 - Indoor water-use programs, which include toilet rebate and retrofit programs; aerators, showerhead and flow restriction hardware giveaways; washing machine replacement rebates, manual activation hot water circulation systems
 - Utility infrastructure programs, which include effluent reuse, leak detection, corrosion control, remote sensing
 - Codes, policies and rates, which include regional conservation policies, development codes for landscape, plumbing and efficient technology, rate structures that promote reduction of water use, stable revenues and customer satisfaction

- Education, media and outreach, which includes student outreach / education programs, customer outreach / education programs, broadbased outreach program / WaterSmart IQ (focused on “Joe Six-Pack”, the average person adjusting the irrigation controller)

Mr. Wessel reported that 28% of water users “definitely know” their natural source of drinking water. He stated that it was found that 87% of water users were more likely to conserve after learning more about why it is important and ways to conserve.

Chairman Carrigan asked if the conference focused on the use of reclaimed water for residential irrigation. Mr. Wessel stated there were many technical sessions ongoing so he was not able to attend all of them. He added that effluent reuse was included as a general topic. Chairman Carrigan stated he thought it was acceptable and encouraged moving forward with such a program. Mr. Wessel reported that currently the North Valleys Initiative is moving forward, which addresses that issue.

Mr. Wessel showed video clips of water conservation commercials from Texas, which uses a humorous approach to promoting water conservation.

Mr. Wessel summarized the conservation strategies. He explained that the next steps will include a multi-phased approach for the development and implementation of a regional conservation plan, which will include:

- Formalization of a stand-alone regional conservation plan based on Chapter 8 of the Regional Water Management Plan as amended
- Develop a strategic plan which prioritizes the Plan program elements to identify those that best meet our conservation goals as well as estimate cost and timeframe needed for their completion
- Implementation of the conservation plan strategy

Mr. Wessel stated that Chapter 8 from the Regional Water Plan would move forward as the basis for the Regional Conservation Plan. Mr. Wessel welcomed questions from commissioners.

Commissioner Aiuzzi asked what benefit is realized by saving water by retrofitting toilets since a certain volume of water must go down the river to Pyramid Lake in order to meet winter rates, rather than being stored. Mr. Wessel suggested that we need to set goals for conservation, such as shaving peak demands. Commissioner Aiuzzi stated that outdoor water conservation is most important. Mr. Wessel agreed that is true for TMWA; however, Washoe County and other purveyors rely on groundwater. Commissioner Cohen stated that for STMGID, a gallon of water not pumped, is a gallon of groundwater saved.

Commissioner Weber stated that conservation is a mind-set for indoor and outdoor water conservation. She suggested an educational process for the future is needed to provide a better environment. Commissioner Cohen stated that people need to understand why conservation is important.

Mike Aritzia, Sun Valley GID, reported that he attended the conference and stated there were many sessions presented on the use of reclaimed water on common areas, medians, etc.

Chairman Carrigan thanked Mr. Wessel for his presentation.

11. Informational report on proposed technical amendments to the Western Regional Water Commission Act, Chapter 531, *Statutes of Nevada 2007.*

John Rhodes, Legal Counsel for the WRWC and NNWPC, reported that the Legislative Oversight Committee (LOC) held a workshop in Carson City in August, at which the LOC agreed to submit a Bill Draft Request (BDR) to amend Senate Bill (SB) 487.

Mr. Rhodes summarized the Draft Technical Amendments as follows:

Section 25, Revise language that currently restricts the Sparks representatives on the WRWC to members of the City Council, which effectively means that the Mayor of Sparks cannot be on the WRWC unless he/she sits in the TMWRF seat.

Section 36, 1(h) – Replace “Indian reservation” with “Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe”.

Section 36, 1(k) – Replace Washoe-Storey Conservation District with Washoe County Water Conservation District, which was an error.

Chairman Carrigan thanked Mr. Rhodes for his presentation.

12. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding agenda items for the December 2008 meeting of the WRWC.

Commissioner Larkin requested an update from Mark Foree and Rosemary Menard on possible integration of Truckee Meadows Water Authority and Washoe County Department of Water Resources.

Commissioner Cohen stated that previously a request was made for information on STMGID’s use of Meter Transceiver Units (MXUs). Darrin Price mentioned that SVGID uses the MXUs also.

13. Commission Comments

None

14. Staff Comments

None

15. Public Comment

Chairman Carrigan called for public comments and hearing none, closed the Public Comment period.

16. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Niki Linn, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on December 12, 2008.

Mike Carrigan, Chairman